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FIRE

In the early hours of the morning of Wednesday October 8 the original chapel of the Ascot Vale church caught fire and burnt to the ground. The building was erected in 1892 and was of timber construction with wood panelled walls and ceiling and thick oregon beams. The heat was intense and, at one stage, the flames could be seen in North Melbourne. The house next door, also weatherboard, and only two metres from the burning building was not touched thanks to God's grace and the skill of the firemen.

The present chapel, a brick building next to the burning hall, was slightly damaged with water and heat. This building was converted to the chapel last year, the opening ceremony being held on May 6, 1979 with former minister Gordon Moyes as guest speaker.

Since then the original chapel has been used for community activities as this was the only building in the area available for that purpose. The church members are currently analysing the options available to them as they assess the church's mission to Ascot Vale and the buildings needed to implement that mission.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 83 No. 21, November 22, 1980

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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

BIBLE READING GUIDE & CALENDAR

The Federal Literature Department has announced that the Churches of Christ Calendar for 1981 will have a changed format which is the result of many requests for clear and more easily read figures.

Each month of the calendar will be on a separate tear-off sheet with space for brief memos on each day. Each calendar will also include a special daily reading sheet which can be kept in one's Bible. This is being provided by the Federal Literature Department on the recommendation of the National Strategy for the 80's Conference at Monbulk in March to encourage our people to read the Scriptures daily.

DAILY READINGS

The daily readings for each week follow progressively through John's Gospel, the Revelation and the Acts of the Apostles and the remaining four readings are the ones set on the calendar for use in the Sunday Morning Worship. This enables the members to meditate in advance on the theme for the next Sunday.

AVAILABILITY

In addition Ministers and Secretaries will receive a special sheet of the Morning Worship themes, readings, hymns, special departmental offerings and special days so that they can make ready reference to it. The extra cost in providing this updated calendar makes it necessary to increase the price of the calendar to \$1.00 including postage and packaging.

Copies of the calendar have been sent to church secretaries but if your secretary does not have any left or you wish extra copies, write now to the Secretary, Federal Literature Department, Mrs E.M. Rankine, 6 Atkins Ave., Glen Iris, Vic., 3146.

Churches of Christ 1981 Calendar

JANUARY 1981							
Daily Reading	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Ian Corlett (minister) and Barry Hamond (Secretary) watching firemen fighting the blaze just before the roof collapsed.

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ON MY MIND WHY DOESN'T EVERY ONE THINK AS I DO?

Charles Dow

Charles Dow graduated from the College of the Bible in 1958. He had ministries at North Richmond (Vic.), Inglewood (W.A.), Jonathan Creek, Illinois, (U.S.A.), and as Director with the S.A. Department of Christian Education. Charles is an M.A. from Christian Theological Seminary at Lexington and an M.A. from the Warwick University in the U.K.. He is senior lecturer in History and Sociology at the Hartley College of Advanced Education (S.A.) He is a member of the Blackwood church.

I have been a member of Churches of Christ for over 38 years and I have increasingly grown to appreciate the ideas contained in the statement that we as a people have "no creed but Christ". Yet there is seldom an issue of the Australian Christian when someone is nearly demanding that on certain issues there be no "Open Forum" within our brotherhood. What is often on the writers' minds is that if they do not think as we do then do not publish it.

DO NOT PRINT DIVISIVE MATERIAL!

What bothers me is that when someone such as Alan Austin raises issues of great importance, the Editor is admonished not to print such divisive material particularly when it has any socio-political implications even when such material has considerable spiritual implications. I am becoming increasingly convinced that we have such divergent social and political differences because of the diverse views that we have in our understanding of Christ, his church and the extensive dimensions of discipleship.

MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL GYMNASTICS

In 1955 I went to the College of the Bible to train for ministry and there I was confronted with a new dimension of understanding that over the years has enabled me, in spite of my own personal failures, to live through the onslaughts of various sieges upon my faith. I found that I did not have to perform certain "mental and spiritual gymnastics" that would enable me to agree with every one in the Brotherhood on every aspect of faith and practical commitment. Rather our heritage as a people makes it possible for me as Vidler puts it, to be "faithful to my darkness as well as my light". It has been by honestly facing issues of faith and practice that sometimes separate me from some of my brethren that enable us both to be enriched by hearing what God is saying to us. What is needed to achieve such a position is the realisation that at the heart of their faith and my own, there is the Christ who makes both of us whole, as well as the realisation that we both belong to him and to each other.

A CONTINUING JOURNEY IN FAITH

I sometimes suppose, just for a moment, that it would be good for everyone to believe as I do on all matters of faith, practice and even politics! But my problem is that as I search after truth I find I am engaged in a continuing journey that is constantly bringing me face to face with many divergent and interesting characters who challenge me to new thoughts and new levels of commitment. Yet whether you believe it or not, I am ever so glad that you all out there are not theological "middle of the roaders" as I consider myself to be. I am glad that along the road I have got mixed up with all sorts; Baptists, Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians and I nearly forgot, in spite of my early conditioning with the church, some Roman Catholics, as well as some good honest athiests and agnostics.

Why doesn't everyone think as I do? I thank God that they don't or my life would have been very much the poorer!

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL REX ELLIS

George Rex Frederick Ellis had a profound effect upon the lives of many people in our Brotherhood before he died on Saturday November 1, 1980 at the age of 45. This is the testimony of those who have been his students and those who have been his colleagues in ministry and theological training. His preaching and teaching ministry has challenged and inspired people throughout Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Japan and the Philippines.

Ever since he committed his life to Christ on July 19, 1951, he had given of himself without fail and without regard to his own personal comforts.

Rex Ellis entered the New South Wales Bible College, Woolwich, in 1957, graduating in November 1960. There he met his wife, Verlie Piper; they were married on November 29, 1958. His devotion to the study of God's Word manifest itself very early in his college course as his fellow students would notice him using the Greek New Testament for his daily quiet time. His commitment to study to improve his ability to communicate the truth was shown in the later achievement of a B.A. (Hons.) from the University of Western Australia and a B.D. (Hons.) from the University of London. Rex was also a textile chemist by trade before entering the ministry. Up until his recent illness he was still studying to equip himself further, through Macquarie University and Fuller Theological Seminary.

A passionate desire to preach the gospel and further the Kingdom of God was always evident in Rex Ellis' life. His students at Kenmore and Woolwich could not help but catch something of this passion and vision as they listened to him expound the word and challenge them by the example of his life. I can recall hearing Rex say in a class lecture at Kenmore in 1966, "I would rather burn myself out for the Lord, than rust out!" Everyone who knew him was aware of his boundless energy, his unceasing optimism and his passion for people.

Rex had a passion for world mission. Both he and Verlie had a desire to serve on the mission field, but although this opportunity was denied them in the way they had imagined, they have influenced and trained many others to go in their stead. Rex loved to preach in places like Japan, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea — as he shared the word with missionaries and national Christians alike. In the latter two countries, some years later, I have heard nationals nostalgically refer to "Ellis". The work of Overseas Missions occupied much of his time outside his normal college duties. This year he had also been instrumental in helping to found the Australian Centre for World Mission.

Rex will probably be best remembered for his involvement in training for ministry. He joined the faculty at Kenmore Christian College in May 1966 after several ministries in New South Wales and Western Australia. There he held the position of Registrar and Lecturer. In January 1976, he took up the Principalship of the New South Wales Bible College at Woolwich. Under his direction the College curriculum expanded to include some of those areas of ministry which had burdened



his heart. Although the college campus was relocated in mid-1980 he was unable to take advantage of the improved facilities as his health quickly began to deteriorate. It may seem that he was deprived of the opportunity to guide the College's direction into the 1980's, but God had greater things in store for Rex Ellis.

A sad but triumphant funeral service was held at the Telopea Church of Christ on Wednesday November 5, 1980, when 320 people paid tribute to the life and witness of this man of God. The presence of representatives of the whole Australian brotherhood and the attendance of Principals and faculty from other theological colleges in Sydney was an indication of the esteem with which he was held. Our hearts are indeed saddened by this great loss to our brotherhood, but we are confident that Rex is hearing those treasured words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We thank his family for giving him to us. Our prayers and thoughts are with you, Verlie, and your children, Ruth, Andrew, Judith and Timothy.

We give thanks to God for the life of George Rex Frederick Ellis.

The N.S.W. Conference has established a testimonial fund to be used for assistance towards future housing for the Ellis family.

— Dianne Feeney

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LATE REX ELLIS

We have all been shocked at the death of Principal Rex Ellis at the peak of his career in the ministry. Our prayers surround the N.S.W. College Board, Faculty and students as they face a very difficult future without his leadership. And even more we are surrounding with prayer his wife Verlie and their children.

We learn that his early death has caused a difficult financial situation for the family. The leanest time for any minister is when the family are involved in primary and secondary schools. And the mid-forties is a bad time for payouts from the Preachers' Provident Fund, which anticipates that most ministers will retire at 65.

The N.S.W. Conference has opened a Fund to enable the friends of Rex Ellis to assist his family. We are not making a general appeal, but rather using the "A.C." to let those know who want to help.

Gifts may be sent to Kevin Crawford, 70 Carmen Drive, Carlingford, N.S.W. 2118.

1980 GOOD CITIZENS' AWARDS

Every year since 1977 the Australian Federation of Festival of Light-Community Standards organisations has presented 10 annual Good Citizens' Awards to citizens in various categories who have made a valuable contribution to our quality of life.

The 1980 annual Good Citizens' Awards were announced at the 1980 annual citizens' dinner. These were: 1. Television — Mr and Mrs Bobby Limb, 2. Radio — Howard Craven (2CH), 3. Stage — Julie Anthony, 4. Sport and family life — Mrs Evonne Cawley, 5. Public Service — former Constable John Wilson (Granville rail disaster), 6. Parliamentary — Hon. Milton Morris, 7. Motherhood — Mrs. Jean Graham (mother of 12), 8. Youth — late Garth Hustwit of Mt. Druitt, 9. Year of the Handicapped — Miss Sue Newman (Baptist College), 10. National Leadership — To be announced.

PUBLIC LAUNCHING OF THE 1980 CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL IN MELBOURNE

For the first time for many years, the Christmas Bowl Appeal in Melbourne is to have a public launching. This will take place in the City Square at 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26.

The Rev. Stan Stewart, a Uniting Church minister in the Ringwood parish, will direct a presentation in mime by children around this year's theme:

"Love is a basket with five loaves and two fishes: it's never enough until you start to give it away."

It is based on the story in the Gospels of the Feeding of the 5000 by Jesus with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Fish-shaped biscuits will be distributed to the crowd, and balloons with the theme printed on them are to be released. A folk-singer will sing the theme-song, "Give a Little Love".

The Appeal will be officially opened by the President of the V.C.C. Father Stelios Menis, of the Greek Orthodox Church.

THE EMERGING VISION

On Friday, September 5, 1980, 95 youth leaders, young people and members of the S.A. State Youth Ministry Committee, met for a Conference on 'Recapturing the Vision' of youth work. The group were a wide cross section of our State youth. There were representatives from 35 city and country churches.

THE TASK

To get a new vision of Youth Work by identifying the issues in youth work in the 1980's for our churches. The next step was to develop appropriate ways of making the vision real in local, state and national work.

THE FIRST STRIKING FEATURE of the Consultation was the emergence of a single common concern shared by all. Simply stated, it was to see young people become a part of the active, caring, mission of Jesus Christ and his church. A deep concern to reach kids who were experiencing all the traumas of being a teenager in the 1980's coupled with a sense of urgency that the teenage and young adult Christians needed to get involved in this serious business and not be entertained nor treated as being incapable of playing a vital role in Christ's mission.

THE SECOND IMPRESSION was one of radical diversity about how to go about doing this. This diversity was experienced as we looked at the way churches were going about their youth work. One church used a double decker bus, another a drop-in centre. Others used special outreach programs in schools, while others used more traditional methods focussing on the church related young people. The same diversity was also expressed by speakers.

In small groups, the participants worked at identifying what helps and what hinders youth work, and youth evangelism. Again, a wide diversity of ideas emerged. High on the list of factors which help were the following:

SOME FACTORS WHICH HELP YOUTH WORK

- ★ a group of committed young people
- ★ a sense of purpose and direction in youth work
- ★ capable and enthusiastic leaders
- ★ awareness of the needs of the group and those who are contacts
- ★ ability to accept others, which includes acceptance of each other in the youth group
- ★ vital faith
- ★ involving youth in all aspects of work

SOME FACTORS WHICH HINDER YOUTH WORK

- ★ pressure from church for 'instant success' and troubles with bureaucracy
- ★ in-grown youth groups
- ★ Church worship and programs which are entirely alien to youth culture, music, etc.
- ★ lack of good resources for youth programs.
- ★ lack of successful models of youth work to copy
- ★ lack of communication between young and old in the church

- ★ difficulties in witnessing to non-Christians

Then a pattern began to emerge. A vision of youth work began to take shape. It is summed up in the phrase 'Youth ministry is a ministry of giving not taking'.

Successful Youth Work in the 1980's will be one which is orientated to caring for others. There will be an emphasis on purpose, existing to accomplish a task which is part of Christ's ministry to the world. The youth group that is solely concerned with caring for itself, pre-occupied with keeping the group together or protecting church young people from the world, will become introverted and its members bored.

INVOLVEMENT IN MINISTRY WILL BE THE LIFE BLOOD OF VITAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH WORK

It will be a ministry which is geared to the needs of people. Therefore, each group will take a different form according to the needs of its community and the young people it is seeking to reach.

A new style of leadership will be needed. Leadership which is deeply committed to Christian ministry, flexible in style and able to relate with deep caring for young people. Without this, the vision will fade.

Finally, the youth ministry will need to be recognised and supported by a concerned church which is informed about the needs of youth work and prepared to be flexible to meet youth on youth's own terms. While worship services remain geared to the style of the 60's (stately, solemn and non-personal), there will remain a great gulf between the church and non-church youth.

Youth leaders will need to feel the loving support of a concerned church eldership which is prepared to understand the immense problems in trying to relate to, and minister to, the deep needs of youth.

SOME KEY ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

- ★ Developing a closer liaison between youth leaders and church elders to provide support and a deepening understanding.
- ★ Developing contact between church elders and the Youth Ministry Committee of the Department of Christian Education. This will facilitate getting major youth issues brought to the attention of key personnel in the local congregation.
- ★ Developing resources for youth programs focussing on youth getting involved in the outreach ministry of the church.
- ★ Developing youth structures, state and local, which will emphasise youth outreach and involvement.
- ★ Finding ways and means of helping youth groups and local congregations cope with the major issues confronting young people in the 1980's.
- ★ Developing awareness in local congregations of the need to provide

worship which relates to youth and youth culture. These, and other issues, will be a major focus of the Youth Ministry Committee work in 1981, and will be the basis for a projected Youth Conference during the year.

"UNDERNEATH THE LAMPLIGHT"

It was under a street lamp somewhere in South Yarra that Cliff Taylor proposed to Amelia Scarce some 37 years ago. So began a partnership in ministry that blended their lives and gifts for the Kingdom of God, for the Brotherhood and for the churches that they served.

Milly and Cliff Taylor concluded their "full-time ministry" together at Gardiner (Vic.) at a farewell service on October 26. They have moved back to Chatswood (N.S.W.) into retirement, both having suffered a great deal of ill health in later years.

FORTY SEVEN YEARS

Cliff's ministry goes back 47 years, when as a young man of 18 he was sent as a "home missionary" the W.A. country town of Brooktop. It was from there that he went to the College of the Bible in 1936. His ministries since have been with the churches at South Yarra, Ringwood, Parkdale, Hampton, Lygon St., Brighton, Doncaster, Chatswood, and Gardiner.

He served the Brotherhood as Victorian-Tasmanian Conference President in 1962-1963 and as N.S.W. Conference President in 1972-1973. He lectured both at the College of the Bible and the N.S.W. Bible College.

EDITOR OF THE "A.C."

It was interesting that at the farewell service there were Editors of "The Australian Christian" who served in succession over the past 30 years. For Cliff Taylor was Editor for the 13 years from 1951 to 1963. One of the speakers who paid tribute to him was Alf White who succeeded him as Editor and another was Gordon Stirling who succeeded Alf White. Other representative speakers were Keith Horne, Stanton Wilson and Norman Arnott who came from his holiday in Mt Gambier especially for the occasion.

FULL HOUSE

The friends of Cliff and Amelia Taylor crowded into the Gardiner chapel to honour them and their ministry. Perhaps it was fitting that our most polished preacher should have married our greatest soloist (Milly won the "Sun Aria" in her youth). Their gifted voices have been God's instruments to inspire and to encourage his people. But even more than for their preaching and singing, they are remembered and loved for themselves... two humble, gracious, warm people with a great capacity to love and to care. The prayers of the Brotherhood surround them as they enter into the fruitful ministry of retirement.

— G.R.S.

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The 1981 Australian Christian Foundation Scholar was announced and introduced at the Federal Conference at Stanwell Tops. He is **Robert Smith**, Field Officer with the Churches of Christ Social Service Department in N.S.W. He was selected from a group of applicants, all of whom were worthy and all of whom submitted creative study plans. The job of the selection committee was very difficult.

STUDY PLAN

Robert Smith's aim is to study in the U.S.A., the relationship between community care and evangelism. He is concerned on his return to be able to help churches to express the love of Christ in local areas of need. This involves meeting felt need helpfully and ultimately awakening and meeting the deep need for fullness of life in Christ. It can be summed up in the expression, service and evangelism through caring.

FIELD WORK

Robert expects to be working alongside staff of the Church of the Saviour in Washington D.C., one of the best known churches in the world where members commit themselves to work in the immediate community in the name of Christ especially in what might be called ghetto areas. He will also work with staff of a similar church the College Church of Northampton. He expects to spend time with the Disciples' Director of Evangelism, Bill Hannah a big hearted and powerful negro who specialises in what he calls "holistic evangelism" or



Gordon Stirling congratulating Robert Smith on being the A.C. Foundation Scholar for 1981 at Federal Conference.

taking Christ to the whole of the needs people. He will also attend an outreach seminar at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York.

ON RETURN

When he returns to Australia Robert will give the value of his experience to the N.S.W. Social Service Department which under Charles Cole has been leading the N.S.W. churches into a variety of community care projects with evangelistic overtones.

CHRISTIAN PROJECTS LIMITED

The paying partners with "The Australian Christian" in the A.C.F. Scholarship are **Christian Projects Limited**, a Trust comprising members of Churches of Christ. They are also involved in in-Service Training for Ministers and Leaders, assistance for social welfare in the Brotherhood, and national publicity for Churches of Christ. The closing date for applicants for the 1982 Scholarship will be in May 1st, 1981. The earlier date is to enable the selected scholar to have more time to finalise details of his study program and to do necessary reading and preparation, especially for programs involving seminars in theological and other colleges.

FUSION OPENING

The Fusion Community Centre is holding an opening function on November 28 and 29 for the newly renovated centre.

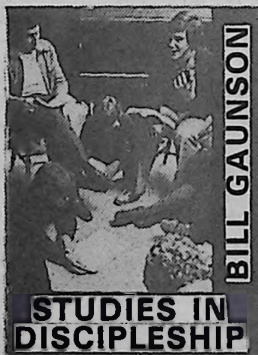
Fusion aims to reach off the street kids in the Murrumbena area as well as other areas of Victoria. They are also involved in Christian witness at such events as Moomba.

The opening will premier **Dennis Claire's** one man mime show "Speechless".

Dennis is a Tasmanian profession mime artist and a Christian who uses his gifts to confront people with the truth.

The Fusion Community Centre is at 101 Murrumbena Rd., Murrumbena.

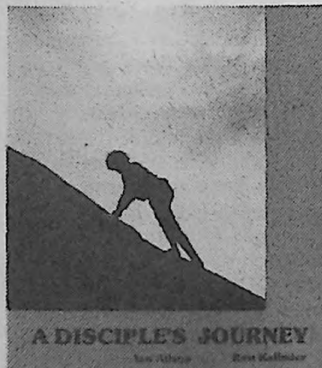
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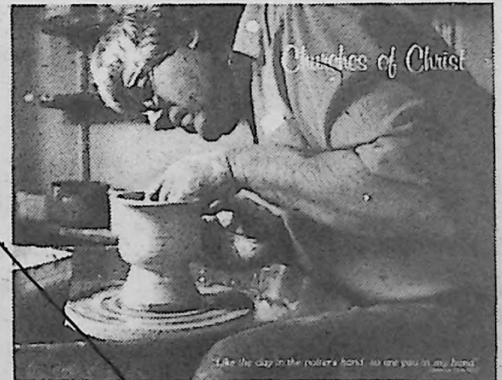
Discipleship material for all ages. Content based. Biblically oriented.
COST \$2.00



The third and final selection of morning worship resources for use around the communion table. These follow the readings for 1981.
COST \$3.50



Discipleship material for the 16-18 age bracket.
COST \$1.50



Space for notes

COST \$1.00

JANUARY 1981

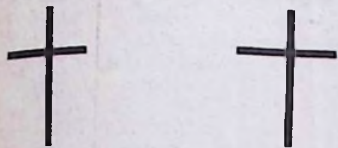
Daily Reading	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Daily Readings

VITAL PUBLICATION
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CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ITS BEGINNINGS AND DEVELOPMENT



ALICE SAUNDERS

This is a digest of a talk given by Alice Saunders at Federal Conference, at the Elective on "C.W.F. — Where to from here".

BEGINNINGS

We go back to the beginning of the World C.W.F. at the Toronto World Convention in 1955, when 3,000 women met at an inaugural meeting. In 1951 Jessie Trout, executive secretary of the Department of Christian Women's Fellowship for United States and Canada, received a letter from Australia asking if any plans were in hand to form a world organisation of women. This set Miss Trout thinking and travelling, and the idea was agreed to in principle at the Convention in Melbourne in 1952.

RULES

Rules of procedure and statement of purpose for the proposed W.C.W.F. were formulated. These were voted on at Toronto. The aim was to unite in fellowship through prayer, study and service, women of World Churches of Christ. Mrs Hilda Green of England was elected president and with Miss Trout worked for the next five years in producing prayer topics and newsletters and in publishing W.C.W.F. around the world. They sought a wide representation at the World Convention at Edinburgh in 1960.

DATE OF BEGINNING

The exact date of the start of women's organisation in our churches is unknown, but we know that in 1865 combined women's prayer meetings were being held in N.S.W., and that a combined women's meeting was held at Ballarat, Vic. in 1884. The first Conference was the Victorian one in 1886. Local women's groups met well before these combined functions.

NAMES

Names of women's groups were Guild, Dorcas, Sunshine Circle, Mission Band. Some, as Dorcas (sewing and service) and Mission Band had specific purposes. Others were more general, but the purpose was the same — to give women the opportunity to have fellowship together and to find opportunities for service.

ADOPTION

As C.W.F. became accepted, and after World War 2, concern increased for the younger women of our churches. The Young Women's Fellowship came into existence, catering for married and single young women. Later, the name was changed to Evening Women's Fellowship, and a closer link with Conference was established.



DEVELOPMENT

During this time interest in W.C.W.F. was rising, fostered by women who had been to World Conventions, and contact with American visitors. Pauline Crosby, who had been Y.W.F. representative on S.A. executive, and later State President, had received on request, and had encouraged the use of American C.W.F. program material among evening groups particularly, and talked C.W.F. ideals among our groups, did much to foster interest.

FEDERAL C.W.F.

In 1966 Christian Women's Fellowship became the name which covered all women's groups federally. From 1966 on, groups began to take the name of C.W.F. Evening groups led the way, being already used to the term "Fellowship" in their name. Some groups clung to the old titles, feeling their existence threatened. This was not the case, the title C.W.F. was intended to cover any women's group in our churches; nor was there any intention to enforce any special type of program.

THINK ABOUT IT

LUKE 4: 40-44.

People wanted Jesus to fit into their plans — to be their sort of Messiah.

Do we dictate to God?

Let God control our lives — "Thy Will be Done".

NOTE:

By way of explanation for those not at the Elective. At Federal Conference an Elective was held entitled, "C.W.F. where to from Here"? Three talks were given on different opinions of C.W.F. existing in our churches today. The three ladies who presented them were stating facts and did not necessarily agree with all those facts. Because the three talks are on the same topic, and all represented a particular viewpoint, they need to be read together. The first talk appeared in the October issue, the second talk is in the November issue, and the third will appear in the February issue. The time, work and enthusiasm given by these three women is deeply appreciated.

Comments or questions are welcome. Please send them to the Editress of the Women's page.

NAME ADOPTED

Gradually the name was adopted by most groups. In some churches there were C.W.F. day groups and C.W.F. evening groups. When new groups were formed in churches which had never had a women's group, or where the group had lapsed many years ago, the name C.W.F. was automatically adopted; so that eventually what had been a new name became accepted as the usual one.

"TYPICAL AGENDA"

In 1970 C.W.F. Handbook a "Typical Agenda" is set out. See page 128.

NO STEREOTYPED PATTERN

This was meant to be a help, not a final and definite program that every group had to follow slavishly every meeting. This set-up is probably much the same as has been followed by women's groups since they began last century, with the addition of the occasional missionary spot, and sentence prayer session.

But in many places this rigid form of meeting has become equated with C.W.F., and if a group decides to use a different format regularly there arises the thought that this group is not part of C.W.F. at all. For this reason we find some opting out of Women's Conference on their own initiative. Conference executive which does not desire this wants all groups to belong to the C.W.F. family. Others feel that because this is the way we have always conducted C.W.F., they are not free to innovate new ideas and so remain hidebound.

What was once new and innovative becomes itself traditional. It is also difficult to get women who are not able to attend meetings to feel that they are, as members of Churches of Christ, also members of C.W.F.

FRIENDS OF ALL NATIONS

HINTS FOR CONVERSATION WITH FRIENDS FROM OTHER NATIONS.

1. Relax. If you feel afraid, just think how much harder it is for the other person.
2. Smile. A smile is universal and speaks the same message all over the world. People feel accepted.
3. Don't Shout. This is a language difficulty, not a hearing problem.
4. Be Friendly. Realise that no matter what country people come from they all have the same needs and feelings.
5. Don't Panic — Laugh Instead. If you can't make yourself understood a good laugh together is a safety valve, and eases the situation.
6. Treat People as Equals. Recognise that all people are created equal in God's sight. The Greek grandmother in black is not inferior because she is different; nor is the Vietnamese refugee who seeks the same freedom of life that we are blessed with.

From the Ladies of the Hobart Church, Tas.

MUSTARD SEEDS

FROM 'ON BEING' MAGAZINE' WITH PERMISSION

WAIT! WHAT HE MEANT
WAS YOU CAN KEEP YOUR
POSSESSIONS IF YOU
SAY YOU'RE NOT ATTACHED
TO THEM... JUST GIVE A
TENTH OF YOUR INCOME
TO THE CHURCH....

RIGHT! INVEST THE
REST WISELY SO YOUR
MATERIAL SUCCESS WILL
BE A GOOD WITNESS!
...THEN YOU'LL HAVE
RICHES IN HEAVEN..!

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.

PAUL WILLIAMS THANKFUL

To the Editor,

May I take advantage of your column to express my thanks and appreciation to all those people among our churches who upheld Judy and I in prayer during my recent illness. For all the love and concern expressed through letters and cards, may I say thankyou.

— Paul Williams, Bunapas, Papua New Guinea.

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

To the Editor,

In the discussion on "Page 13" (A.C. Oct. 25) on Divorce would it help to consider the following thoughts?

At any church wedding there are really two weddings. In one the marriage is placed in God's hands; and, in the other, the Marriage Register is signed.

The signing of the register is a civil requirement so that the law of the land can recognise the marriage and uphold the legal responsibilities between the man and the woman.

It is this aspect of the marriage that divorce applies. It is a man-conceived condition to which man acceded "for your hardness of heart" (Mark 10:5).

From Jesus' remark in verse 11, it seems that the writing of a certificate of divorce does not absolve a person from the taint of adultery should a divorcee marry again. This is because God's portion of the wedding ceremony does not provide for divorce.

It would also seem from the passage that Jesus was more concerned about the adultery of remarried divorcees than about divorce itself.

This could mean that, if a couple cannot possibly live together, they could separate. A divorce would remove any legal ties and responsibilities between the two, but it would not sever the marriage as far as God is concerned.

— D.B. Price (S.A.)

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

To the Editor

I am writing firstly to encourage you in your attempts to make the Australian Christian more readable. I believe you will get there, though I still pick up the "On Being" magazine as it speaks to me more.

I would like to raise the issues of divorce and remarriage. I am disturbed that at a recent Ministers Seminar, a position of counselling in divorce was pushed far more strongly than I consider can be biblically token. Are we in Churches of Christ succumbing to worldly pressure? I believe the Scriptures state clearly Christ's position against divorce and remarriage, and among others know I've not made his teaching clear.

— Kerry Haythorpe (Maryborough, Vic.)
GOD IN MARRIAGES.

To the Editor,

In your "Page 13" — 'Jesus and Divorce' you ask: "What does being joined together by God, mean? In reply you say: To be joined by God requires two people whose lives are so open to his indwelling spirit that God in fact is the creator and sustainer of their relationship. Such a marriage is indestructible as long as God remains within it". I ask: Cannot God be involved in the dynamic relationship of husband and

wife in such a way that all three are making the marriage? Sometimes God's purpose is frustrated by his children (partners) but this does not imply that God does not remain within the marriage. I suggest that large numbers of Christian couples are working with God towards the ideal and keep together marriages and families that are fairly good most of the time, terribly bad some of the time, and absolutely marvelous at other times! I see God at work in the ideal and in the less than ideal marriages; sharing responsibility with us in the creating of our marriages.

— John Somerville (W.A.)

ED. Thank you John for saying it much better than we did.

QUEENSLAND ABORIGINES

To the Editor,

'Sceptical' of qualified opinion, that contaminated water, lack of natural resources and swampy ground rendered a site unsuitable for settlement, Alan Austin "A.C." (Oct. 25) accepts emotionally involved inexperienced opinion more to his liking. He condemns Q'd government policy for gradual education of Aboriginal people to successfully live beside their white brothers, in favour of isolation and separate culture (usually termed 'Apartheid'). Original native culture lacked housing, hygiene, medical care, agriculture, grazing, clothing, money. Spiritual values were a form of ancestor, land and animal

MEDITATION MUSIC

To the Editor,

I am wondering what meditation really is.

Meditation is the in thing at our church. Morning presidents often include a meditation time in the services. Quiet music is used as a background to the meditation. (If there were complete silence I think that our people would assume that the service is over and go home!)

My problem is to know what to do during meditation time, especially when the background music is a hymn and the words of it don't fit in with what I'm inclined to meditate about. So I usually slip deliciously into neutral and relax completely. I'm sure that this is physically and emotionally therapeutic, if not spiritually, although I sometimes have the feeling that I am relaxing into the warm presence of God.

Last Sunday young Crispian presided. The congregation was startled by his meditation music. It was lively rock music with the strident voice of a singer coming through insistently with the one phrase, "God is here!" It seemed that even the church seats were throbbing with it. We were all appropriately shocked.

My own thoughts at the time were that surely he should know that meditation music is soft and soothing and devotional and non-disturbing. It should lull us into quietness. But as I thought I began to wonder. Perhaps meditation is not always being soothed and quietened and rested. The Lord we are meditating about is also the Lord of a world of noise and bustle and rock and roll and industry and commerce and politics and economics and poverty and hunger and affluence. Maybe meditation is about how the things we do and say in church fit in with what God is doing in our sort of world.

These were my thoughts against the background of the frantic singer's urgent "God is here". And for the first time in my life I think that I was really meditating.

Yours reflectively,
TERTIUS

reverence. One would expect a person allowed to write articles for a Christian paper to applaud efforts to replace the above with knowledge of modern living conditions and Christian spiritual values, including the brotherhood of all races in Christ. These unsophisticated people are often the innocent victims of anti-government propaganda by people who should be disallowed.

— Isabel Beasley

DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE

To the Editor,

John Chivell is concerned that divorce has found its way into the ministry of our churches (A.C. Oct. 25.)

May we reassure him that he need not be so concerned. Some churches have always shown themselves quite willing to ostracise and scandalize people in such a situation. We believe that this ability is alive and well in our churches and is being used with effectiveness on those in ministry and membership who struggle with, and decide not to continue in a personally destructive relationship. Indeed the fear of this ostracism is a powerful force in keeping such marriages together. While those prepared to cast stones remain in the majority, Mr. Chivell need not fear.

But will the churches even become caring communities?

— Roma Beck, Brian Beck (S.A.)

DIVORCE AND FORGIVENESS

To the Editor,

As with Jack Chivell, passages in the New Testament have continually disturbed me too. I too have married people who through some personal tragedy have been through the agony of divorce. I continually come back to the New Testament fact of forgiveness. If God promises forgiveness to those who sincerely re-

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

OPEN FORUM

pent, then he says that the persons concerned are reinstated in such a way that as far as God is concerned the events, attitudes and so on that are forgiven have never happened (Hebrews 10:17, Colossians 2:13 and 14). I cannot see in the New Testament any distinction between any sin and that of divorce. We tread on perilous ground to make a distinction between divorcees in or out of the Christian ministry. God uses effectively those who have been tragically divorced while in ministry. The interim ministry at the Croydon (S.A.) church during my long service leave is a testimony to that. Let's use the testing stick of true repentance; then let's give the Holy Spirit a chance to use effectively those who have "been there".

Rex Chamberlain (Croydon, S.A.)

N.W. DISTRICT CONFERENCE —

Halls Gap was the venue of 58th North West District Conference which was held in conjunction with a family camp October 24-26. At one stage during the camp there were 60 people present despite four churches not being represented.

Two grandmas kindly made themselves available to conduct creche during study and conference sessions.

Barry Williams, Kaniva, chaired the conference itself which saw Bert Stevens, Ararat, elected President and Wes Harmer, Warracknabeal, President elect. A new secretary has yet to be appointed.

A reply from the Premier on the Casino protest reassured us for the time being. Reports and tributes from the churches were presented.

A sample "V.C.R." of a T.V. program "Turn Round Australia" featuring Gordon Moyes was presented by Noel Mitaxa, Portland. Churches were urged to help sponsor this program when (we hope) it is broadcast by B.T.V. 6 on Sundays for a 6 months trial.

Another enjoyable picnic was held at Mount Arapiles during the year and Conference next year will again be part of a family camp at Halls Gap.



Bert Stevens leading open air communion service.

NEW COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE PRINCIPAL APPOINTED

Dr W Tabbernee B.A. (Hons.), S.T.M., Ph.D., Dip. R.E. has been appointed the new Principal of the College of the Bible beginning January 1 1981. Since he became a faculty member of the College in 1971, Bill Tabbernee has shown many outstanding capacities. He enables people to see the meaning of the Scriptures and his teaching ability brings clarity and practical application to theological study. His undoubted academic ability is matched with an understanding of people. The students know him to be approachable and wise in counselling.

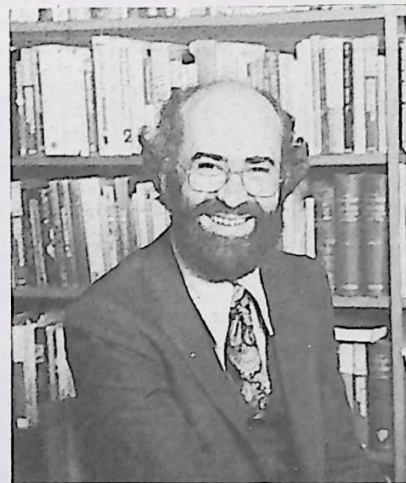
In both his teaching and writing he has expressed his commitment to the witness of Churches of Christ.

Before entering the College of the Bible as a student from the Ivanhoe (Vic.) church, Bill Tabbernee was a trained and experienced teacher. In recent years he has gained the Master of Sacred Theology from Yale University (1973) and completed his doctorate at the Melbourne University (1978) with a thesis on early church history.

He has conducted part-time ministries in a number of Melbourne churches and currently is part of the ministry team at Doncaster, conducting the popular "School for Christians". He has been guest preacher at W.A. S.A. Conferences. Bill and his wife, Sandra, are in membership at Doncaster. They have three children, Nicole, Jason and Michelle.

According to the requirements of the Constitution of Federal Conference the Board of Management has consulted with

The Conference sermon was given by George Warren, M.E.D. Along with his wife and family, he added much to camp as study leader, involving all families down to creche age. Study was around the Lord's Supper — its origin in the Passover, its motivation similar to other special meals we have — meals of celebration, new beginnings, thanksgiving, remembering, commitment, and friendship.



Dr Bill Tabbernee

the College Committees in W.A. and S.A., with the College representatives in Tasmania and with Federal Conference Executive and has received unanimous support. The appointment has the whole-hearted endorsement of the faculty. The Board is confident that Dr Tabbernee's appointment will be welcomed warmly by the whole Australian Brotherhood and that he will be supported with loyalty and prayer.

The Board is pleased to report also that Dr Keith Bowes, who recently resigned as Principal, has agreed to continue in 1981 as a member of faculty.

— F P Chipperfield Chairman
— R E Haskell Secretary

"Welcome to a Meal with Jesus" was the theme of poster making.

The final study of Sunday morning brought forth the miming of the Lord's Supper by one group and the writing of a communion hymn by another. The open air communion was the climax when this freshly written hymn was used for the first time.

1. Men of God who followed thee
Were delivered from slavery
Jews of old who obeyed thy command
They broke unleavened bread.
2. Jesus Christ the Son God
Showed us the way to walk with him
With the bread and with the wine
He broke and shared and prayed.
3. Now today we do the same
To the glory of His name
From our sin He sets us free
So we break and pray and proclaim.
Tune — 'Songs of Praise,' 89.

BOLIVIAN TURMOIL

The Catholic bishops of Bolivia say that human dignity and the freedom to preach the Gospel is really being put to the test under military regime in their country. Following the coup of July 17, many priests and nuns have been arrested and tortured.

According to information received by the New Zealand Council of Churches, the climate of fear in Bolivia rivals that of Chile in 1973.

MISSIONARY MINISTERS AT HOME

Bill Buli, with his wife and family, recently returned to Papua New Guinea to continue theological studies at the Christian Leaders Training College at Banz. He tells of his ministry at Wujumel on Pentecost island, Vanuatu:

"One Sunday as we were ready for church, the chairman and the preacher appointed for the Sunday did not turn up. There were just a handful of people there, but after an hour of waiting we decided to have our service. I took over the responsibility, and the topic I preached on was the second coming of Christ."

This address created such an impact that Bill was invited to return the following week to preach on the same subject. During the week the second coming of Christ became the main topic of conversation around the villages. The following Sunday, about 100 people crowded into

the chapel to share in worship. Bill continues:

"After church we had a time of questions and discussion which did not allow some of us time for lunch. In the evening I was asked to speak on the same topic at the youth meeting which took us through to 10 p.m. At this meeting we had young people from all the villages and we had a wonderful time together. Yes! The Lord is really at work."

A further part of Bill's ministry was to have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Churches of Christ people during the independence celebrations at Bwatnapni on Pentecost Island. In this address Bill showed what God had done in the past through the missionary movement in Vanuatu. He ended with the challenge that as Christians are the salt of the earth they have a vital part to play in the development of their new nation.

EVANGELIST EXCITED BY TOOWOOMBA CRUSADE

Evangelist Bill Newman closed a 10 day Toowoomba Crusade with a capacity audience of 1,500 people. It was the climax of an exciting time for all involved.

Commencing with a media luncheon, the pace accelerated as newspaper, television and radio journalists recognised something "different" about this event.

Local schools were visited by musician Chris Foley and soloist Rose-Marie Longe. Over 3,000 students were reached!

A special Ladies' Rally and the Youth Night also attracted large numbers, not only in attendance but also in the counselling areas afterwards.

Musical talent abounded during the 10 days of meetings. Chris Foley; Joystones; Manna; Christine Peters; Lost and Found; Soul Harvest; Jerry Exton and Rose-Marie Longe rendered a variety seldom heard in such crusades.

Approximately 470 enquirers came forward from an attendance of over 11,500 during the 10 day period. Counselling Chairman, Pastor Ray Brown of the Baptist Church, was noticeably active guiding his trained workers to suitable assignments, before and after the service.

— World Wide Photos



Bruce Armstrong (Toowoomba Minister) with John Sheed, (Crusade Director).

BIBLE TEACHES MILLIONS TO READ

Millions of people throughout the world are learning to read through a program designed by the Bible Societies. Good News For New Readers is established in 70 countries with work taking place in a remarkable 427 languages.

A United Bible Societies' Translation Consultant, Dr Eugene Nida, says "By starting out with our Scriptures translated on the most basic levels and working up to more sophisticated translations, a teacher or minister can vastly improve the reading skills of anyone who wants to learn to read".

The New Reader program offers Scriptures translated at five different levels of understanding. The first level, Series A,

uses short words and sentences to tell brief parables from the life of Jesus. Series B has longer words and sentences, while the third series offers not only a more complicated thought and language line but the size of the printed type is reduced.

The last two levels are designed to take the reader forward to a solid knowledge of a common language version of the Bible.

The New Reader program is giving hope to millions of people around the world. The skill of reading gives opportunity for a better way of life and provides the communication for reaching the hearts of people everywhere with the good news of Jesus Christ.

WHEN DO WE GO INTO INDONESIA?

Questions to the Overseas Mission Board at Federal Conference showed considerable interest in Indonesia. Some of the questions and answers are as follows:

Q. In view of the present lack of resources, personnel and finance, are we extending such resources with our involvement in Indonesia?

A. Not at present — future involvement in Indonesia depends on availability of personnel and resources as per the decision of Federal Conference Melbourne 1979.

Q. How soon can we expect to see two married couples appointed?

A. This is unknown — there has been only one application so far from a married couple to go to Indonesia.

Q. What is the current relationship with Independent Churches of Christ in Indonesia. If not satisfactory, are we able to proceed independently?

A. We are still discussing a working relationship with our American brethren. The main problem is whether the American brethren are prepared to accept the personnel we appoint. At present any Independent American missionary can write to the persons whom we feel are suitable and question them on doctrine and other matters. They must be accepted by the whole American team. We accept personnel who have been accepted as being suitable by the N.Z. O.M.B. to serve in Vanuatu. We feel this same arrangement should apply in our relationship with our American brethren. We are at present discussing this vital matter of acceptance of personnel with them. We cannot proceed independently and establish our own work as we have done in our other fields. We can only work in Indonesia in co-operation with an established and recognised church and at their invitation.

Q. Where we are unable to put workers into overseas fields, are we big enough to provide finance for other Christian bodies and/or other Christian Churches?

A. We are already effectively involved in Indonesia by giving financial support to the Institute Oicumene Indonesia for leadership training and Bible reading promotion throughout Indonesia.

NEW CHINESE BIBLE

A completely new translation of the Bible in Chinese is to be published by the United Bible Societies. Known as Today's Chinese Version of the Bible, it is the first major translation by Chinese Christian scholars who have spent eight years on the work.

The New Testament was published in 1975. It is hoped that this new version of the complete Bible will appeal to the one billion Chinese speakers throughout the world.

Of the 50,000 copies of the Bibles initially printed, 47,000 have already been sold and a reprint is under consideration.

BOOKS TO READ

GROWING IN THE 80s

(Vital Publications) \$3.00

State Home Mission Departments and Vital Publications are to be congratulated on the production of this important publication for use by our local churches.

It presents for the consideration of local churches the thinking and dreams of many of our key people whose prayer is that during the 80's we will grow as more Australians are won for Jesus Christ.

The Bible studies presented by E. C. Keating present the basis for evangelism while Barry McMurtrie in 'Issues for the Eighties' presents some significant insights as to how we can best relate to Australians today.

'Models for Evangelism' present a number of possibilities for local congregations to consider. Lists of the advantages and possible shortcomings or dangers of each model so that each local congregation can determine which approach is most effective in their situation.

I particularly appreciated the report of the Workshops from the National Strategy Planning Conference. These dealt with the following headings: Congregational Lifestyle, Family Ministry, Singles Ministry, Youth Ministry and Evangelism, Congregational Outreach, Evangelistic Preaching Missions, Personal Witnessing, Adventures in Evangelism Lay Training, Outreach Committees, Small Groups, Auxiliaries, Social Awareness, Publication and the Media, Questions for research and discussion and a suggested plan for action is included.

The strategies for each State enables each church to play a part in reaching state objectives and also learn from what others are doing across the Nation.

My personal prayer would be that each elder and officer serving at the level of our local churches will purchase a copy of 'Growing in the 80s' for prayerful consideration and become involved in implementing some of the ideas involved so that we can make disciples for Jesus Christ. The strategy plans and ideas will benefit your local church in direct proportion to which you, with God's guidance implement these ideas in your local church.

— Kevin E. Crawford

CORRIE, THE LIVES SHE'S TOUCHED

by Joan Winmill Brown, (Hodder & Stoughton), \$9.95

I first heard Corrie Ten Boom 25 years ago and she has made an impression on me through her writings, the film of her life "No Hiding Place", and through the multitudes of other people she has influenced for God.

Now Joan Winmill Brown — herself a celebrated actress and the subject of a very moving film — has brought together the stories about Corrie herself and the impact she has made upon people.

Corrie Ten Boom has had one of those remarkable lives that has been world-wide in scope, touched the bottom and the heights of human experience and has been powerful in its effect upon others. From the quiet peace of a traditional Dutch clock-making family, to the nerve-tingling secret life of the underground, to the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp, through constant worldwide travelling and the fame that authorship and Hollywood thrusts upon her, Corrie has never left people who have come into close relationship with her the same.

She is a very special person and this book, not only covers the breadth of her life but the interesting lives of other people changed by her.

Congratulations are due to H. & S. who have produced a large format book, featuring over 200 photographs and decent size print for those who find normal paperbacks difficult to read. The layout and format, and the use of "white space" make the book an attractive presentation.

— Gordon Moyes —

RICH CHRISTIANS IN AN AGE OF HUNGER

by Ronald J. Sider (Hodder and Stoughton) \$3.20

A well documented book on hunger in the world and the Lord's teaching to Christians. The thoroughness of the research makes it a student's delight as a reference book on politics, economics, sociology, etc. I found the book challenging and yet I find the size of the task frightening. The ideas given for solution are good but seem to be a little idealistic. For the Christian who seeks to understand more of the world and its needs this is an excellent but disturbing book.

— J. Urquhart

THE CHURCH LIBRARY: TIPS AND TOOLS

by Gladys E. Scheer (Bethany Press).

A short and easily read book on how to set up and run a church library. This covers all areas from the original discussions through buying books, getting them ready for use to measurer to regain overdue books. This is an excellent resource material especially for untrained librarians. Two faults however are that many of the resources mentioned are American and difficult to obtain here and also the systems described are for larger libraries than I have seen in Australian churches.

THE SIBERIAN SEVEN

by John Pollock (Hodder & Stoughton)

An account of the lives of the seven Siberian Pentecostal Christians who took refuge in the American Embassy in Moscow in June 1978. These people are still in the Embassy wishing to emigrate to the U.S.A. There were hopes that they would be moved prior to the Olympic Games but it now appears that they may well be in the Embassy for a considerably longer time.

This is an account of modern day suffering of several families under an active persecution. There is a difficulty in following who is who at times but otherwise this is a very interesting book. It is hard to imagine the pressures on these people that led to their final actions.

The latest paper published by the Zadok Centre, 13 Edgar St., Ainslie, A.C.T. 2602 is a brief survey of "Demographic Trends and the Place of Religion in Australia" by Dr. Robin Pryor. For anyone with a concern of relating the Christian faith to Australia these papers are essential background reading. This paper looks at the effect of birthrates, immigration and other factors on the religious affiliation in Australia.

Unless otherwise stated books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: Keswick-Scripture Union Bookshop, 1st floor, Port Phillip Arcade, 232 Flinders St., Melbourne 3000; N.S.W. Churches of Christ Book Shop, 9 Endeavour Arcade, The Kingsway, Carlingbah, 2229; Scripture Union Bookshop, 121 Bathurst St., Hobart, 7000; Associated Church Bookshops, 38A St. George's Terrace, Perth, 6000; Scripture Union Bookshop, 6 Sherwood Court, Perth, 6000.



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT SUNDAYS OFF?"

HAPPENINGS

Packed churches are reported in Ethiopia, following an easing of persecution. Conditions are now generally better for believers, with the authorities ending the nationalisation of church property and imprisonment of believers.

The A.F.E.S. National Conference, January 12-16, 1981 at LaTrobe University in Melbourne. The theme of the Conference is "Salt of the Earth Light of the World." The main speakers will be Dr Bill Andersen, Dr Alan Cole and John Smith.

70 - 80% of crime in Britain is committed under the influence of alcohol.

Theft and juvenile delinquency are reportedly dropping dramatically as a result of a revival among the Naga people of northeast India. Hindu officials are attributing a marked change in the moral climate of the area to the Christian movement.

The Protestant Zion Church in Canton, which had been severely damaged in the past decade, was re-opened for services on September 21, according to reports from mainland China. This is believed to be the second Protestant church officially

opened in Canton by the Three-Self Patriotic Committee. The number of officially opened Protestant churches in mainland China is now approaching 30.

Food production in Africa is very much in the hands of women. The International Labour Organisation says that 60% of African agriculture is done by women, 50% of animal husbandry is handled by women and they are responsible for 100% food processing.

Four out of every five churches in America are not growing, according to Dr. Paul Benjamin who is heading up an American Festival of Evangelism in Kansas City. Some churches were growing phenomenally, but many leaders were concerned to gear churches for more effective evangelism.

The Vatican has issued a call for a major redistribution of Roman Catholic priests throughout the world. Their uneven distribution was dramatized by noting that two clusters of nations, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Philippines, each account for 45% of the Catholic population. But the northern

cluster is served by 77.2% of available priests, while the southern cluster is served by only 12.6%. The declining ratio of priests to the Catholic population — from one to 1,400 in 1962 to one to 1,800 in 1977 — has aggravated the distribution problem.

Conflict in Chad has reached a point where the International Red Cross is going home. It has been in negotiations with the leaders of the opposition but no agreement has been reached that it will allow the agency to carry out its humanitarian work. Red Cross says it is suspending all operations in Chad.

● The number of women in U.S. seminaries tripled from 1972 to 1978. Women are still less than 25% of total enrolment.

A call for spiritual unity has been made in Zimbabwe to 1,000 witch doctors, spirit mediums and traditional healers. The health minister wants them in one organisation so they can be part of the country's new health service.

The largest mosque in Peking has been reopened for worship. This mosque was closed during the Cultural Revolution.

The total of new believers among Cambodian (Kam-puchean) refugees has reached 26,000, according to the Alliance Witness. 53 congregations, scattered throughout the refugee camps in Thailand, have resulted from the awakening.

The Turkish government announced in July that it would reopen Istanbul's famed Aya Sofya Mosque for prayers for the first time in 45 years. The mosque, a Byzantine church in pre-Ottoman times, has been a museum since 1935 when Turkey became a secular state.

15% of all the food served up by American families goes into the dustbin — \$15 billion worth.

diary

NATIONAL
December
25 Christmas Day
QUEENSLAND
December
14-19 Midgets Camp
25 Senior Camp commences
VICTORIA
November
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

SALVATION ARMY TO RESUME SERVICE IN CHINA

Talks to resume the services of the Salvation Army in mainland China are now going on between the Army and ministerial levels of the Chinese Government.

The Army is planning to build from scratch hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries in remote areas, and to construct schools and render whatever help we can to those people in need.

"We will again be preaching the Gospel of Christ," said General Arnold Brown.

Chinese-speaking officers are ready to start work at a moment's notice and it is up to the Chinese Government to decide when our service should start.

— Worldwide Photos

CHANGING MOODS CONCERT

Following a successful concert held recently at the Swan Hill church as part of their 70th Anniversary celebrations, The Changing Moods decided to organise a similar concert in Melbourne with all proceeds to be donated to the Leukaemia Auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital.

I am pleased to report that the concert was an outstanding success both musically and financially which resulted in a cheque for \$500 being presented to Mr Boucher of the Leukaemia Auxiliary. This was very pleasing in view of the huge amount of work that went into the concert.

All who attended Box Hill High School on November 1 experienced a great night of fun, fellowship and music. I'm sure that the many readers of The Australian Christian will be interested in this.

— Phil Davey

OUR COMPETITION

"Smile" is a resource magazine produced by the Children's Ministry Committee of the S.A. Department of Christian Education. Its aim is to encourage churches to include all ages in worship and to collate actual worship experiences and activities that became winners. The current issue contains a wealth of Christmas ideas contributed by local churches and individuals working in Children's Ministry areas. It is produced four times a year at a cost of \$1.50 p.a. Available from the D.C.E. Office, 104 Grote Street, Adelaide.

"On Being" states that it aims to stimulate and serve God's Covenant People in the Twentieth Century. This inter-denominational magazine comes out 11 times a year and is designed primarily to encourage evangelicals to think through the Christian commitment particularly Australian implications. Basically "On Being" comprises articles of two or three pages in length dealing with the Christian life and lifestyle. Subscriptions are \$8.50 per year from P.O. Box 434, Hawthorn, Vic. 3122.

"Decision" in its Australian and New Zealand edition is primarily the devotional magazine of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Articles deal mainly with the Christian life and how better to live this life. There are devotional poetry and articles as well as news of various crusades of the Billy Graham team. Subscriptions for this monthly magazine cost \$7.00 from P.O. Box 4807, G.P.O. Sydney, N.S.W. 2001.

JESUS AND DIVORCE (3)

In this third and final discussion concerning divorce we will look at two other matters. The first is the remarriage by our ministers of divorced people. The second is whether divorced people should ever hold office in the church.

DOES GOD FORGIVE DIVORCEES?

Our answer to both of these matters depends on what we believe about God's forgiveness of sins.

There is no doubt about the New Testament witness to the fact that God's forgiveness is absolute, if sought by a truly repentant person (1 John 1:9, Ephesians 1:7, Jude 24, Hebrews 12:8). It can therefore be reasoned that if God forgives absolutely, so should the church (Matthew 6:14,15; Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 7:1,2; Romans 14:10-13).

REMARRIAGE OF DIVORCED

There is no doubt that the scriptures teach that whatever sins may have been associated with the pre-divorce period, the divorce itself and the post-divorce period are forgivable by God if the repentance is real and the forgiveness sought. If God forgives them absolutely, so must the church.

So a Christian marriage celebrant needs to satisfy himself concerning this when a divorcee seeks remarriage. Obviously there cannot be Christian marriage for one who has used the divorce process to leave one person in order to get into bed with another, and is unashamed and unrepentant about the whole deal.

DIVORCED PEOPLE AND OFFICE IN THE CHURCH

The second question is whether a divorcee can ever hold office in the church.

Even if we take Jesus' words as a fixed rule, rather than setting out a principle, there is no sin in the divorce as such, but in the remarriage after divorce (Luke 16:18, Mark 10:11). So if remarriage has not taken place after a divorce or separation there is no bar to a person holding any office in the church for which God has equipped him and to which God has called him. Some of his past sins may have contributed to the marriage breakdown, but they would be no different from the sins of partners in many marriages who cheerfully hold church office at local and brotherhood level, because God has graciously forgiven them.

REMARRIED DIVORCEES AND CHURCH OFFICE

But what of those who have been divorced and subsequently have remarried? Are they perpetually in adultery? Or are the sins associated with the divorce and the sin of divorce itself and any subsequent sins, forgivable? The only unforgivable sin is the sin against the Holy Spirit which in effect is the deliberate putting of oneself outside of the forgiveness of God. The Bible also hints at another unforgivable sin. That is the refusal to forgive another which apparently also puts a person outside of the forgiveness of God.

Therefore if any divorced and remarried person is truly repentant and seeks forgiveness, he or she is ab-

Page 13

solutely and totally forgiven by God. To hold the divorce and remarriage against him as he seeks to serve in an office of the church for which God has fitted him and to which God has called him, is to fail to forgive one whom God himself has forgiven. It is to sit in judgement on such a person as one forgiven sinner upon another.

POSITIVE ACTION IN RELATION TO DIVORCE

Not only should we as a church address ourselves to the questions we have been discussing in these articles, but we should be taking positive lines of action if we really care about the problem of divorce and its threat to the family as the basic unit of society. We refer to two.

1. Uncompromisingly we must continue to present the marriage ideal as Jesus presented it. That is as being made by God, kept by God, and "for keeps" by the grace of God. Divorces in church and community are not going to be prevented by condemnation and judgementalism. They will decrease in proportion to the idealism that Christian couples are encouraged to keep in mind for marriage and their faith in the power of the living Christ to re-enforce that idealism.

2. The answer to the divorce problem is not laws and rules and protests and resolutions. Rather it is reinforcing family life by the message and ministry of the church. As John Chivell points out, it is shocking that we now have divorces amongst church members and ministers. But it is a great deal more shocking that churches concerned with such people did so little to minister to them and to support them during their emotional agonies, which eventually led to divorce.

If I were a member of a church where the minister's marriage failed, I would not only be asking myself serious questions about the burdens that my church unwittingly placed upon him and his family that may have contributed to the breakdown. I would have to ask myself what personal care and encouragement and concern that I as a member had failed to give him that could have helped him under God to hold his family together.

SUMMING UP

Concerning the whole question of divorce and remarriage, not one of us is so much without sin that he or she can afford to cast stones. There are no easy black and white text-quoting answers. To quote texts as though that settles the matter is to "cop out" on responsibility for my brother's marriage, and his divorce, and his subsequent rehabilitation into fuller living. The church has an enormous pastoral responsibility to its families, both to prevent their breakup and during the divorce and remarriage when such breaks occur. And by the church's pastoral responsibility I do not mean the minister's responsibility only!

ABOVE ALL

And above all, every marriage which by the grace of God and with the pastoral support of the church, is a God-made and God-kept marriage, is one more relevant answer to the problem of divorce and the breakdown of modern family life (Editor.)

OBITUARY

ARNOLD, Charles Campbell
(22.10.80). His family and fellow guests at the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, were shocked by the sudden death of Charles Arnold. True, he was 81 but was so well it seemed he could live many more years. Born on a farm at Seaview, Vic., he lived and worked there through his teens. In 1922 he married Evelyn Forster. They had five children — a daughter, Grace, and four sons, Edwin, Raymond, Leslie and Norman — and eventually grandparents to 16 and great grandparents to 7. Though work was scarce during the Depression Mr Arnold was not unemployed for long as he was willing to do any work anywhere. The home was truly Christian. In the North Fitzroy, Northcote, Box Hill and Oakleigh congregations he held office and or rendered loyal, devoted and practical service. He became a skilled carpenter and Northcote people still remember his building an anniversary platform. His skills were always available to the churches in which he worshipped. Mrs Arnold died at Box Hill in 1978. His sons Leslie and Norman also predeceased him. These losses led to his entrance into the Christian Guest Home. There the Christian quality of his life and witness was evident. He had travelled widely and in last July attended World Convention. All who knew Mr Arnold will miss him greatly, particularly his family. A funeral parlour service was conducted by the writer and a graveside service by the Oakleigh minister C. J. Mackenzie.

— W. W. Saunders
HARPER, Margaret Jane
(10.10.1980). Margaret Harper, widow of the late Hurtle Leslie Harper of "The Haven" at Wagga Wagga, died at Wagga at the age of 78. Mrs Harper was born at Kyabram, Victoria, and made her decision at a Hinrichsen — Brooker Mission. With her husband she lived on a farm at Mirrool some 100kms from Wagga before they moved to Wagga. She is survived by a son, Les, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter and grandson. Mrs Harper was a loyal and faithful Christian. In later years she was unable to attend services regularly. W. Taylor conducted the service at the chapel and at the Wagga Lawn Cemetery where associate minister T. Grant assisted.

—W.J. Caspersonn
PAYNE, Mrs Miriel
(23.10.80). Miriel was well-known in the almost century old life of the Unley church. She died suddenly while going about her tasks at home. Our last remembrance of her was the previous Sunday as she was helping aged people from our Rest Home into her car to take them back to the Home. The earliest record we have is of her enrolment in the kindergarten of the Sunday School when she was 3 years of age. Later she became a teacher in the S.S. and a member of the church, and in latter years, a member of the church board and minute secretary. The church was the centre of her life. Most of her working life was with Kelvinators. She began as a junior stenographer and rose through the ranks to be the private secretary to the managing director and chairman of the company. For a few years leading up to her retirement she was the private secretary to the secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures. After retiring from business activities

she spent much time travelling overseas. For a number of years she was the secretary of Women's Evening Fellowship of the Unley church. She was always ready to use herself in the work of the church. She thought quickly and acted decisively. She expressed opinions of her own but listened patiently to the opinions of others. Whatever she did, she did with excellence. The services in the chapel and at the crematorium were conducted by W.N. Bartlett, C.L. Smith and the writer. To her brother, Colin, and other relatives the church expresses its sympathy.

— I.J. Chivell
NSW

WAGGA WAGGA (E.W. Taylor, T. Grant). Family church children with help from Margaret Taylor and Judy Jones to present "Music Machine" ... Dr. Cliff Wilson spoke on Archaeology and the life of Christ ... Music team shared program at Tarcutta with local churches and have been invited back. Music team includes piano, organ, trumpet, guitar, accordion and bass.
HAMILTON (W. Flett). B.S. celebrated its anniversary. Guest speaker Ron Kallmier, Director of D.C.E. in N.S.W. ... Mid week prayer meeting guest recently was Anne Donaldson, S.I.M., Kenya ... Weekly Friends Club for aged folk meeting on Thursday progressing well.

WOD

FREMANTLE (E. J. Sewell). Former Fremantle 'boys' now in the ministry Robert Taylor and Dennis Hughes led song service and preached during church's 88th anniversary. ... At musical evening the Northam church choir presented "By My Spirit" ... Roy Raymond, minister 1932-1937, recent morning preacher ... Minister and members of 'daughter' church Hamilton Hill shared in evening service.

SD

MURRAY BRIDGE (D. Kuhl, P. Bobrige, B. Wills). \$1,000 raised for Darwin building fund during fortnight "Come Alive" mission October 12-26. Mission conducted by Peter DeWildt pioneer minister at Darwin. The mission resulted in 10 baptisms, 32 rededications and 10 decisions for Christ. As a result of the mission Bible study classes will start at Mannum ... Active membership now 180 with 40 decisions and 31 baptisms this year ... 400 attended three performances of the play "Bullfrogs and Butterflies" ... S.S. picnic at Tepco well attended ... Offices retreat weekend held at Bowhill ... Elaine De Russet, W.E.C. missionary from Zaire, recent speaker ... Robert Coleman concert held in John Dohler Hall ... Book shop additions include a new poster room allowing for more browsing.

MARION (E.P.C. Hollard). Church saddened by death of D. G. Fenn former School Supt. and church officer ... Y.P. conducted gospel service on Oct. 19 ... Church shared in Bible distribution in Marion / Brighton district arranged by Bible Soc. ... C.W.F. contributed \$1,000 to local Social Service Fund ... At baptismal service four baptised. W. N. Bartlett conducted morning service with E. P. C. Hollard conducting the baptisms ... Prayer vigil held on Saturday night 6-12 for 'Good News 80' mission ... Dean Drilling, musical director, gained an A in flute exam.

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (G. Lawrie, A. Jones). Good News weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 1 held with Gordon Stirling. 100 attended Saturday breakfast when Dean Davis presented his testimony ... Peter and Jenny Wells (C.O.B.) accepted ministry from January 1981 ... Bright Spot bus trip to Nuriotpa held. Friendly circle also went picnicking ... C.W.F. table night proceeds going to relief work in Sri Lanka ... Church held barbecue and film night.

BAROLIN ST., BUNDABERG (B.M. Nowitzke). Two young married men rededicated their lives ... Members travelled to Maryborough to support their mission ... C.W.F. annual meeting re-elected all officers.

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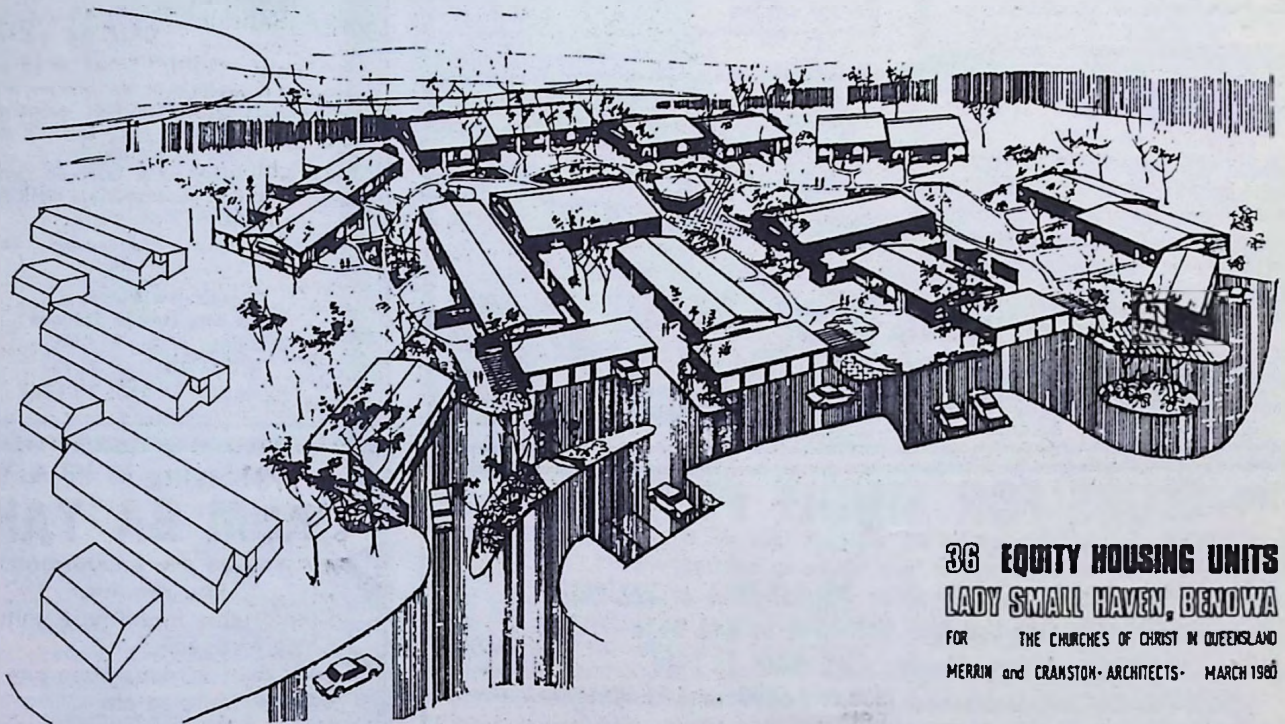
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FAREWELL



Rita Roberts and Elva Livett

A farewell afternoon to Miss Rita Roberts, B.E.M., and Miss Dot Reynolds marked the end of a 43-year association with Good Companions State Leadership in Victoria.

Over 60 past executive members, including four of the original executive in 1937, and other long-standing friends of the Movement met at South Yarra church on October 26 to farewell Rita Roberts and Dot Reynolds from the leadership. Keith Jones, the youth director at the time when Good Companions was formed paid a special tribute to the leadership and service offered to the Brotherhood. He spoke of how as leader and deputy leader both women had contributed to the Christian development of many girls. Their contributions have helped bind the Brotherhood together. The afternoon's program included some nostalgic items, reminiscences, camp songs and hymns. Greetings came from overseas and interstate.

Speakers expressed the thanks and love of all present. A number of presentations were made including a diamond brooch, a table lamp, orchids and an indoor garden. At a previous function members of the Department of Mission, Education and Development and the present Good Companions Executive and their husbands had expressed their appreciation. Cliff Warmbrunn, Department Chairman, and Administrative Director, Don Smith, made presentations on behalf of the Department and the Brotherhood.



Dot Reynolds being presented with lamp by Joan Taylor.

INDEX

Those who would like a copy of the index to the "Australian Christian" for 1980 should write to the office and this will be forwarded to you early next year.



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FEDERAL C.W.F. CONFERENCE CORRECTION

The 2nd motion should read - "That a separate fund be established to enable a Vanuatu C.W.F. representative to attend World Conference." Apologies — Editress.

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BIRTHS

HUMPHRIES (GILLETT). Clyde and Lois are happy to announce the birth of Adam David at Hobart on the 24th October.

DEATHS

CADDY, Richard George. At home on October 21. Loved husband of Ada, loving father of Shirley, Marie and Frank Gason, Audrey and Tom Marshall, Richard and Shirley Caddy, and grandfather to Les and Barbara Gason, Jeanette and Stewart Mathison, Margaret and Geoff Meehan, Ann and Adrian Brophy, Greg Gason, Rod and Carol Clutterbuck, Kevin and Julie Marshall, Lynette Marshall, Alan Marshall, Darryl and Julie Caddy, Graeme and Sue Caddy, Joanne Caddy and Neil Caddy.

TREASURED MEMORIES

GRIFFITHS, Bessie Grace — on 7 November 1980, aged 81 years. Remembered with gratitude and affection by her daughter Lucy and many friends.

ROSS Lindsay of "Carcoola", Kersbrook, S.A. passed away Nov. 4th, 1980. Aged 77 years. Dearly loved brother-in-law of Valda and Vic Marr, 272 Deakin Ave., Mildura. "At rest in the Lord."

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ARANA HILLS: Minister — G. Risson, 16 Tombondan Cres., Ferny Hills, Qld. 4055. Phone (07) 351 4357.

HAMPTON: Secretary — O. Cooper, 3 Iluka St., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193. Phone (03) 99 4304.

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● Donna Fulton, Horsham, Vic. ● Kellie Manderson, Joy Gleason, Bendigo, Vic.
● Jenny Henderson, Robert Law, Wendy Gollledge, Rodney and Sue Dowling, John Steele, Raymond Long, John and Kate Noye, Geoff Kubank, Mark Orr, Wayne Phillips, Glen Fiegert, Kevin Warnke, Graham Innes, Dirk Stupp, Jeff Kuhl, Carol Schenscher, Grant Baker, Craig Comely, Murray Bridge, S.A.
● Jackie Messent, Helen Sutton, Mark Hammat, Grant Whitaker, Marlon, S.A. ● Annette Pedler, Dalby, Bongeon, Qld.

MARRIAGES

● Lyn Hooper to Allen Cox, Donna Rimmington to Glen Walker, Nambour, Qld. ● Roslyn Bellette to Kevin Brady, Shirley Gyurko to David Kirk, Nancy Uittenbosch to Stephen Powell, Narelle Schonhardt to Wayne Nicholson, Tracy Boettcher to Wayne Bryant, Acacia Ridge, Qld. ● Jeanette Lacy to Paul Kitchington, Bendigo, Vic.
● Melodie Prior to Trevor Simmons, Murray Bridge, S.A. ● Collette Hills to Paul Bolton, Margaret St., Toowoomba, Qld.

DEATHS

● R. Woodger, Nambour, Qld. ● Margaret Jane Harper, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. ● Mrs Edna Randall, Bendigo, Vic.
● Mrs O. Lind, Murray Bridge, S.A. ● D.G. Fenn, Marion, S.A. ● Mytle Livvy, South Yarra, Vic.
● R.G. Caddy, Fremantle, W.A. ● Robina Green, Leslie Theuerkauf, Barolln St., Bundaberg, Qld.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

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2. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN

Departing on March 21st our 18 day tour takes us to Christchurch, Tekapo, Mount Cook, Oamaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, Te Anau, Milford Sound, Queenstown, Alexandra, Fox Glacier, Greymouth, Picton, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Waitomo and Auckland. The tour can be extended by prior arrangement to include a 4 day tour to the Bay of Islands. Our tour Leader is the Very Rev Norman Faichney. Prices: from Melbourne \$994; Sydney \$962; Brisbane \$975.

3. SEE INDONESIA IN DEPTH

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

4. SOUTH EAST ASIA SPECIAL TOUR

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

5. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR

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

6. VISIT U.S.A. & CANADA

Leaving during May this 37 day tour will take us to San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver, Kamloops, Banff, Yellowstone National Park, Salt Lake City, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Montreal, New York, Washington, New Orleans, Phoenix, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Honolulu etc. Our Leader is the Rev Hector Dun of Warrnambool and the price from Melbourne is \$3605.00.

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

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

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

1. March 21st 14 nights/5 ports — Vila, Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu and Noumea. Fares from \$770 to \$1950.
2. April 21st 29 nights/9 ports — Brisbane, Rabaul, Guam, Kobe, Yokohama (for Tokyo), Kagoshima, Taipei, Hong Kong and Singapore. Our Group Leader is the Rev Wesley S. Pidgeon and prices are from \$1675.00 to \$5225.00.
3. July 12th 29 nights/8 ports — Brisbane, Whitsunday, Cairns, Ambon, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Darwin. Prices from \$1525.00 to \$4075.00
4. October 21st 19 nights/8 ports — Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu, Apia, Pagi Pago, Vavau, Nukualofa and Noumea. Prices from \$1045.00 to \$2645.00
5. January 31st 1982 14 nights/8 ports — Milford Sound, Timaru, Picton, Wellington, Bay of Islands, Auckland. Price from \$855.00 to \$2030.00.

9. VISIT CHINA IN 1981 Our 23 days tour departs on June 8th for Hong Kong then 18 days in China based on Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Soochow, Nanking and Peking. Our Leader is the Rev Alec Hilliard and the price is the Rev Alec Hilliard and the price is \$2324 from Sydney.

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New South Wales: 5th Floor, 83 York Street, Sydney PH: 29 7594

South Australia: 2nd Floor, 44 Gawler Place, Adelaide PH: 223 6300

Queensland: 160 Edwards Street, Brisbane Ph: 221 3922

BROTHERHOOD HEAVIES FOR CONSULTATION

The Federal Conference has moved to bring together each two years the Brotherhood State and Federal leaders for Australian forward planning. For many years leaders of Home Missions and of Departments of Christian Education have been meeting with very useful results. Meetings with wider representation could be just as significant. The suggested Committee on Church Life will be about 40 strong. The resolution bringing it into being is as follows:

That this Conference set up a 'Federal Consultative Committee on Church Life'.

1. This Committee shall be entrusted with the task of consulting together to encourage the unity and development of the Australian Brotherhood by providing guidance and stimulation in the areas of development, outreach, service and the building up of the churches throughout Australia.

2. The Committee shall consist of all Directors of State and Federal Committees, Departments and Boards, the Principals of the Theological Training Colleges, the Presidents and Secretaries of all State Conferences, Representatives of A.C.T. and Northern Territory, the Editor of "The Australian Christian" and the President and Secretary of Federal Conference.

3. The Committee shall meet under the Chairmanship of the Federal Conference President.

4. The Committee shall meet at least bi-ennially.

AFRICAN DROUGHTS

Humanitarian agencies are stepping up programs to cope with the severe drought conditions along the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border. Food, medicine, blankets and agricultural tools have been rushed in.

Meantime, drought conditions have been a major drain of Kenya's food supplies. It's reported that the country's actual food supplies have been reduced by 40%. Word that the Ethiopian government was distributing food, has sent numbers of Kenyans fleeing across the border. However, with short supplies in Ethiopia, most of the Kenyans were sent back empty handed.

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DAD'S ARMY



One of the retired ministers in South Australia calls himself and his fellow retired ministers "Dad's Army". A couple of times a year they get together for fellowship. They are pictured at a recent meeting in the Marion church. From the left they are Mr and Mrs W.N. Bartlett, The Late Horace Cave and Mrs Cave (Bert Cave in the rear a relative from N.Z.), Mr and Mrs H. Greenwood, Mr and Mrs S.E. Riches, Mr and Mrs J. Luff, Mr and Mrs I.J. Chivell, Mr and Mrs H.G. Norris, Mr and Mrs G. Mathieson, Mr and Mrs S.E. Matthews, in the rear Mr and Mrs A.R. Jones, Mr and Mrs E.P.C. Hollard, and in the rear Mr and Mrs C. Cunningham.

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

Friday, February 20th, 1981, 7.45 p.m.

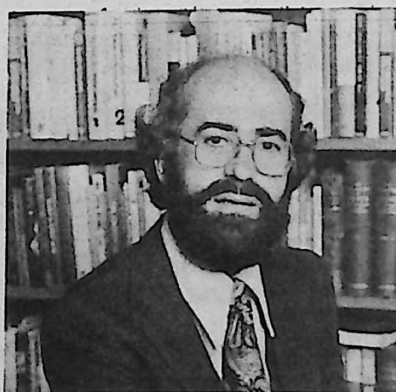
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The College year begins on Tuesday February 17th, but note that there will be no opening ceremony on the day and no Garden Party.

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OLD

NAMBOUR (A.G. Leane, R. Dixon). Further extensions contemplated to accommodate record attendance of 300 . . . Girls' Brigade enrolment now 80 . . . Boys' Brigade continuing to grow. Section 2 now fully uniformed . . . Church supported Bill Newman Crusade receiving 26 rededications and eight decisions . . . Enid Kingston retired after many years as deaconess . . . B.S. anniversary coincided with celebration of 200th anniversary of S.S. Fellowship tea held out doors. B.S. Bible-a-thon raised \$430 for Overseas Missions . . . Nametags issued to introduce old and new members . . . C.W.F. anniversary guest speaker Mrs. P. Timms, Guest soloist State Conf. Pres. Mrs Connie Roberts . . . Coffee mornings held at Sundale Retirement Village as an outreach.

ACACIA RIDGE (V.G. Bettcher, Z. Muller, Miss J. Smith). 27th anniversary services guest preachers were A.A. Clarke, A.C. Male and Dr I. Thomas (Royal Brisbane Hospital). Theme was "Facing the Future in Faith". Average attendance was 72. Delegations present from Mt Walker, Bundamba and Kingswood Park. Visiting organists were Mrs Lyn Smith and Mrs Gladys Coward . . . Dedication of chapel improvements, feature wall panelling and motto conducted by V.G. Boettcher. Motto "Be still and know that I am God" signwritten by W. Finger and anonymously donated . . . Minister conducted official opening and dedication of new chapel at Mt Isa and presided at the 60th wedding anniversary of Harry and Amanda Domrow of Ipswich.

SO

COWANDILLA (R.W.Saunders). All day planning meeting for 1981 held. Minister involved in resettlement, social welfare and evangelistic work among Vietnamese refugees. Several Vietnamese families attended services. Ideas also put forward for evening services and outreach for 1981 . . . Family camp held at Aldinga Beach with Elder Ron McLean as study leader . . . Confession of faith at evening service . . . Ron McLean, Ken Dawson and George Matheison conducted services while minister at Fed. Conf. . . Norm and Thelma Tilley transferring to Glen Osmond Rest Home . . . Program and supper taken to Rest Home by C.W.F.

VICTOR HARBOUR (R.C.Mitchell). B.S. highlight had kindergarten presenting items in afternoon. Cradle Roll, kindy and primary depts., receiving presentations. Barry Prior guest speaker. Finger pickin' basket tea followed by upper school presentations and performance of musical . . . B.S. picnic held at local oval with games and novelty events . . . Senior C.Y.F. raised \$93 for C.O.C.O.A. by catering for C.W.F. annual birthday tea. Husbands accompanied ladies . . . Baptism in sea at Kent Reserve . . . B.S. teacher training program operating .



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(1 Tim. 4:13).

VIC

CHELTHENHAM (A. White, S. Wilson, D. Smith). Wal White retired after 25 years services of tending flowers at Emmaus and presentation made . . . 2nd Art Exhibition attracted 120 paintings, pottery and other hand crafts raised \$300 for organ fund. Malcolm Gray, Channel 7, opened the Exhibition. Non-alcoholic wine tasting held also . . . Civic service attended by Mayor Cr Le Page and other dignitaries of Moorabbin Council . . . W.C.T.U. stall raised \$120 . . . Morning Garden Club, existing since 1972, held annual show with 31 sections . . . Y.P. contributed to celebration of 200 years of S.S. . . . Sister Joan Lynn from Deafness Foundation interviewed . . . Prayer meeting begun before gospel services . . . Piano donated anonymously . . . Theo and Alison Mackaay, student ministers at Black Rock, interviewed on joint ministry.

SPRINGVALE (Reg Combridge). A.B.M. held as service of praise, thanksgiving and dedication . . . Discipleship class held with a number of Y.P. . . C.W.E.F. fete raised \$700 . . . Men's Fellowship held concert and raised \$85 . . . Kitchen alterations underway . . . Tom Ede appointed minister from February 1981 on a 75% time basis for 12 months . . . Neville and Dot Munyard and family home on furlough from Indonesia . . . S.S. anniversary held at evening service . . . One decision.

RED HILL (A. Pigdon, A. Walladge). Baptism held . . . Asian Fellowship (Swanston St) shared in fellowship tea and gospel service . . . Operation World continues to aid world missions . . . Men's fellowship saw 70 men from various churches attend tea and gospel service. Col McKenzie ex-war pilot and airport manager spoke . . . S.S. and church picnic held at Sorrento after morning services.

GARDINER (A. Clark). Girls' Club cake stall raised \$114 for Good Companions

Service project. They also took part in morning service on Girls' Sunday . . . A.C.W.F. visited Vic. Egg Board . . . Farewell to Mr and Mrs C. Taylor. Yukana Singers presented the program . . . Alan Clark started interim ministry . . . Lady baptised at evening service.

BENDIGO (S. Kurkpatrick). Trevor Keatch, new member of board, has commenced a youth group . . . Recent speakers I. Tippett, D. Smith, W. Filmer M.A.F. . . . Mrs Gladys Andrews recovering from eye operation . . . C.W.A.F. held mystery luncheon raising \$90 to assist Neville and Gwen Thomas in translation work . . . B.S. anniversary scholars presented musical "Cool in the Furnace" . . . Greg Sharp and Craig Lynch elected to board.

HORSHAM (W. Gibney). Young lady baptised . . . Fellowship tea preceded musical service with visitors from Kaniva . . . Two services accommodated 120 Scouts and Guides holding church parades . . . Youth service presented drama . . . C. Sherrif elected as Elder and J. Kollmorgen as S.S. Super . . . Several attended N.W. Dist. family camp at Halls Gap . . . Concert raised funds to provide Christmas gifts for missionary family . . . Morning services commencing at 10.45 a.m.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne). Youth ministry commencing 1981 to include co-ed programs for two groups between 15 and 20 . . . Ken Peard appointed Co-ordinator of Counselling Centre . . . Planned giving review presentation . . . 52 took part in all day tennis tournament . . . Care Group tea held prior to evening service . . . "Reflection" from Cheltenham presented rock musical at youth service . . . Bob Miller held watercolor exhibition . . . Creative Craft Group had embroidery demonstration.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). Youth group had trip to Luna Park . . . Fellowship day at Glen Cromie arranged by S.S. Intermediate Dept . . . C.A.W.F. stall raised \$151 for Indian Orphan Fund . . . Mrs Ivy Derbyshire progressing well after surgery.

BENDIGO CHURCH OF CHRIST

Summer Times for Services

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7.00 p.m. Gospel Service

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

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(Changes of information are so notified by appropriate department.)



Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

THISTLES

I have just spent an evening attempting to weed our vegetable garden. One of the things that we can grow very well are weeds including several very healthy varieties of thistles. What we have difficulty growing are vegetables. The peas never grow for me, the broad beans grew well but failed to pod as did the pumpkin vines but the fruit would form and then wither away. I must admit that last year we had some success with tomatoes and that about half the carrots grew real well.

Not always having time to get to the garden it generally takes larger amounts of time to deal with the weeds and tall lawns (mostly weeds cut by the mower to look green) when I do try and tidy the house up. Reflecting on this fact of our lives led me to think on the references to thistles and thorns in the Bible.

Primarily when they are referred to it is because of their wide occurrence throughout biblical lands. Thistles are used as a metaphor to describe punishment for sin. (Genesis 3:18; Micah 7:4; Job 31: 40). Too often people think that their wrong actions will not be judged and that they will suffer no punishment. We need to make them aware that God knows and cares about their actions and thoughts and that these will cause their rejection by him. We too as Christians, although forgiven

and treated by God as perfect, should be aware that our sins are known and will in some way affect our future life.

In Hebrews 6:8 the soil that produces thorns and weeds is regarded as useless and fit for nothing. Now I know that my garden soil is very good and quite productive if carefully managed. To some extent the same thing could happen with my life as a Christian. If I try and do the good, loving and caring thing in my actions, words and deeds then I will be truly reflecting the fact that God is working in my life. If however, the way that I am judged by my fellow man is that my actions and words are really worthless then I am not showing God in a good light to my fellow man.

The presence of thistles and thorns is also seen as a sign of neglect (Proverbs 24:31). Too often we know of Christians, even ourselves, who get so busy that they neglect God. Many ministers find that they can be so busy that they find it difficult to arrange time to be alone with God and to be drawing from his strength. This neglect may result in people finding it increasingly more difficult to worship satisfactorily or even to talk about spiritual matters. We all need to be aware of the dangers of neglecting our time with God.

After all these thoughts my last one is of the half finished garden that awaits my weeding efforts tomorrow and of the time I too must spend with God.

Teacher: "Who can tell me which pine has the longest and sharpest needles?"

Student: "The porcu."

★

To make a long story short, there's nothing like the boss walking in.

The five-year-old little girl and her older sister, both adept at riding, were entered in a horse show. Later the younger child, was overheard telling a friend about it mournfully:

"Mary got a blue ribbon, and all I got was animal mention."

THE LAST WORD

God gives his wrath by weight,
and without weight his mercy.

— George Herbert.

SUNSHINE AND RAIN

If I only had sunshine warming me
And never refreshing rain
How withered and dry my soul would be
With nothing to give or to gain.
Only an arid and thirsty soul
By the Spirit can be filled
Only surrender, humble and whole
Can make me a tool for His will.

— Judy Mead

★ ★ ★

"Don't you and your wife ever have a difference of opinion?"

"Sure we do — but I don't tell her."

★ ★

"My wife's away," said the first, "so I made myself a pie."

"A bit long, isn't it?" his friend asked.

"Long? Sure it's long. It's rhubarb."

★ ★ ★

The fifteen-year-old was discussing her report card. "No wonder," she observed, "Jean always gets an A in French. Her father and mother speak French at the table."

Boy friend, trying to be consoling: "If that's the case, I ought to get an A in geometry. My parents talk in circles!"

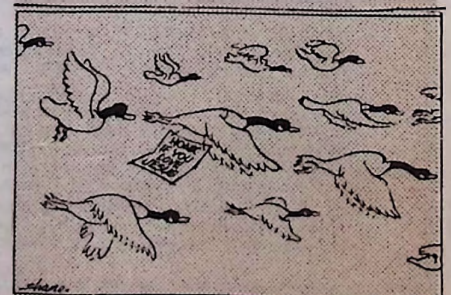
★ ★ ★

A motorist saw a sign on a service station, "Last chance for 28¢ gas. State line one mile." He stopped, had his tank filled, then asked: "How much is gas across the line?" "Twenty-two cents," replied the attendant.

★ ★ ★

There was the couple who was only half serious about getting married: She was, he wasn't.

★ ★ ★



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