



THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

IN THIS ISSUE

CARLINGFORD'S
NEW PRINCIPAL



S.A. SPECIAL
CONFERENCE



BOMB IN GILEAD

PERTH'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

On November 2, 1980 a band of 11 disciples met together to 'break bread in memory of our Lord'. This first gathering in W.A. was held in Veryard's Temperance Hall in Barrack St., Perth. Since that meeting more than 50 Churches of Christ have commenced in W.A.

Exactly on November 2 the Perth church celebrated its 90th anniversary.

Celebrations commenced on the Saturday evening when 194 sat down to a four course dinner in the Youth Hall of the Christian Centre. Greetings were received from many past members. Those present wrote their names and address and years of membership in a loose leaf register.

Taped greetings from all past ministers still living were presented during the meal whilst related slides were screened.

The after dinner program featured testimonies of past days by George Cugley (Wembley), Mrs Joy Mowday (Bridgetown) and Mrs R. Ingle (Thornlie). Frank Raymond, W.A. Conference President, and Mrs Elsie Taylor, President of Women's Auxiliary Conference, brought greetings from the Brotherhood. Pastor Nam Soo Woo of the Korean Church in W.A. read the greeting from our sister church in Handoosie, Korea.

The Bible School presented "Sowing the Seed". Don Cook, church organist, played a pianoforte solo, Gwen Thomas and Dianne Mohen presented a flute duet and Graham Povey showed a movie of the construction and opening of the Christian Centre. Robert Taylor, minister, concluded with a brief, challenging devotional.

Ray Harrison had set up a display of old photographs for perusal.

Anniversary services on the Sunday were well attended. Gordon Ewers presided in the morning. J.K. Robinson brought greetings with Mrs Maureen Furr as the soloist. Robert Taylor preached at this service.

The evening gospel service message was presented by Leroy Randall. A group from the Wembley church sang.

It was a great weekend of reminiscences of the past, rejoicing in the present and challenge for the future.

— Gordon Ewers



Robert Taylor Preaching at 90th Anniversary.

MORTGAGE GOES UP IN FLAMES

There was a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" outside the Springfield Road Centre of the Nunawading churches recently to celebrate the final payment of the debt incurred, 16 years ago, erecting the building on its present site. Following the ceremony the congregation entered the church singing the hymn:

How pleased and blessed was I,
To hear the people cry,

Come let us seek our God today.

The congregation entered a renovated building. New carpet had been laid in the foyer, passage-way and sanctuary, and new seating installed. The colour of the walls is magnolia, the carpet, peppercorn, and the padded pews in twos and threes are wholemeal. The renovated building provides a lovely setting for worship, and the moveable seating makes possible, a flexibility of arrangement, suitable for other types of meeting.

Clive Ward, Secretary of the Victorian / Tasmanian Churches of Christ Conference, brought a greeting, and Jim Wright preached the occasional sermon.

— Jim Wright



Bill Hurren and Glen Quantrelle burning the mortgage.

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ON MY MIND THE AUSSIE BATTLE AND THE GOSPEL

Greg S. Double

Greg Double is minister of the rapidly growing Shepparton (Vic.) church. He comes originally from Toowoomba (Qld.) and is a graduate of the N.S.W. Bible College.

The quest for an Australian national anthem is a recent example of the search for an Australian identity. The present interest in the centenary of Ned Kelly's death this year also reflects this. It is in this context that Gordon Dicker, a Sydney theologian, has been exploring images of Australian life.

AUTHORITY QUESTIONED

He suggests a picture of the "Aussie Battler", a typical underdog who is always in conflict with authority. Dicker maintains that Australians strongly dislike authority and cites our early convict, goldfield and bushranger history to substantiate his case. I wonder, though, whether this may be distorting our current situation. Come the 1950s we received to our shores a sizeable influx of migrants who came from widely differing cultures. Our population has changed from the early days to a multi-cultural, pluralistic society. We may add to this the whole new ball game of this decade, the 1980s. With things often out of control globally and at home, with inflation, unemployment and social ills galloping, with computerisation, nuclear testing and issues such as Iran and Afghanistan all directly affecting us as we are no longer "down under".

This being so, the one-time Aussie Battler is now looking for certainty in leadership. Witness the cry in some quarters for Bob Hawke to enter politics to become Prime Minister and hopefully lead us to stability and certainty! Why do people want Bob Hawke? Perhaps his leadership image is not of the imposing-from-above style but rather an image of "I am one with you but we can go places together". Note also in spite of his higher education Hawke speaks in Australian "strine" when he need not. I feel sure that Australians are seeking for certainty and responsible, caring leadership that feels with us, but is going somewhere.

TRIUMPHALISM OR CERTAINTY?

Dicker asserts that Australians have not related to the church because we have posed a false one-sided triumphalism. The battler does not relate as readily to a church that is forever talking about an Almighty God who is over all, for example. The underdog better relates to the suffering of the Man Jesus, the inner struggles of a Paul who has not yet arrived. Again, is Dicker's proposal altogether correct? Certainly we reject outright the leadership that carries a superior air. But has Dicker confused the man Paul, the fellow pilgrim, with the message Paul preached? Is the medium the message in an absolute sense? Paul did not tell the Roman world of his inner struggles. We learn of his inner struggles from the epistles which were read by the already converted. Didn't Paul preach with such certainty, such conviction, such arresting power that made people sit bolt upright and listen?

OUT OF TOUCH

Perhaps the Aussie is bored with a church with no compelling message? Is the church disdained because it lacks certainty and authority? It could be that in society's estimation we are not worth listening to? Hans Mol, who wrote on the sociology of religion in Australia, suggests that our society sees the minister as a quaint, tea-sipping, good-living person, but a little out of

● Continued on Page 4

S.A. HOLDS SPECIAL CONFERENCE

— FOLLOWING 2½ YEARS OF INQUIRY INTO

1. BROTHERHOOD STRUCTURES
2. THE MINISTRY
3. ECUMENICAL STRATEGIES.

A two year Commission of Inquiry Report was presented to the 106th Annual Conference in April this year. That Conference established a Steering Committee to study the feasibility, the implications and implementation of the Report. The purpose of the Special Conference on Saturday, October 25 was to decide the issues contained in the 15 recommendations of the Steering Committee. These had been in the hands of delegates for a month.

The Special Conference of October 25 was under the Chairmanship of S.A. Conference President Bob Clymer. The attendance was good.

ECUMENICAL STRATEGIES

The Steering Committee did not feel a need to research further or to make recommendations concerning what had already been presented to the last Annual Conference in the third section of the Commission of Inquiry Report. That report noted and encouraged increased interchurch activity on a local level. There was little desire expressed for official union with any other Communion at this stage. The Commission encouraged churches that do not have a "Christians in Fellowship" classification to consider its adoption. It recommended the disbanding of the Department of Christian Union so that its present function could be carried out by the Conference Executive. Conference staff was requested to be active in collecting and distributing information about local inter-church activities and the wider ecumenical scene.

THE MINISTRY.

Similarly the second section of the Report on ministry was adopted by the Special Conference with little change.

CHURCH AND MINISTRY LISTS

Churches, ministers and the Minister Placement and Advisory Board will co-operate to prepare by October 1 each year lists of church vacancies and of available ministers for the end of the following year. Similar supplementary lists will also be prepared in the following March. These lists of available ministers will be supplied to churches vacant or anticipating vacancies.

The Minister Placement and Advisory Board will offer assistance in consultation with churches and ministers concerning the appropriateness of particular calls. Churches and ministers should fill out comprehensive dossiers to be available to those considering calls.

RESPECTIVE ROLES

Stress was given to encouraging meetings between churches and their prospective ministers during negotiations to clarify each other's expectations of the roles of minister, congregation and church board.

Terms of ministry should be initially for five years and subsequent terms to be left open.

STATE MINISTER

The Conference Secretary, who is also to be known as the State Minister, will be given a specific task of serving as a pastor to the pastors. It is not a role exclusive to him but the expectation of the Report is that this service should be seen as a major part of his ministry.

BROTHERHOOD STRUCTURES

This section had two areas of change — (i) the restructure of the Conference Executive and of the Conference departments and (ii) the employment and redeployment of Conference staff members and of office staff at the Conference Centre.

Convener of the Steering Committee **Barry Grear** presented to Conference 15 recommendations from the Steering Committee in response to the Commission of Inquiry Report.

The Steering Committee recommended Functional Committees; These to have direct relationship with the State Board which is to replace the Conference Executive. In that new setting all staff at the Centre will be nominated or appointed by and responsible to the State Board.

Clerical staff will be organisationally responsible

to the Administrator. However, effective service to the Brotherhood may require individual clerical staff to be functionally responsible to other officers.

THE STATE BOARD

The State Board will replace the Conference Executive and will be as representative of the churches as possible. It will be an enlarged body and will meet at least four times a year. It will include country members.

It will consist of 22 members — 7 appointed, 8 elected, 3 residential, a treasurer and 4 staff. Of the 7 appointed members, five will be elected by their respective District conferences, one by the Women's Conference and one under 25 years of age.

Travel costs to meetings in the city or at times in the country will need to be met. Elected members will be responsible to form a regular link and reporting responsibility with at least one functional committee. This Board will be responsible in authority and policy between Annual Conferences.

CONFERENCE STAFF MEMBERS

The four of the Conference appointed staff who are members of the present Executive will be members of the State Board.

Specific recommendations endorsed by the Special Conference give new directions in the redeployment of those four staff members.

ADMINISTRATOR

The position of Administrator is to be created and that position will initially be undertaken by the Administrator of the Christian rest Homes, Colin G. Dredge. Conference saw the present functions of the C.R.H. Administrator as being in themselves significant and demanding and therefore recognised that these additional functions could be adequately fulfilled in an oversight role only with sufficient staff in the Conference office.

The Administrator will be responsible in the areas of Conference finances, the Mutual Fund and its investments, maintaining the typing/clerical pool, and the employment and payment of staff at the Centre as directed by the State Board.

STATE MINISTER

The Conference Secretary, Ed. Roffey would retain the responsibilities implied in Conference preparation and organisation, correspondence, "The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN" Board and WORLD CONVENTION as long as is needed, and sharing with the President representation at inter-church and civic levels. However the passing of several responsibilities to the oversight of the Administrator would leave him freer of the office to spend additional time in pastoral and consultative links with church congregations, boards and ministers. His office will be that of State Minister.

ASSOCIATE STATE MINISTERS

Associate State Ministers will be those now serving as DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and DIRECTOR OF HOME MISSIONS, currently Gerald Rose and Ted Heard.

Associate State Ministers will relate to one or more functional committees. They will retain some responsibility in their former areas.

Field Officers other than ministers may be appointed thus allowing more flexibility than at present.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY AND WELFARE SERVICES

The Special Conference was called upon to make decisions in two areas where some question had been raised by the Commission of Inquiry. In both cases Conference supported the Steering Committee's reading of the wish of the churches and called for continuing services but with review of their functions.

Hospital Chaplaincy Service will continue but further consideration will be given to a range of alternative methods of chaplaincy support to all metropolitan hospitals. **John B. Baker** is currently the Churches of Christ full-time Chaplain to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Welfare Services have been increasingly in demand and **Mrs Ruth Edge** has a busy life as the Administrative Welfare Officer. Conference called for a working party to review alternative approaches to welfare.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Conference Executive was charged to appoint a Drafting Committee to present the necessary CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES with due notice to the 107th Annual Conference, April 1981.

— Ed Roffey.

ACCOUNTABLE AND CONCERNED SHEPHERDS

— J. K. Martin
(Retired pastor, Bendigo)

As stewards of the grace of God we are accountable to Christ the head of the church. We must be concerned about shepherding or pastoral care lest any be allowed to stray.

The growth of Christian people can be compared with growth in a flourishing garden. Right conditions and atmosphere produce fruit and continuing life. Moisture, cultivation, food, pruning, produce the desired result. Atmosphere, discipline, harmony and solid Bible truth produce growth resulting in natural fruition — the fruit of the Spirit. It is not the rule by rod of iron or a commanding air but a self discipline imposed by people themselves that will produce results.

WE NEED SHEPHERDS WHO CARE.

Christ appointed under shepherds who would be concerned and care for His people. Upon Paul it says, "fell the care of all the churches", and he saw fit by divine guidance to leave Titus to appoint elders. (Titus 1:5.) These men were held in high esteem having special qualifications.

Titus 1: 5-9 and 1 Tim 3: 2-7 give us the standards of conduct for elders. Firstly they are not to be stern, domineering rulers but to have mutual fatherly care for the church family. Secondly, if they do not know how to care for their own family "how shall they take care of the Church of God." They must be blameless, disciplined, having good associations, just, experienced, sound in faith and doctrine.

ACCOUNTABLE AND CONCERNED.

The eldership is first accountable to Christ the head of the church — the chief shepherd, then to the members who elected them to fulfil an office. In all decisions made there needs to be an effective yet kindly and affectionate approach, "considering their own position lest they be tempted also". Any action they may take could lead to the destruction of something held dear by some, causing pain and devastation to those for whom Christ died. In Acts we find Paul at Ephesus weeping with the elders and reminding them of their great task of caring for the sheep.

ANOTHER VETERAN SUBSCRIBER

Frank Lewis of Mile End started reading "The Australian Christian" before 1911. On returning from the First World War in 1919 he became a subscriber, and has continued since. For several years he was the "A.C." agent at Mile End.

Frank is one of the few people who has starred at two Silver Weddings. His first wife died soon after their Silver Wedding. Frank and Mary, his second wife have just celebrated their Silver Wedding. The "A.C." is pleased to give Frank and Mary Lewis a free subscription to the paper for 1981. We give a free year to any who have subscribed for 50 years or more.

ON MY MIND

• Continued from Page 2

touch and with no sure life-transforming message. Perhaps we need preachers who, like Hawke, identify with the Aussie, but who nevertheless preach with certainty on often neglected themes like judgment, heaven and hell, sin and its awful wages and who then apply the Gospel remedy? We preach after all a message that works and will lift the Aussie battler out of failure to certainty!

These are not irrelevant issues, but rather are they basic to an adequate shaping of our message to the decade before us. Dicker's thinking is stimulating and stretching as we try to relate the Gospel to our Australian setting. We appear to be moving into the '80s with a new confidence. Discussion and questioning on these issues will make for a healthy development of our ideas.

BOOK NOW

BEFORE YOU MISS OUT!

E.S.A.'s Summer Camps 1981

FAMILY CAMPS

Marysville holiday Village — December 26-January 2
Belgrave Heights Convention — December 27-January 4
Cowes Family — January 10-17

YOUTH CAMPS

Marysville Teen — School Year 9-12 — January 5-12
Marysville Junior — School Year 5-8 — January 16-23
Portland — School Year 5-12 — January 17-24

ADVENTURE CAMPS

Canoe Tour — 16 years and over — January 5-12
*Murrindal 1 — Boys up to 14 yrs. — Dec. 27-Jan. 3
*Murrindal 2 — Girls High School age — January 3-10
*Murrindal 3 — Boys 14 years and over — January 10-17
Alpine Hike — 16 years and over — February 7-13

(* near Buchan, East Gippsland)

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Marysville. 3779.

Evangelisation Society of Australia

College of the Bible GRADUATION

Over 800 attended the annual Graduation Ceremony of the College of the Bible at Blackman Hall on November 14.

The announcement by the Board Chairman, Frank Chipperfield, that Dr Bill Tabbernee had been appointed Principal was greeted with strong and sustained applause.

The statements by the 18 exit students concerning their growth and their expectations for the future in ministry were warmly received. The congregation showed their appreciation of the singing by the College music group. Keith Farmer, lecturer and minister at Doncaster, challenged both graduates and congregation to be truly loving and forgiving.

The Ordination Service which followed (see report elsewhere) was a solemn but joyous time of commitment.

Diplomas and certificates were presented to:

Honours Diplomas:- Wayne Clinton, B.Sc., B.D. (Hons.), A.C.T.L. (Vic.); Stephen Curkpatrick, L.Th., (S.A.); Tim Hanna, (S.A.); Stan Mott, (W.A.).

Diplomas:- Iris Lawson, L.Th., (Vic.); Grant Simpson, L.Th., (S.A.); Ron Wilson, (Qld.); Ken Wray, (S.A.).

Certificates:- Peter Broadbent, (S.A.); David Prestidge, (N.Z.); Wendy Salisbury, (Vic.); Arthur Tanner, (S.A.); Peter Wells, (Tas.); Bruce Williams, (W.A.).

Selected Course Certificates:- Steve Ashley, (S.A.); Coralynn Hollow, (Vic.); Julie Simpson, (S.A.); Sue Wilson, (Qld.).

INDUCTION OF PRINCIPAL

Dr W. Tabbernee will be inducted as Principal of the College during the Commencement Service at Blackman Hall on Friday February 10, 1981 (see advertisement in this issue). Invitations are being sent and a large crowd is expected.

RETIREMENT OF GORDON STIRLING

Recognition of Gordon Stirling's 12 years as Vice-Principal of the College and 45 years' service to the Australian and New Zealand churches will be expressed at the Commencement Service.

The College Board began planning several years ago to ensure a continuation of the practical ministry emphasis and the administrative functions that Gordon Stirling has done so magnificently. This led to the appointments last year of Keith Farmer on a half-time basis while he ministers at Doncaster and of Robin Haskell as Registrar. (This re-arrangement means that the title Vice-Principal will no longer be used.)

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

During this service, as well as the Induction of the new Principal, and the recognition for Gordon Stirling, recognition will be made of Dr Keith Bowes for his seven years as Principal of the College. The new students for 1981 also will be introduced. To date there are eight new students.

NOONKANBAH AGAIN

Alan Austin has been in the Kimberleys (WA) talking to Aborigines and others. Here are his comments.

The issue everyone expected us to ask about was, of course, Noonkanbah. We did not disappoint them.

Naturally, responses varied widely. Nevertheless, having listened to as many views as possible, several fairly clear impressions emerged.

One of the easier matters to resolve concerned the alleged manipulation of the Aborigines by white stirrers for their own political ends.

Apart from the fact that this credits the Aboriginal community with very little discernment and initiative, many factors dispel this accusation.

The Yungngora people have been taking strong action against unfair treatment for years now, long before their present support was mobilized behind them.

In 1971 they took direct action against the pastoral company by walking off the station and forcing its closure.

In 1979, after miners bulldozed their cemetery, the action taken was again unaided.

Eventually, outside assistance was requested from trade unions and the church. From all enquiries, there's little evidence that any supporters or advisers took the initiative away from the leaders or exerted undue influence. In fact, at least one outside supporter who spoke out of turn was put smartly back in his place by the Yungngora eldership.

Right through to the eventual road blockade, the Aboriginal people knew what they were doing and why. Exactly what police action would ensue was, of course, uncertain. It was known, however, that the consequences would be serious. Some even asked the churchmen sitting with them on the road, "They won't shoot us, will they?" recalling incidents only a generation ago.

(In the event, the police making the arrests were, according to the Uniting Church clergy, "firm and fair.")

Several things about the whole Noonkanbah saga should be of encouragement.

When assistance was called for, it was Christians who delivered most of the support. Seldom in Australia's history has the church been seen to align itself in such a way with the powerless and the poor.

Secondly, we can be proud that one of the two spokesmen the Noonkanbah community chose to send to Geneva was evangelist Jimmy Biendurry, a member of our Brotherhood. Jimmy is deeply committed to preaching the Gospel. Hardly a socialist agitator as some have implied.

And thirdly, as a result of the Noonkanbah dispute, many Christians are thinking and working through the whole issue of Aboriginal Culture, attachment to the land, and evangelism.

Some of the questions are these:

1. Is the Aborigines' attachment to their land just pagan superstition? or is it, rather, a real strength that God would have us affirm? (As Richardson's recent book *Eternity in Their Hearts* points out, all people are created in God's image

and all cultures, however pagan, display some aspects of His order.)

Which is more Biblical: the Aborigines' understanding of the land and land tenure, or white Australia's

2. How can someone make a full and free commitment of his life to our Lord when, as a result of total alienation and institutionalisation, he no longer regards his life as of any value or significance?

3. Can we really expect people to respond to the Gospel when those bringing the message are seen to be supporting an intruding culture which has been more destructive than constructive? (Killings, disease, alcohol, gambling, consumerism, etc.)

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

We have received a report from a group of Aboriginal Christians living at Noonkanbah, as presented by their leader **Hansen Boxer** to the Inter-Mission Conference held recently at Carnarvon. We present it here.

1. As Christians "we are to love and serve God with heart, mind and soul, and this cannot include sacred sites which are associated with worship of the devil.

2. The Bible tells us that we must be subject to those over us and in fact they are in authority by God.

3. The real tribal leader is Friday Mooller who was deposed by pressure from the Strelley Mob (who are anti-Christian) so that the leadership at Noonkanbah has been manipulated.

4. The Uniting Church ministers who got arrested at Noonkanbah seem totally ignorant of the real issues and did nothing for the cause of Christ at Noonkanbah and only brought confusion to the people.

5. The Goanna Spirit was brought in by the Strelley Mob. It is not of God and is new to the Noonkanbah people. It is based on fear. Aborigines need release from this. Where does the Gospel fit in here?

6. We are facing verbal and physical persecution because of our stand in the Kimberleys.

7. We asked the Uniting Church ministers to pray with us and have a Christian meeting. They said they would but never showed up.

8. When the drill went in a lot of Aboriginal people were at the races in Fitzroy. The church here had a Christian meeting by the side of the rig as a witness to the men of the power and authority of Christ.

CRISIS BRINGS GROWTH

Kampuchians have been pouring into Thailand. They have endured the horrors of Pol Pot and the invasion of the Vietnamese army. Amongst the arrivals at the camp at Khao-I-Dong were a Christian pastor and 20 of the members of the church from Phnom Penh. They still had something to share — the good news of Jesus Christ. Today, the congregation numbers 20,000. It is the largest group of Kampuchians ever to respond to the gospel.

GOOD NEWS AT MARION

After considerable prayer and preparation the church at Marion moved into its "Good News 80" program with **Gordon Stirling** November 6-9. Church members supplied the names of contacts to the church office, then sent out specially prepared letters, and at the end around 60 homes were added to the list of those within the touch of the church's life.

All ages and attitudes were touched by the sound of Gordon's voice, from Local Government and church leaders, to atheists, youth and families! He conducted interviews with all kinds of people who frankly shared their faith. His preaching is as good as ever! Ecumenical, family, youth, men and women all were served by his forthright approach, and felt stimulated. The church had had a steady "reaping" through the year, but even so, a number indicated their desire for commitment and church membership.

Music played a major part in the presentation. Groups of singers provided for all groups and the church choir was magnificent. Gordon held session with **Peter Daniels**, prominent business man, **Helen Caterer** MBE and from these came considerable food for thought.

Following the campaign several came to place membership in the church and baptisms are now being prepared.

This session proved the point, that such efforts are not needed when a church is at a low ebb, but when on the crest, it can send that church into orbit with enthusiasm and commitment. Marion church is now at the stage where nothing seems to be impossible at the point of outreach and evangelism.

In spite of his gray haired youthfulness, **Gordon Stirling** is one with an approach which appeals to everyone, and we commend him!

— Eric Hollard.

ROSEVALE'S 90th ANNIVERSARY

January 1, 1981 will usher in a year of celebration for the Rosevale church. Whilst part of the West Moreton circuit, it has its own story to tell of the Lord's blessing even in times of adversity.

The first of January date is most important in the fellowship as on that day for many years the church has gathered together for a great picnic. Another picnic is planned for 1981 with a special afternoon session dedicated to "what has been".

The evening program will include the Joy Tones from Toowoomba and the special speaker will be a former minister, **Denby Holmes**, who will also speak at the Friday January 2nd and Saturday 3rd evening meetings and the two services on Sunday January 4.

We are desirous that as many as possible former members and friends share this time of fellowship.

Later in the year an evangelistic mission will be conducted with **John Timms**. Rosevale has a history of helping others, so as part of our celebration a special project will be launched and completed during the year.

TASMANIAN YOUTH WORK TRAINING

Over 30 leaders and young adults attended a Youth Leadership Training Seminar held recently at the Hobart church. All Southern Tasmanian churches were represented. The seminar was conducted by Jeff Deuble and Ian Tippett, field directors with the Dept. of Mission, Education & Development. Basic Youth Conflicts, Creative Bible Study, Youth Evangelism, Leadership and Communication Skills, and Alternative Learning Experiences, were some of the topics considered in electives and input sessions. There was insufficient time to explore all adequately, but those who came were challenged and given much to think on. There was a clear call for youth ministry to be not only faithful to the gospel, but cognizant of the needs and nature of young people.

CAMPS

Earlier this year a state senior youth camp was conducted at Bicheno. Over 40 young people attended, with all but one church represented. Russell Allison ably organized and directed the camp. Ruth Stevens led the studies on Joshua, entitled "Going His Way". Hiking, recreational and social activities, games, singing, and discussion were also included in the program. The camp proved very successful. Not only was it enjoyed and well received, but really fostered inter-church mixing and fellowship. So much so, that inter-church youth events have been organized since, and all are eagerly looking forward to the next camp during Easter 1981.

The leadership training and state camping initiatives arose from discussions held by Jeff Deuble with the churches in late 1979. The need for programing in these areas became apparent during those discussions, and have been borne out by the support given to them since.

OUTREACH TO INDIA

Passports, immunizations, a weekend of co-ordination and instruction in Brisbane, and many "behind the scene" matters to be attended to! All this, and more, is part of life for Pastor Brian O'Grady, Jack Thorpe, Les Holmes and Joan Leary of the Mt Evelyn church.

They have been invited to become part of a team of 43 people from Australia and New Zealand who are going to India on November 22, 1980, for a three week evangelistic outreach program, both personal and mass evangelism. Under the name "Outreach For Christ", the program will be centred in and around the city of Kakinada, 300 miles north of Madras. The team will be backed up by a team of 200 local Indian workers and there will be teaching sessions in the churches for men and women who are teaching.

It is expected that at least 5,000 will attend the nightly meeting. Provision has been made for each convert to receive a Bible (20,000 await distribution), a new converts course, and a two year Bible course. For those who show promise, a personal workers kit is also available.

— Evelyn Watkins

FIRST N.T. FOR VANUATU

The first ever Bislama New Testament was released in Vanuatu on Sunday, November 23. There are very few books in Bislama, and very little general translation work has been done for the 80,000 speakers of this language.

This common language New Testa-

ment, published by the Bible Society in the South Pacific, is the culmination of 10 years work by translations personnel from Vanuatu and Australia.

The Bislama Bible translation team were honoured last year with the task of translating the country's Constitution into the local language.

WESLEY CENTRAL MISSION

is seeking a

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

The Mission operates a large number of residential caring programs, catering for the needs of the aged, the handicapped, the homeless, children and refugees.

We are seeking an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament to co-ordinate the pastoral care work carried out in these various areas of our work by a group of Chaplains appointed by the Mission.

We envisage that the applicant will be qualified to be a Supervisor of a Clinical Pastoral Education program and be able to conduct staff training courses in various aspects of pastoral care. The appointee will have direct responsibility for the pastoral care of some centres and will be expected to conduct regular worship and Communion Services in the caring centres of the Mission.

Salary and conditions will be as applicable to a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia.

Applications should be made to:

The Rev. Gordon Moyes

Wesley Central Mission

210 Pitt Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000

Phone: (02) 267 8741



El Kanah invites you to

CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR

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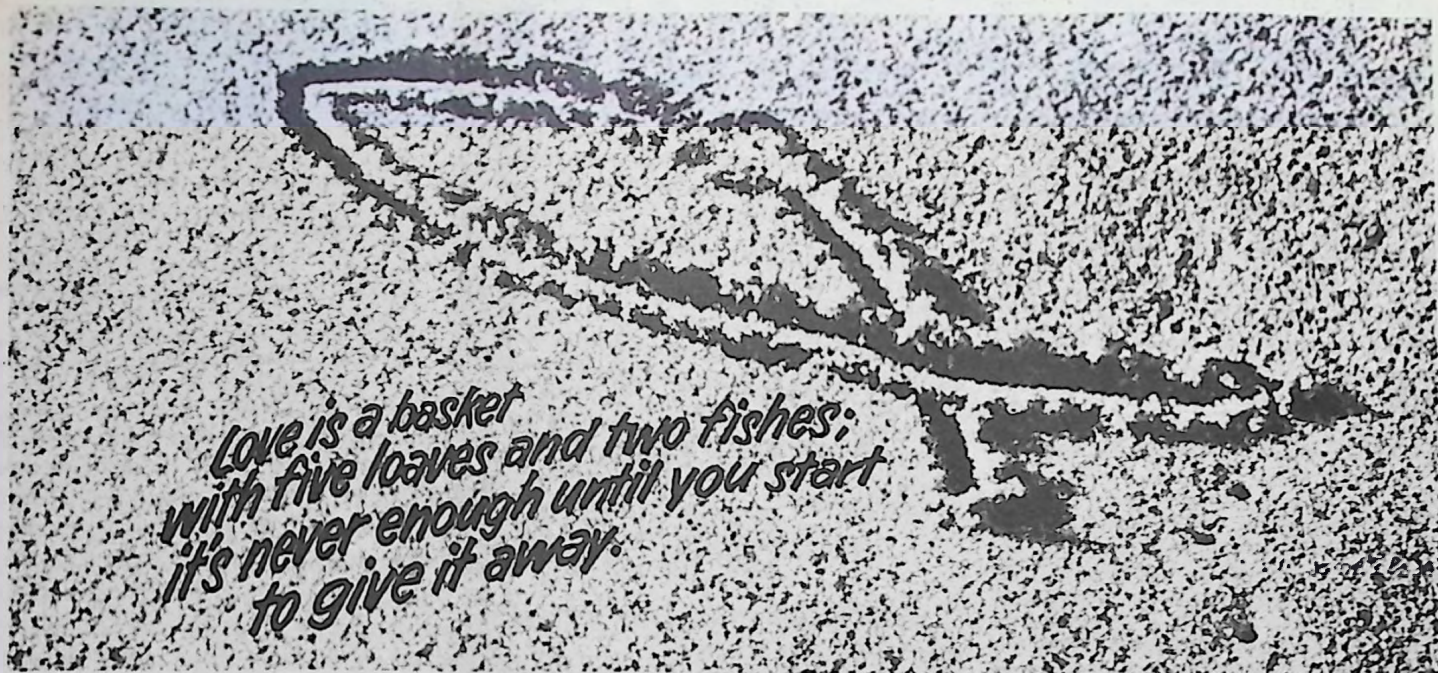
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When you share, you never lose

When the boy gave his lunch to Jesus in the feeding of the 5000 incident, he didn't lose it. He, like all the others, "ate . . . and (was) full" (Mark 6:42). And in a very real sense, the same thing happens to us.

When we share with Jesus — by sharing with His brothers and sisters in need — our own deepest needs are met too. We find the meaning, the purpose, the satisfaction in life that we seek.

In sharing, we receive.

Through the Christmas Bowl, you share with needy people around the world. You help to get food and medical supplies into Kampuchea. Resettle refugees. Provide disaster relief. Create jobs. Start community development projects. Grow more food. Upgrade health standards. Fight prejudice, discrimination and injustice.

You stand alongside people and help them to help themselves, all around the world. And you help Australians to understand more about the real causes of world poverty and injustice.

Your contribution really does help — because, in the right hands, a little goes a long way.

The boy gave all he had to Jesus. Please make your sharing generous, too. In return, you'll know you're taking one step towards a better world.

And you'll know you're following Jesus, who said "love . . . as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

"Give a little love and it all comes back to you!"

That's what Nathan Livingstone sings in this year's 30 second Christmas Bowl TV spot. Watch for it!



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CHRISTMAS BOWL**

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

***Donations now TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!**



TG3079

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.

SELECTING MINISTRY CANDIDATES

To the Editor,

Concern has been expressed through the "A.C." about the wastage of resources when college graduates leave the ministry within a short period of graduation. The question has been raised that it presents an onerous responsibility on college staff for deciding which students should be accepted for ministry. Criticism has been levelled at the college system for allowing inexperienced graduates to enter the ministry.

Surely our churches themselves hold the responsibility for seeking out, through their Elders and Deacons, candidates for ministry training from their own churches — seeking out those men with the abilities and work and community experience which they feel are needed for ministry — those who have the maturity to meet people and motivate them; who have the practical knowledge and insight of the application of the Scriptures to daily life and the innate ability to expound them. Thus nominating candidates for college training and, if need be, where they have family responsibilities, sponsoring their financial undertaking, then encouraging them, developing them and utilising them after graduation.

Let us not squander our training resources but direct them where they are of the greatest benefit to the Kingdom.

R. C. Whitaker (Mt Gravatt, Q.)

GROWING IN THE 80'S

To the Editor,

I have just finished reading "Growing in the 80's", with a good deal of enthusiasm. I would therefore, like to record my appreciation for this timely report, and commend it heartily to all church boards.

However, concerning a "National Strategy", one thing puzzles me, and that is the suggestion for a logo. While agreeing it could be a psychological stimulus, I wonder how it could express the reason for our existence?

As we are hopefully, and ideally, a movement with a goal, how could that be conveyed in a logo?

Mind you, I'm not disagreeing with the idea, I just trust that someone can convey symbolically, the ideals we stand for as part of the Restoration Movement.

— Ken Mason (N.S.W.)

MISSING THE GOSPEL

To the Editor,

When looking through the "Peninsula Post" I read that some churches have Sunday School picnics on Sunday afternoons with no evening service to preach the gospel which should never be left out. This is encouraging the world to be lovers of pleasure and not lovers of God, and it should be the other way about teaching the world to be lovers of God every Sunday evening.

— W. J. Holmes (Red Hill, Vic.)

EVANGELISM

To the Editor,

Despite constant emphasis on "Evangelism", implementation locally appears hard to start. Dynamic for church growth is evangelism. The whole church is geared to soul-winning, evangelism's goal. When all auxiliaries have this vision there are a constant influx of new faces at the Gospel Service, responses

every night, frequent baptisms, new members added weekly, all due to this implementation of evangelism.

Conference statistics are statistics of recession so often! One reason for this is eminently illustrated on the back cover of "A.C." Nov. 8.

In Hagger and Hinrichsen days, the former told his flock he would resign, and the latter threatened to close the tent mission if the church didn't support evangelism. These men of God preached their hearts out and God blessed their leadership in evangelism. Churches set to grow must select as preachers, soul-winners and leaders in evangelism. This is the indispensable element.

— Ben Wesley (South Perth, W.A.)

A PROTEST

To the Editor:

It is with feelings of deep sorrow, and almost despair, that I write this protest.

Teachings by some of our most esteemed brethren are appearing with increasing persistence, supporting theories that have never even been given credence in the Christian Church hitherto. To justify these theories it is claimed that specific instructions were the product of the culture of the day or are not applicable today for other reasons e.g. Divorce and remarriage.

Another gambit is to suggest that those who insist upon taking God's word literally are not reflecting true Christianity. We are given the impression that, unless we are prepared to overlook practices which, although condemned clearly in Scripture, are ac-

cepted in today's cultural climate, we are guilty of unforgiveness.

It appears that Churches of Christ, who started off so grandly with insistence upon the absolute truth and importance of all Scripture, are in the process of abrogating that position (but so graciously).

— Owen Wainwright (N.S.W.)

Perhaps we should also take literally what the Bible says about forgiveness of sins. — Ed.

THISTLES

To the Editor,

Thank you for the Ambrosia article on "Thistles" (A.C. Nov. 22). I add his column to my pages on this subject.

In Geo. Buttrick's book "God, Pain and Evil" he says one of his students told him of a parishioner who having dug his own garden of thistles, proceeded to dig up thistles for his neighbours. But one day on his way home he saw a whole hillside of thistles and wept. So he could not cleanse his world of thistles. The next Sunday, early at church he saw a woman arranging floral decorations — they were Scotch thistles! The blight even invades the church.

From another source I'm reminded that when the Danes invaded Scotland in 980 they approached in the dark and barefooted so they wouldn't be heard. However when a Dane stepped on a thistle and gave a piercing cry the game was up. The Scots routed the enemy and chose their national emblem.

Thanks for many an alert from Ambrosia and as well as from Mustard Seeds.

— Gordon Anderson (Bendigo, Vic.)

SORRY

Many news items and church news arrived prior to this final issue and could not be printed due to space limits. These will be published as early as possible next year.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

ARE CHRISTIANS DELICATE?

To the Editor,

In our old home town Rosey was known as a delicate child. She was always "coming down with something", in spite of the red flannel she wore on her chest, and the eucalyptus up her nose and the castor oil down her throat.

I sometimes wonder if Christians are delicate people!

At our church it is well known that people over 55 never go out into the night air. It's bad for them. But every bingo hall in town is crowded every night of the week, mainly with people over 55.

A lot of Christians don't go to Sunday night services as families. It's not good for the littlies to be out as late as 8.30. But every Sunday night our local drive-in picture theatre is full of families with littlies until after 11 p.m.

Some of us Christians stay home from church in the winter if we have a bit of a snivel. You can't be too careful, you know. But on Saturday afternoons thousands of our local snivellers freely give and receive germs and insults at the local football match. The casualty room at the local hospital does brisk business after a game, but not with consumptives.

Some Christian women find it too great a strain to cater for a few church outreach dinners a year. But other women work every week at school canteens and junior football pie nights, without any sign of nervous breakdown.

I mentioned all this to our minister. He says that most Christians are healthier than the rest of the community. Probably they look after themselves better. He says it's more a problem of motivation. I wonder what he means by that!

Yours pathologically,
TERTIUS

CARLINGFORD'S NEW PRINCIPAL



Dr. Keith Farmer

The Board of the New South Wales Theological College has much pleasure in announcing the appointment of Dr Keith W. Farmer B.A. Hons., B. Comm., D. Min, as Principal of the College. It is anticipated that Dr. Farmer will take up his responsibilities in January, 1981.

In making this announcement the Board praises God for his leading, both to it and to Dr Farmer, and for the gracious co-operation of The College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and the church at Doncaster where Dr Farmer has been ministering for the past two years. We are deeply appreciative that the Board of the College of the Bible and the Board of the Doncaster church were sympathetic and generous to the urgent need at Carlingford and were prepared to release Dr Farmer from his responsibilities and commitments to both places. Their graciousness has been a blessing and underlines the sense of brotherhood that exists throughout our churches in Australia.

The New South Wales College takes this opportunity to congratulate Dr Farmer on the recent awarding to him of a Doctorate in Ministry by the Fuller Theological Seminary. We look forward with eager anticipation to his ministry of leadership at Carlingford.

— J. Cooke (Secretary).

WITNESS THROUGH SPORT

The 6th Aussie Venture for Victory Basketball Team to tour the Philippines and Hong Kong has been selected and is in training for an exciting missionary outreach to our Asian neighbours.

A talented group of men will use their expertise in basketball to earn the right to share the message of Jesus Christ with thousands of people in these two countries. Players come from Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Canberra and Sydney. There are four school teachers, a tutor in computer studies, a civil engineer, electrical fitter, project co-ordinator, evangelist and carpenter, and four of these have musical gifts.

Facilities are primitive, the games provide stiff competition and are very demanding. Weather is sultry, travel is

rugged, and accommodation is always — anyone's guess.

The people are friendly and responsive, the team is expected to play 30 games. At each half-time break a program of Christian witness is presented through singing, testimonies and an explanation of the way of salvation.

Each spectator is given an attractive brochure with photos of the team and a plan of how to become a Christian. A free Bible Correspondence Course is available for all who send in their name and address on the coupon provided.

This year each team member has to raise \$1,700 for tour expenses. This covers travel, food, accommodation, brochures, Bibles, contribution to Bible Correspondence Course and "set-up" arrangements in the Philippines and Hong Kong.

Enquiries can be made to Australian Venture for Victory Board, Box 1717, G.P.O., Adelaide. S.A. 5001.

Christmas Editorial

A BOMB IN GILEAD

The little girl arrived home from Sunday School and announced that they had been singing about a bomb in Gilead. Who can blame her for not being aware of the biblical allusion in the hymn, "There is a balm in Gilead"?

As the Christmas message comes to us in a few day's time, it will come to some of us a balm, and for others of us as a bomb, depending on what we need most.

The Christian message is all wrapped up in the single title given to Jesus in Matthew 1:23, Emmanuel — God with us. At Christmas God will be with us to comfort some of us with the balm of his healing and to disturb some of us with the bomb of his explosive presence.

THE BALM OF COMFORT AND HEALING

Some of our readers, this Christmas, are hurting with grief, disappointment, sickness, adversity, emotional insecurity and feelings of rejection. The fact is that God is with you in your suffering, bearing it in his own Father heart, and giving you the fortitude and comfort of his presence. In response to even a tiny, faltering faith he will begin his healing work.

BUT BALM IS HARD TO RECEIVE

Some of us do not find it easy to receive the balm of his healing presence and power. We would rather he took away the grief and the problems. We would like him to remove the people who cause the hurts and disappointments, or at least to change them and make them nice and kind to us. But God does not promise to change our circumstances. Rather he comes to us in those circumstances and even transforms us through the circumstances.

GOOD NEWS ON THE FRONT PAGE

A local newspaper decided to celebrate Christmas by putting only good news on the front page and leaving the bad news for page two. Banners on top and bottom of

page one heralded "Good news of great joy" and "Peace on earth", and beautiful stories told of acts of love and encouragement. Page two featured the usual headlines of war and violence and sin and pain. Yet God's world is the world of page two, as well as of page one. It is in the world of page two that we cry out, "Emmanuel" — God is with us!

SOME OF US NEED A BOMB

For some of us the word Emmanuel implies a bomb because that is about the best thing that God could give us this Christmas. Some of us build walls against people; high ones for us and our lot, and let the rest leave us in peace. Some of us build walls with spy holes through which we can observe and judge and appropriately condemn undesirables and keep ourselves uncontaminated by them. Others of us go in for low walls across which we can smile and shake hands as Christians should, but still keep our private territory intact and inviolable. And some of us have walls with little doors that open inwards so that when we venture into the world of people, we can easily run back when hurt and shut the doors tightly after us.

BOMBED WALLS

But whatever walls we build to keep people where we want them are inevitably walls to shut out God, for to shut out one is to shut out the other. But God will not remain shut out if he can help it. Emmanuel means God with us inside our walls to blast them apart and to break them down. There is a bomb in Gilead to restore the health of the people (See Jeremiah 8:22).

BALM OR BOMB

Whether we need a balm or a bomb or both, we can come to Christmas rejoicing in Emmanuel, for God is with us. Could it be that we could replace the rather superficial "Merry Christmas" by greeting one another on Christmas Day with the word, "Emmanuel" and the reply, "He is with us indeed!"

WHEN MEN COOKED DINNER

The women of the A.C.T. churches vote their men absolutely top class after being treated by them to a delightful dinner, prepared, cooked and served by the men. To encourage future such efforts at home and church the Belconnen women have produced a Recipe Book.

The C.W.F. Conference Family Fun Night raised \$161 for Carnarvon. Lyons and Ainslie have been busy with cake stalls and mini-fete. A bus load of women attended C.W.F. Federal Conference. 46 women joined four from Dapto and one from Richmond for a weekend C.W.F. Camp with Jan Upton as study leader. The C.W.F. groups in each church will close the year with a combined Christmas program.

— Olive Cannon

POSSIBILITIES FOR THE CHURCH IN INDIA

FROM AN INDIAN CHRISTIAN

In the last 15-20 years there is an increasing response from the non-Christians in this land to the Gospel. There are a number of reasons probably for this. In the pursuit of happiness in a free country like India, people are becoming disillusioned with the many promises and panaceas of humanistic and political leaders. Religions and traditions have not really helped the multitudes of India because they kept and keep the poor and outcastes under the slavery of superstitions.

At the same time, poverty has increased as the population also has doubled in the last 30 years. People living below the poverty line were just 40% 20 years ago, and today it is 60% or more. (Poverty line means where a person earns a total of Rs.15/- a month or one who has a bowlful of rice and dal once a day with no other necessities of life met). You can imagine, therefore, the appalling conditions in which we are moving. Moreover, in the last 30 years, people have become more literate and more aware of the good things which life can offer. Therefore, the Harijans, the Tribals and aboriginal and backward people are all waking up in the long rush for a better life. They have found every possible promise, including Marxism, failing to deliver the goods. But people also find that in Jesus Christ it is not so. He does give hope. He remakes people who believe in Him. Therefore, a believer in Christ is better off, no matter

what his state is economically, socially or linguistically.

With this background, I must say that it is generally true that many people are turning to Christ from the non-Christian fold all over India. I think it is true particularly in states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Nagaland, etc. Probably Kerala also can be included in this. We cannot say there are mass movements as in the days of 1930's, but there is a steady movement towards Christ. Most of those who come to Jesus Christ are from backward classes, outcastes, Harijans, Tribals, etc., because they are the most dispossessed of all in the land. From the Aryan and caste groups of Hindus, as well as Muslims, there are individuals in trickles responding to Christ.

My own feeling is that if the Indian Government takes away all pressures against Christians, churches and those who turn to Christ, there is the clear possibility of millions turning to Christ in the next ten years. The Freedom of Religion Bill was introduced in the Indian Parliament last year to check this very thing. In at least three states the Freedom of Religion Law is in operation.

So our prospects in India are good and steadily encouraging since 1947. I can only ask you folk who love the Lord in Australia to pray for the great opportunity we have in this land and also to ask our God to keep this land open and free for the Gospel.

PROUD GRANDMOTHER



Admiration of a proud grandmother, as 12 year old Christopher Thurrowgood shows his Bass Guitar which he now plays with the Joytones. Mrs Ileen Thurrowgood will be remembered by folk in

most States, as for many years she shared in ministry with her husband Arthur Thurrowgood. Mrs Thurrowgood now lives at, Mylo House, Toowoomba.

SEASWEEP

The World Vision hospital and rescue vessel, Seasweep, has been transporting 1000 refugees a month from Bangkok to the large camp at Galang in Indonesia. The request to transport the refugees has come from the Intergovernment Commit-

tee for European Migration.

During this operation, Seasweep will continue to visit a number of smaller Indonesian refugee camps to provide medical assistance and also patrol through the South China Sea, where many Vietnamese boat-people are still making their escape.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

It's good news! Plans for the new chapel, the first stage of the Madang Christian Centre have been completed by Michael Bugar. The Town Planning Authority has approved them. The work team from Toowoomba is gearing to leave in February. Things are moving. Thanks for your participation in this exciting project.

New Truck Purchased

Last year the need for a truck in P.N.G. was publicised. Many people responded and we're glad to announce that a new Dyna diesel of 2.5 tonne capacity has been purchased. It should soon have its canopy and be ready for service. Another need has been met through dedicated giving. Our thanks!

Visa Delays

Many have been concerned about the delays in granting visas to permanent staff in P.N.G. These delays have prevented David and Robyn Harmer and family of Victoria from joining the missionary team. The latest news from Rod Feldhahn the business manager is that the earliest we can expect visas is February 1981. Please remember all those affected in your prayers.

Typist At Chungribu

During his stay at Chungribu, Colyn Pietzsch of Victoria was able to type the first draft of the gospel of Mark in the Rao language. A number of other typing tasks including a number of stencils were also completed. It's another step forward for Diana Catts and Fay Christensen in their translation work.

FEELING LOVED

Over our cups of tea I learned that she was recently widowed and had two girls and a boy for whom she had to be both mother and father. She and the family were still working through their grief. She told me how that she had found her way to the church's "Bright Spot", a weekly activities program for everybody. It was there that she felt the love and support and acceptance that she needed. From that start she has begun attending the Sunday services with her family. She explained it simply, "Every one is so loving and kind!" She said how much she had received from a "Good News" weekend that the church was currently running.

WHERE IS THIS CHURCH?

Later I was given a copy of the church paper, "The Link". I looked casually at their calendar for the week. It included a prayer and Bible study group for women, a "Friendly Circle" (whatever that is), the Bright Spot, three home Bible study groups, a prayer group, and as well as the traditional services at 11 and 7 on Sunday there is a 9.30 a.m. contemporary worship service. The calendar represented to me a church that is geared to being a caring and supporting fellowship especially at the point of human need.

The church by the way is the Hampstead Gardens church in South Australia.

BOOKS TO READ

STUDIES IN DISCIPLESHIP

by Bill Gaunson (Vital Publications) \$2.00

Good discipleship material has always been very difficult to obtain. Discipleship material is either too light and therefore missed the fundamental concepts of Christianity; or it goes to the other extreme and uses language and terms that new disciples are unable to understand. Bill Gaunson's 'Studies in Discipleship' does not belong in either of these categories.

'Studies in Discipleship' is a 12 week discipleship course which covers all the important aspects of discipleship in a language that is very down to earth. Bill has also been able to use illustrations that are very meaningful and clarify each point being made. As Bill says in his introduction: 'these studies have been prepared to help you in the Christian life which lies like an untrodden path before you': in these studies this path, the Christian life, is not painted as a rosy unreal life, but a pathway that is real in which God's grace triumphs in the lives of those who live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

If you are wondering what discipleship is all about? If you are wondering what it means to experience the reality of the Lordship of Jesus in your daily living? Then this book is highly recommended for your prayerful study." — Arthur Symes

THE BROKEN CYCLE

by A. W. Stephenson \$3.00

The story of Roy Coventary and his pioneering missionary work in "our India" for over 30 years. This book looks at the life of Roy Coventary and also at the development of our mission work in Western India. The profits from the sale of this book is to be placed in a memorial fund established (by Bruce Coventary and Margaret Goninon) to support a student preacher in training in India. Some of the captions on photos need correction.

Copies can be obtained for \$3 plus postage from Mrs M. Goninon, 5 Theresa St., Smithfield, N.S.W. 2164.

HE GAVE US A VALLEY

by Helen Roseveare (Inter-Varsity Press) \$4.50

This is one of the best books that I have ever read. Helen was a missionary doctor in the former Belgian Congo (now Zaire) and this book tells of her return to missionary service after the uprising, when she had been taken prisoner and subjected to various forms of physical abuse. I found myself seeing the various scenes through Helen's eyes and feeling her emotional turmoil as she overcomes the memories of being a prisoner, the frustrations and delays which occur in a newly independent nation and finally the battle to overcome her pride.

Those who heard Helen on her recent tour of Australia will want to buy the book and if you didn't then read the book and it will whet your appetite for her next visit. — J. Urquhart

THE POSITIVE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST

by Norman Vincent Peale (Hodder & Stoughton) \$19.95

It is very easy to be trapped by success, and Norman Vincent Peale has been trapped largely by "The Power of Positive Thinking". This book has meant that he himself has been labelled as a preacher who is only interested in proclaiming positive thinking.

In this book Norman Vincent Peale outlines scores of life-changing adventures in faith through the conversion of men and women to Jesus Christ. For people who think that positive thinking is just a psychological trick with a sugar coating of religion, this book will illustrate the evangelical depths of Dr. Peale.

Peale himself is folksy, sensible, committed and evangelical. His major emphasis is not upon sin, judgement and hell, but upon life, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the possibilities of new life in Him.

Sophisticated theologians despise this simplicity, but they do so in their lonely isolation. Hard-line fundamentalists regret the lack of damnation, and they do so from the hardness of

their hearts.

This book will re-affirm your faith in the gospel of Christ to change men and women, and it may help you to re-assess your understanding of the ministry of the one called "The Minister to Millions".

It has been my privilege to sit and talk with Norman and Ruth Peale on many occasions. Some time ago he showed me some proofs of this new book and I asked if he would like to be remembered as the man who brought positive thinking to people. He told me that the one title he would like to have was simply "Evangelist".

This book indicates what an effective evangelist he has been. — Gordon Moyes —

LET SECTS AND PARTIES FALL

— by David M. Thompson \$8.50

A short history of the Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland, this book is the first history published for over 30 years on the subject. The book traces the origins of the Movement in the early 19th Century through the formation of the Association in 1842 to the present day. The theological emphases of the Movement are explained and set in their historical context. Reference is made to the missionary involvement of the churches and to their participation in the ecumenical movement.

The author was president of the Annual Conference of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1979. The book is available from the Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 Latrobe Street, Melbourne, 3000. Cost \$8.50 plus postage.

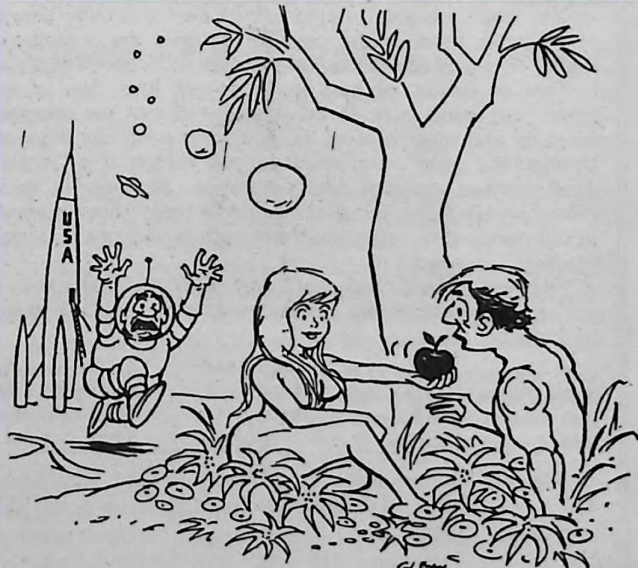
THE LIFE OF ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE.

By Andrew Bonar (The Banner of Truth Trust) \$2.00

This book, first published in 1844, tells of the life and witness of a famous Scottish Christian of the last century. Robert M'Cheyne died in 1843 at the age of 29 after only 7½ years in the ministry and yet his life and ministry had a big impact on the church of his day.

— J. Urquhart.

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



"WAIT!"

HAPPENINGS

Rev. Neville Andersen, retiring principal of the Bible College of Victoria, has accepted a two year term as National Director of the Evangelical Alliance and Tear Fund (Australia). Richard Horne was appointed Deputy Director of Tear Fund.

This is 'the age of the refugees'. The UN estimates that throughout the world today there are 12 million rootless people.

An estimated 200,000 children under 14 are working illegally in Spain according to the Anti-Slavery Society. Child labour is in widespread use in shops, factories and even in their family homes. Spain's apprenticeship system has been widely abused.

A deacon took the minister to a football grand final. During a particularly exciting period of play, he turned to him and said, "Pastor, look

how those guys are playing. They're giving everything they've got. Why don't you preach like that?"

The minister thought for a while, and then replied, "I would... if I had all these people cheering me on!"

Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda has been awarded the 1980 Browning Award for Evangelism.

A plan for reuniting the two largest Presbyterian denominations in the USA will be presented to the churches policy-setting bodies in 1982. The two churches are the Presbyterian Church U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church.

A former Major in the Russian Air Force with 20 decorations for loyalty, courage and dedication, was referred to a military psychiatric hospital — because he and his wife

became Christians. After persistent efforts by his wife, he was released but pleas for early retirement — promised for September last year — were scrapped and he was dismissed on the spot because faith in God and a high rank in the Soviet Army do not go together.

A total of 15,000 Gospels were distributed in Istanbul, Turkey this spring — twice the average yearly figure for the country. Two of the country's leading newspapers printed this figure in reply to questions.

Michael K. Kinnamon, a Disciples of Christ minister, will serve a three year term as executive secretary of the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

According to an official public opinion poll 64% of Japanese people do not want to get acquainted with aliens. Even those who have gone on overseas tours

share this aversion for foreigners. 51% of them said that they did not wish to make friends with aliens in their country.

Government of Taiwan now insists on scrutinising the Presbyterian Church's Sunday school text books before publication.

One casino in Las Vegas has 80 Christian employees and another 20 — part of a 150 member church started by another former Casino worker, sacked for witnessing too much while working!

31 Buddhists were ordained as monks in Peking at the beginning of October. This is the first such ordination since the Cultural Revolution.

The Synod of the Church of North India has approved the ordination of women to the ministry.

diary

NATIONAL
December
25 Christmas Day
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
December
26 Jan. 1 Light Hearted People Christmas Camp
January
18-26 Redcliffs Camp QUEENSLAND
December
14-19 Midgets Camp
25 Senior Camp commences
VICTORIA
January
3-10 Family Camp Bankala
11-17 Teens Camp Halls Gap
February
6 Good Companions Leaders' Tea
15 Annual Offering Properties Corporation
20 C.O.B. Induction and Recognition Service
28 Explorer Leaders' Breakfast

INNER SPRINGS

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

I find great comfort in the fact that the coming of the Christchild took place "in the night". When do we have greater need of His presence than in the dark hours of life, when we are isolated in our own particular pain or sorrow? When the manageable fears of the daylight become the uncontrollable monsters of the night. "There is one universal passion: It is fear", says George Bernard Shaw.

Fear of illness, of hurt to those we love, fear of insecurity, of loss and loneliness, along with all the irrational things we imagine when the world lies sleeping and silent around us. A current song has the words "Help me make it through the night", and whatever the reason, it is "in the night" that we most need comfort, courage and assurance. "Christmas", writes another, "will not banish all our fears; but it can displace them from occupying the central position in our personality, replacing them with confidence that love is supreme and may utterly be trusted".

Thus the words "fear not" with their promise of His everlasting presence, penetrating the darkness of that memorable night has its own lovely relevance for us here and now.

Unto all the peoples of the earth
A little child brought light
And never in the darkest place
Can it be utter night.

No flickering torch, no wavering fire,
But light — the life of men,
What ever clouds may veil the sky
Never is night again.

Dear Lord, where there is darkness give light; where there is fear, grant peace and a quiet mind. May thy Holy Spirit keep us in the safety of thy continuing presence. Amen.

Luke 2:8-18

Florence Rosler

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN MUSIC SEMINAR COOMA. JAN. 5-11, 1980

A growing feature of Australian musical life is the Christian Music Seminar held at Cooma each January. Special guests at the 4th Seminar are Rick and Sylvia Powell.

The Seminar caters for all areas in the broad spectrum of Christian musical styles from Classical to Folk, from Traditional to Rock.

Age is not a factor for consideration as the young, the mature, the experienced and the inexperienced all share together in an exciting and stimulating program which aims to leave each person with a greater knowledge of their own ability, where that fits into God's plan for their life and a challenge to put what they have learned into action.

Each morning commences with Bible Study and Worship, followed by 2 hour tutorials on specific areas of music and the arts. There are lunch time concerts, afternoon elective workshops, evening concerts.

Also present are Cam and Cher Floria who are founders and directors of the Continental Singers.

For full details and application forms for the Australian Christian Music Seminar ring A.C.M.S. (02) 764 1700 Sydney or (03) 818 8303 Melbourne or (07) 378 5445 Brisbane.

NO OTHER NAME

"No Other Name" is the title of a book about syncretism written a few years ago by W. S. Visser T' Hooft, then Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

WHAT IS SYNCRETISM?

Syncretism is the belief that the truth about God is best found by taking what is good out of all religions and forming it into a credible synthetic religion for modern man. Visser T' Hooft in his book challenged syncretism, making a strong plea for the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as expressed by Peter in Acts 4:12: "For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

ARE CHRISTIANS ARROGANT?

Syncretists call Christians arrogant and find a special stumbling block in the words of Jesus in John 14:6: "No man comes to the Father but by me." Some theologians are syncretists and avoid the accusation of arrogance by proclaiming that Christianity is the most appropriate revelation for our sort of Western society.

And now the man in the street is getting the syncretistic message and saying, with little knowledge, that "one religion is as good as another."

One day I was listening with my car radio tuned to Andrea who used to rule the morning air waves in Sydney. She cheerfully pontificated on any subject that she knew nothing about. On this occasion it was religion. She said, "I don't care if he's an Islam or a Mohammedan or a Moslem; all religions are the same." Here was the popular voice of syncretism.

ARROGANT PETER?

If modern Christians appear to be arrogant about their claims concerning Jesus, how much more arrogant Peter must have seemed just inside the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. The Jews knew that salvation was by obedience to the law. Any Greek tourist looking over the Temple that day knew that salvation came by knowledge. And the centurion on Temple duty knew that salvation was by the imperial power of Rome. Yet here was this crazy fisherman from the North Country claiming that salvation was in the name of a radical peasant whom both Jews and Romans had crucified a few weeks before.

IS THE CHRISTIAN CLAIM ARROGANT?

The Christian claim that Jesus Christ is unique is not arrogant if it is true.

Some Christians, of course, make the claim that Jesus is unique in an arrogant manner. Their attitude to those of other religions and of no religion is, "We have the truth. It is a waste of our time listening to your. You listen to us. If you don't, that is too bad for you."

These are the people who say that there is no point in dialogue with non-Christians. They do not seem to realise that the best way to get a hearing is to hear, with real interest, what the other person is saying. They do not seem to know that the best way to encourage people to re-think their position is to ask them questions about it and to be seriously interested in their answers. This is what dialogue is about.

Page 13

To treat Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems and others as uneducated, uncivilized heathen, as though nothing from God has ever broken through to them is the height of arrogance.

PAUL AND OTHER RELIGIONS

Paul helps us to define our relationship with those of other religions, without arrogance. In his address to the Areopagites he agreed that something of God had been revealed to the Greeks both through philosophy and religion. He then went on to talk about the final chapter of this revelation in the life, death and resurrection of the unique Christ.

Modern missionaries take their cue from Paul as they start with the religious experience and knowledge of God that people already have, and move towards God's ultimate revelation of himself in Jesus.

THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL ARE BASED ON THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS

The good news is that Jesus uniquely reveals God's thoughts and words and deeds, so that we can know that he is doing now and what his will is for us now.

Uniquely he shows us the Father as no one else can. (John 14:8-11).

Uniquely his death makes it possible for the just God of a just universe to accept us to himself as though we had never sinned.

Uniquely his resurrection makes it possible for him to dwell in us, not as a thought or a memory or an influence, but as a living, life-giving person.

Uniquely he has been made by God to be the Lord of all things. ("This Jesus whom ye crucified, God has made both Lord and Christ.")

If Jesus Christ is not unique, then Christianity as it has been proclaimed through the ages is arrogant nonsense. If he is unique "there is salvation in no other name."

CONVINCING PEOPLE OF THIS

If Jesus is unique and if there is "salvation in no other name", we still have the problem of convincing the world of that uniqueness and that salvation (liberation).

We can take out our Bibles and quote chapter and verse. We may convince a few that way if they still have some respect for the Bible.

We can draw attention to his matchless life and his influence through the centuries and ask people how they can explain such a person. A few may be intellectually convinced in a world where most people follow feelings rather than intellect.

The most convincing argument of course is the people in whom the unique Christ dwells. People who have been totally open to his power. People who know that salvation is more than a ticket to heaven and is liberation now from hang-ups, identity crises, pressures, conflicts, frustrations and sins, by the one of whom Peter said, "there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

DOMINICUS IN AMSTERDAM

Alan Matheson

"It was all in the papers
it did not take much space
And then, illegal labourer, I met you face
to face.
Your name I hardly can pronounce
You speak a foreign tongue
I, too, had read the papers and the story
lingered on.

I thought, like many others do:
'Illegal ones are wrong'
return them to their country
to the place where they belong.
They may feel sad and lonely and
desperately down,
but isn't tha a feeling
which at times
we all have known."

These words were written when a member of the congregation came to church one Sunday morning in Amsterdam to find scores of migrant workers taking refuge in her church.

A CHALLENGE

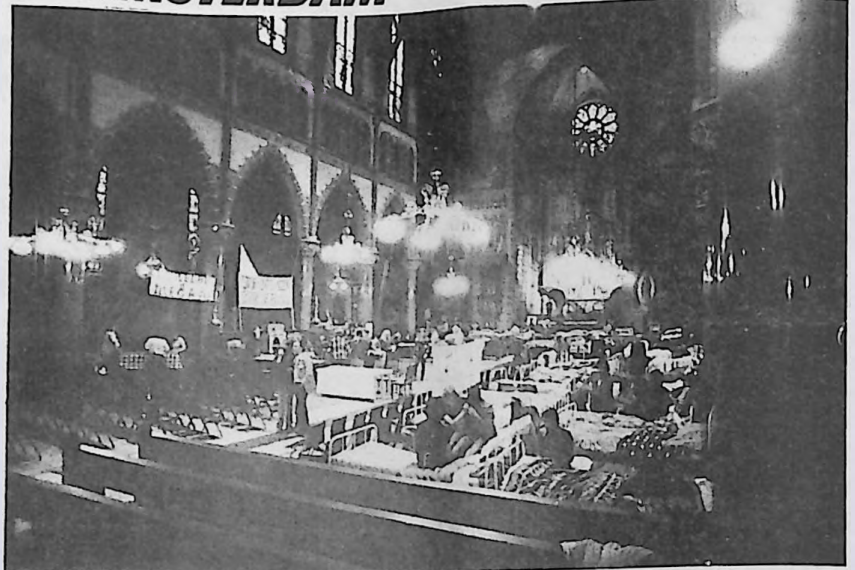
The W.C.C. Program to Combat Racism has been both the subject of strong support and of serious concern for many churches. To reflect on the past action of the program and to develop a strategy for combating racism in the eighties, a series of national and regional consultations were planned. All of these meetings were to culminate in a world meeting to be held in the Netherlands. Some 130 people gathered from all parts of the world in Noordwijkerhout in the Netherlands.

One evening during the meeting was given over to the Dutch churches to describe the situation in their community. As a part of that presentation, a Moroccan worker described what was happening to Moroccan, Turkish and Pakistani workers in Holland and how the churches were involved in helping them. He talked of how the churches were providing a refuge for workers who were threatened with deportation and what would happen to many of them should they be deported. He described how, under Dutch law, people had some protection if they sought refuge in a church. He challenged the conference to recognise that, even as they discussed the ravages of exploitation and racism, there were workers suffering but a few minutes from the conference doors. He issued an invitation to the participants to visit St. Dominicus, the church where some hundreds of workers had taken refuge. So we went.

THE VISIT

St. Dominicus is an old Catholic church towering above the narrow streets of Amsterdam. Across the road from the church the red light district of the city caters to endless lines of tourists. At each entrance of the church lookouts and guards keep constant vigilance. For the past five months this church had provided sanctuary for illegal workers. At the invitation of the congregation, workers had moved in and set up their 'homes'. Each Sunday some 600 regular worshippers meet in the church and share and plan with these illegal workers.

But inside! At any one time some



Inside the church of St. Dominicus.

hundreds of workers, members of the congregation and Dutch church organisations and trade unions are inside the building; more than 100 sleep, eat and wash there. "That's what I thought when I read your story in the press.

But now you stand before me and there is no need to guess at what your eyes are saying: 'Please do not send me back', and when I turn away I feel them pricking in my neck.

You are no more anonymous I call you by your name, timidly mumbling something like 'I sort of feel ashamed . . .'. I don't know what to say to you, you speak a foreign tongue, but in your eyes I read the words of quite a different song".

St Dominicus is a large church. Scattered and jammed into every nook and cranny are iron beds. Sagging coathangers are hooked on to the carved edges of the confessionals; a television aerial is tied across the front of the pulpit and a bicycle leans against a life size figure of St. Augustine.

And as we sat and talked, I thought of congregations back in Australia and wondered how they would have responded in such a situation. We become preoccupied with buildings. We talk of the church being more than the building. Yet we cling to buildings and all that they mean.

"Your eyes are staring right ahead, bewildered and dismayed, you don't know, if you have to go, where you should look for aid
You cannot understand it all, the thought you can't abide — and deep inside I know now: I'll be going at your side
muddling along with the oppressed, walking the lawless road and carrying my rightful portion of your heavy load;
sharing your fears and sorrow and the bitterness you feel,

knowing, I, too, must answer for your undeserved ordeal, sharing the hope and the despair reflected in your face.
To me you're not illegal.
You're the human race."

LANCE SHILTON AT BELGRAVE HEIGHTS

The Very Rev. Lance Shilton, Anglican Dean of Sydney, will be a speaker at this year's Belgrave Heights Christmas Convention. He will be speaking at five meetings including the Communion service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 4.

Other speakers will be Rev. Andrew MacRae, Professor in Evangelism, Mission and Church Growth at Arcadia Divinity College, Arcadia University, Nova Scotia, Canada, Major Ian Thomas D.S.O., Founder and Director Capernwray Missionary Fellowship, Rev. Arthur Cundall from London, Principal elect of the Bible College of Victoria and Captain J. Stuart Rodger a former Marine Captain and now an executive with the Shell Oil Company.

The Convention this year will commence a day later than usual with the 7 p.m. meeting on Saturday, December 27 and will conclude with the 3 p.m. meeting on Sunday, January 4. Programs are also arranged for children by the C.S.S.M. team and young teenagers are catered for each morning with special activities.

The Convention grounds at Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights feature ideal picnic facilities for day visitors and there is a well equipped caravan park on the grounds. Young people can be accommodated at youth camps run in conjunction with the Convention.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Convention Office, P.O. Box 4, Canterbury, 3126, or by phoning (03) 836 6839, A.H. (03) 439 6197.

QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE

The Queensland Conference is a week-long event of study, fellowship, business-sessions and worship. At the Ministers' Seminar at Camp Cal, Caloundra, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dr. Lloyd Jones led the ministers in studies of making the Gospel relevant.

Wednesday night was a worship focus. Thursday was Ladies' Day. Mrs Connie Roberts was appointed to the position of President of Q.C.W.A. for the second year. Her theme for 80/81 is "You shall be holy unto me" from 1 Peter 1:15. Friday was a worship focus and some machinery motions were discussed.

Saturday's emphasis was business sessions with notices of motions and reports from Departments and Committees. On Saturday night the Youth and Christian Education Department arranged an activity at Annerley. Toowoomba youth produced "Light Shine".

On Sunday, the combined Communion Service at Mayne Hall, University was a highlight with Dr. Jones preaching on "Jesus is Lord — in our Worshipping". At this service Ron Sansome newly elected President gave his theme "In all things love, love is the Greatest" from 1 Corinthians 13:13. At night, ministers from provincial centres were allocated to metropolitan churches to provide further fellowship.

Norm Watson the outgoing President can be justly proud of a week of witness to celebrate the 97th Annual Conference in Queensland.

— A. C. Male

MISSIONARY CONCERN

When the Missionary Fellowship of Wagga Wagga church heard of the proposal to build a Christian Centre at Madang they enlisted the support of the church. At the same time they were aware of the many requests for Bibles coming from China.

It was decided to have a Missionary Sunday on October 26 featuring both needs.

The Overseas Mission Board provided an audio-visual of the work on Vanuatu and Open Door provided an audio-visual of Project Pearl. Regular reports were given on both projects during the weeks prior to Mission Project Sunday.

The results: \$731 given for Madang and \$904 for Project Pearl. The appeal remains open until the end of November.

Lucy Scott, attending W.E.C. College of Tasmania, recorded on tape some of her experiences, including plans to participate in a mission at the Devonport Church of Christ. Lucy is supported by the church.

The Missionary Fellowship within the church sponsors missionary interest. Special projects are in addition to the regular giving of 15% of general offerings to Brotherhood activities and the regular faith giving which averages about \$450 per month.

—W.J. Caspersonn

"MR MYSTERY-HIKE" TURNS 90

Horace Hannam of the Maylands (S.A.) church turns 90 on December 18.

He is best known as the organiser of the Annual C.E. Mystery Hikes from 1932 to 1956. Each year 800 to 1,000 Christian Endeavourers spent a Saturday on a combined train ride and hike into the Adelaide Hills. The hikes culminated in a picnic rally. They belonged to a day when C.E. combined serious weeknight programs with Saturday social activities to make the Societies significant in winning young people for Christ and encouraging their discipleship.

Horace Hannam was also for any years the Maylands Sunday School visitor. He collected the names of absentees each Sunday morning and set off on his bike to visit them while Sunday School was still on. He also made many weeknight visits. He was sometimes called the "truancy inspector". His visits were at times when the whole family was at home, which is good sense pastoral calling. He endeared himself to all of the families and was instrumental in some of them coming to Christ. During his period of visitation the Maylands Sunday School climbed to over 400 and had the highest average attendance in the State.

TASMANIAN C.W.F. CAMP

Under the leadership of Mrs Lyn Birtwistle (State C.W.F. President) ably assisted by Peggy Cleaver (Camp Sec.) and Lyn Armstrong (State C.W.F. Sec.), 46 women from around the State and one from S.A. gathered at the Bicheno camp site. Constant rain was the weather pattern for the weekend.

Friday evening we were shown film of World Convention Highlights, and then introduced to Mrs Elsie Dyer, guest study leader, who in turn introduced the weekend study topic "Hannah, Woman of the Hour." The studies from 1 Sam 1 to 7 were challenging which made for excellent group discussion.

Singing is usually a feature of our camps, and Mrs June Younger led in this. Part of Saturday afternoon was devoted to "Hear-a-Tape" electives, and campers had options between: — "Why does God allow Suffering" by Dr Helen Rosevear; "The Christian Home" by Mrs Millie Dienert, and the Barbara McKay address given at Women's Conference.

Saturday evening was entitled "Switch on to BNO TV6" and some new talent was unleashed upon us in the form of skits based on T.V. adverts.

"Atonement" was the theme of the Sunday morning Communion Service led by Mrs Birtwistle.

WHERE TO GO AND STAY

<p>Balook Guest House 2,000 ft. above worry level Between Bulga and Tarra Valley National Parks, South Gippsland Fern Gullies, Lyre Birds', Wildlife, Scenic drives, Fishing, Home-cooked meals. Relax in Christian atmosphere and beautiful surroundings. Week-end Houseparties welcomed. Your hosts: Peter & Ruth Richmond & Ken & Judy Danes, Balook, Vic., 3971 Phone Mount Tassie (051) 96 6141</p>	<p>POINT LONSDALE HOLIDAY FLATS Clean, modern self-contained flats with 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms Spacious lawns, gardens Sited on beach front overlooking Bay and Shipping Tariff on application Write Mr J. Clay, Beach House, Point Lonsdale, 052 52 1417</p>	<p>RYE (Vic.) Small S.C. Flat Acc. 4 Close to beach and shops. (not available Christmas) May & Wes Jenkins (059) 85 2607</p>
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See your Church Agent, or contact Churches of Christ

Department of Community Care
52 La Trobe Street,
Melbourne. 3000 Phone (03) 662 1411

1981 SYDNEY COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Major Sydney welfare organisations are now looking for 30,000 volunteers who will collect 1,000,000 tins of food for the poor, next February.

The Annual Community Food Drive, sponsored by The Smith Family and the welfare departments of the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches, intends to call on every home in Sydney.

The eight agencies pack the tins collected into hampers and distribute them to a wide range of people, including the

single parent families, aged pensioners and other disadvantaged people.

In 1981 one MILLION tins of food will be needed in order to meet the increased demand for welfare assistance. In 1980 volunteers collected just under 400,000 tins. Many of the agencies had used all their stocks by September.

The biggest problem is getting enough collectors. The target for 1981 is to have 30,000 volunteers to call on every house in the Sydney Metropolitan area. Youth groups of the participating churches provide the majority of these collectors.

DANDENONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

CALLS A MINISTER FOR JANUARY 1982

This Church seeks a man with an Evangelistic and Pastoral approach to the Ministry; with leadership experience; and dedication to challenge and direct the Membership in all aspects of Christian growth and involvement with the community.

Contact the Secretary:

P. M. Jenkins,
8 Regnans avenue,
Endeavour Hills, Vic. 3802.
Phone (03) 700 1277

at the summer school for successful ministry

Vision Valley, Arcadia, New South Wales

A unique conference for all ministers, pastors, Christian leaders and their families in one of Australia's finest holiday settings. Already 300 ministers and 1,500 church leaders have attended previous sessions.

Among the speakers will be Bishop Chandu Ray, Dr Alan Walker, Bishop Jack Dain, Rev. Brian Willersdorf, Dr Robert Hillman, Rev. John Graham, Mr Kevin Crawford, Mrs Judy Proudfoot, Dr Jim Donaldson, Mrs Pauline Hubner, Mr Chris Veitch and Rev. Gordon Moyes.

Over 100 proven programs for the growth of local congregations will be presented.

Single conference delegates \$60 all inclusive, Special family rates include all accommodation, bed linen, conference fees, meals, morning and afternoon teas, suppers, lecture notes, horse and pony rides, swimming pool and canoe rides.

This program has been so successful that there has been no fee rise for the last six annual Summer Schools.

Ring for a brochure and booking (02) 267 8741.
Wesley Central Mission
Superintendent: Rev Gordon Moyes.

The 1981 Community Food Drive will take place from Saturday February 14 — Sunday March 1, 1981.

The Community Food Drive urgently need your help. Even one person collecting for an hour adds significantly to the total. For further information please contact the Community Food Drive Secretary on (02) 31 0222 during working hours.

TOOWOOMBA CHURCHES 30th FAMILY CAMP

Camp Cal 23rd-26 January 1981

Past Campers Invited

For information contact

Horace Christensen

19 Glandower St., Toowoomba

Greetings appreciated

BRIGHTON

Church of Christ

Our minister Mr Harold Bischoff commenced his first student ministry 50 years ago. Past members and friends are invited to a service of recognition

on

Sunday, December 14th

at 11 a.m.

90th Church Anniversary

ROSEVALE, QLD.

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE 90th ANNUAL PICNIC. NEW YEAR'S DAY 1981.

10.00 a.m. Games etc. followed by LUNCH

3.00 p.m. "ALONG MEMORY LANE"

7.00 p.m. EVENING RALLY with JOY TONES and MR DENBY HOLMES

2nd and 3rd JANUARY 7.30 p.m. evenings RALLIES

4th January Services at Rosevale

10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

MR HOLMES WILL BE SPEAKER AT ALL ABOVE RALLIES AND SERVICES "BACK TO ROSEVALE"

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N.S.W. 2010

SMALL GROUPS SEMINAR WITH JOHN MALLISON



John Mallison leading seminar.

A murmur of discovery filled the auditorium as 25 groups of interested people laughed, shared, studied, prayed and learnt together. Seminar leader, John Mallison, deftly glided from group to group, listening, questioning, joking, in-

spiring and generally enabling the learners to grow in their understanding of the small group potential.

At times the congregation of 180 were locked together in interest at the revelations opening up before them. At other times questions were being fired . . . "What can be done to make groups come alive?" "How can you stop a small group from becoming a clique?" "What should be done for the quiet person who never says a word?" John answered each with clarity and skill.

Ideas, theory, resources and theology were mixed in to provide the ingredients of this worthwhile, yet brief day of experience and learning run by the Vic.-Tas. Department of Mission, Education and Development.

SMALL GROUPS AND OUTREACH

Topics covered by John Mallison included Why Small Groups?, Types of

Small Groups, the Organisation of Small Groups in the life of the church, Relationships in Small Groups, and How to Evaluate Group Life. An important part of the presentation was Using Small Groups in Evangelism. At one stage the groups were given the task of brainstorming to discover ways in which groups could be applied to the outreach programme of the church. The resulting lists are being collated and will be available at the Department of Mission, Education & Development (03) 662 2377.

MALLISON'S BOOKS

Also available at the Dept. of Mission, Education & Development are the two extremely helpful books by John Mallison — "Building Small Groups in the Christian Community" and "Creative Ideas for Small Groups in the Christian Community?"

In the new year George Warren will be ready, upon request, to run follow up Small Group Seminars in churches wanting to explore the potential of these for outreach and growth.

STIMULATING AND REFRESHING

" . . . a stimulating and refreshing day." "We found the day to be exciting and challenging." "We appreciated the good organisation of time and materials which allowed us to get a small taste of all the benefits of small groups." These are just some of the comments of appreciation received through letters and telephone calls.

If your church was one of the 30 represented at the seminar, how are you going to capitalize on their discoveries?

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Until December 19, **TRADING PARTNERS** is open in Melbourne, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Willard House, 46 Russell St., Melbourne, and in Geelong, Legacy House, Ryrie St., selling cottage handicrafts from third world villages, and from Thai refugee camps.

THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

EVENING CLASSES 1981

Taught in conjunction with Whitley College as part of the Evangelical Theological Association

BIBLICAL STUDIES 1: Old Testament Prophets and Pauline Epistles. Mondays 7.30-10 p.m.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 1: Introduction to Theological Studies. Thursdays 7.30-10 p.m.

CHURCH HISTORY 11A: Mediaeval and Reformation History. Tuesdays 7.30-10 p.m.

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

For further details contact:

DR. W. TABBERNEE, DEAN, E.T.A.,
C/O COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE,
7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, 3146
Phone (03) 25 6541

JANUARY AT DONCASTER

Sunday morning at Doncaster in January is a highlight in the Church's calendar. Many visitors to Melbourne and people from the community take the opportunity to share the experience of this service. This year is no exception — with Kevin and Elizabeth Baxter — A Children's spot — a warm experience of worship — a sermon directed to need AND an opportunity for fellowship in the Church Hall after the Service — all blending together to make this a delightful Sunday morning experience.

ONE MORNING SERVICE AT 9.15 a.m.

January 4 "What Does it Take to Satisfy You?"

January 11 "Being Open to the Impossible"

January 18 "Dare to Take a Chance"

January 25 "The Lord of the Circumstances"

PREACHER AT ALL SERVICES KEITH HORNE

The Church is located at the corner of Doncaster Road and Short Street and further information can be obtained by phoning 848 1548.

SUNDAY EVENING

This year there will be a 45 minute service at 7.00 p.m. and the features will include — An organ recital with Gwenda Schleiger (B Mus) — Guests Artists — Pastoral Prayer Time — Scripture for today.

A CHURCH AT THE HEART OF A CITY

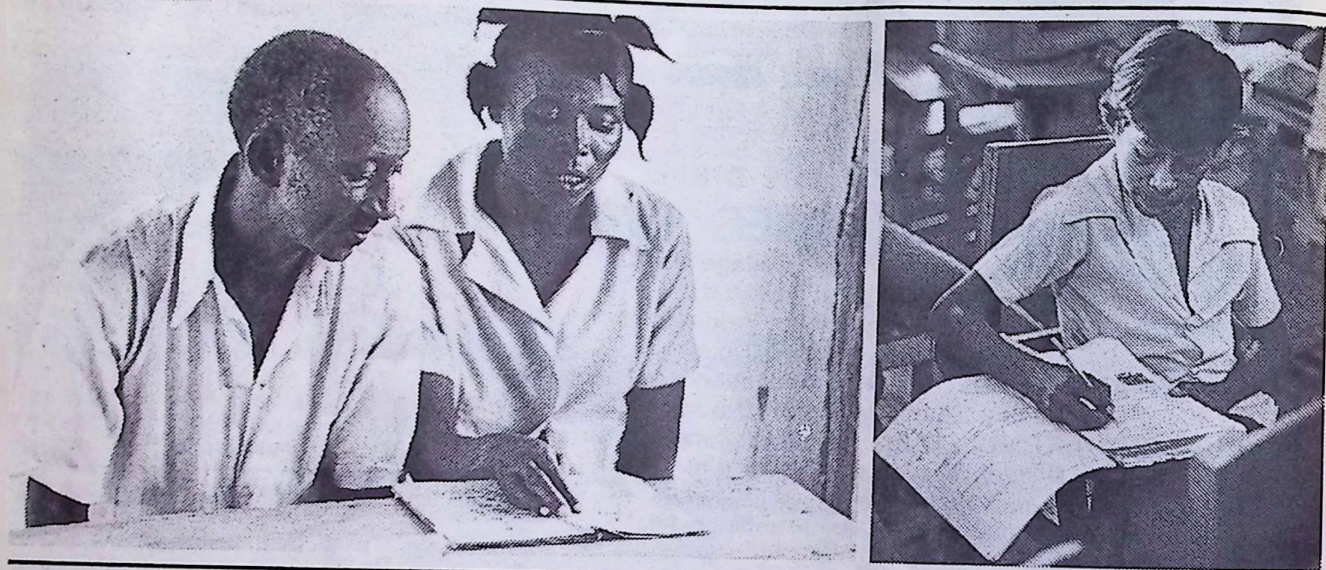


WITH THE CITY ON ITS HEART

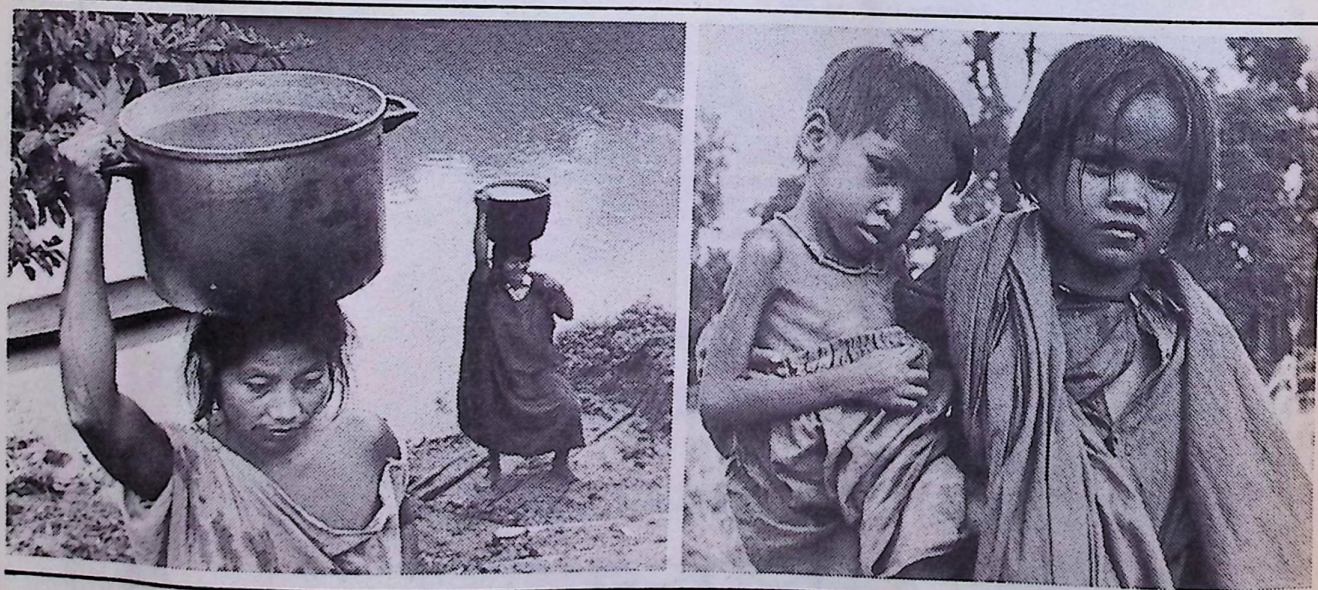
doncaster
church of christ



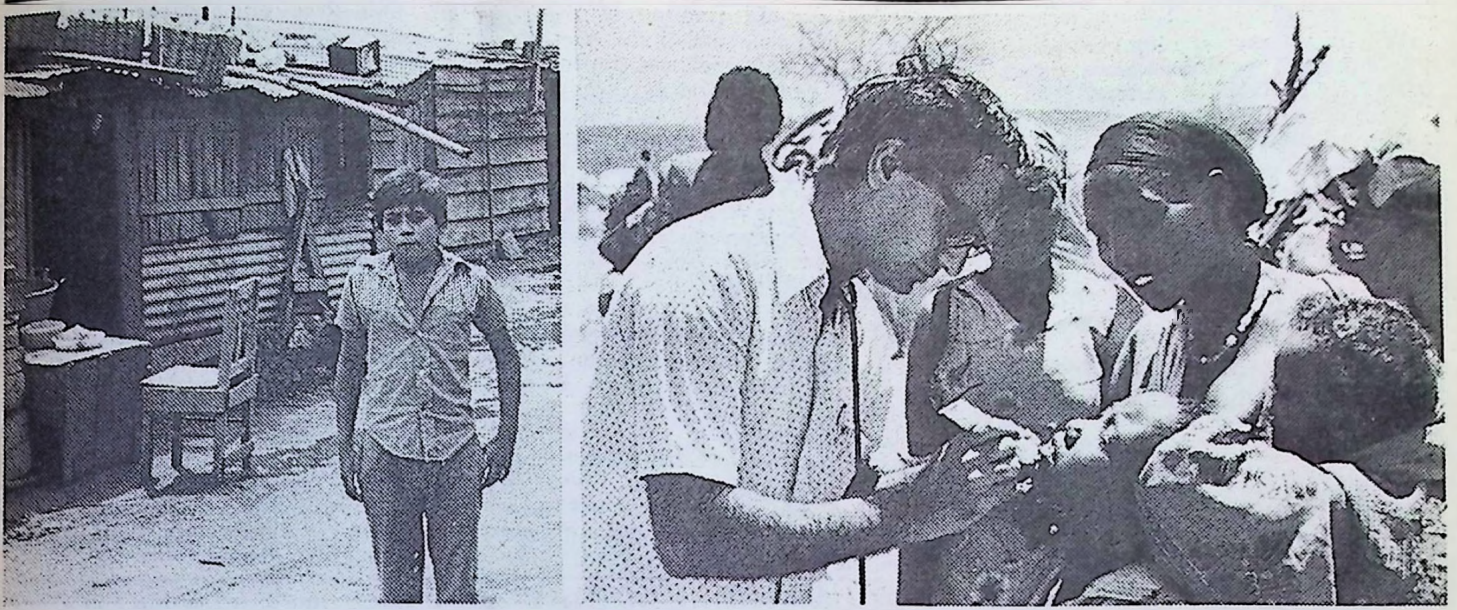
JESUS' COMMISSION:



To preach the Good News to the poor



To proclaim liberty to the captives . . .



To set free the oppressed,
To announce the year when the Lord
will save his people.

Jesus' Commission: World Vision's Mission

World Vision is a team of people who share the mission of Jesus. We are concerned with the poor, refugees and children. With the poor we seek to give them hope through self-reliance. With refugees we seek to give them dignity through compassion. With children we seek to give them a future through the development of their potential.

In all these areas of concern World Vision has one aim, ministering to the need of people to make each of them a whole person. While our work has grown in breadth we care for each individual, each community and its environment.

World Vision is growing but so are the world's problems. We are able to do a lot because you care. We need **you**. Please fill in the coupon and send it to us. Ask for details about any of our projects. We look forward to hearing from you.

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- World Vision International Clubs for women
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- I'd like to make a \$ _____ donation
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I would like to pay by Bankcard

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Signed _____

GIFTS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

HOBART'S TWO IMPORTANT DECISIONS

At a recent special members meeting two important decisions were made.

CONTINUATION OF MINISTRY

Firstly, the church overwhelmingly supported the Board's decision to invite **John and Shirley Morrow** to extend their ministry at Hobart for an indefinite period, from the end of 1981. The Morrrows moved to Hobart four years ago after a ministry at **East Bentleigh, Vic.** The church is looking forward to the future under the team ministry of **George Powell** and **John Morrow**.



John and Shirley Morrow

BETHANY DAY CARE CENTRE

Miss **Shirley Byard** is now in her third year with **Bethany Day Care Centre** after 15 years in the **Bethany Children's Home**. Shirley is a qualified Child Care Worker and will be the only single foster parent in Tasmania next year when she fosters **Carolyn**.

Until December, 1980, the **Bethany Day Care Centre** was supported by the **Vic. Tas. Department of Community Care** and the **Tasmanian Convention of Churches of Christ**. From January, 1981, the operation of the **Bethany Day Care Centre** will be sponsored and guaranteed by the **Hobart Churches of Christ**.

The day-to-day running expenses are met through **Government funding** and **family contributions**. To maintain the **Centre Shirley** requires a subsidy to cover **accommodation** and **car depreciation**.

While it's believed that the **Bethany Day Care Centre** can be more effectively managed by the local congregations, the work remains part of the ministry of **Vic/Tas. Church of Christ** and we are looking for the continued support of individuals and groups.

— G. Powell

STOP PRESS

C.O.B. FACULTY CHANGE

As announced elsewhere in this issue the **College Board** has released **Dr Keith Farmer** to take up the position of **Principal** of the **N.S.W. Theological College**. Arrangements are already being made to ensure that the practical ministry subjects which **Keith Farmer** was to teach at **C.O.B.** in 1981 will be taken by competent and experienced ministers.

A **Working Group** of the **Board** is currently planning for the replacement of **Keith Farmer** as a member of faculty by someone of similar practical experience and ability.

PRESIDENTS' CLUB!

A two-year-old tradition of bringing together ex-Presidents of the **Victorian-Tasmanian Conference** was continued at **Glen Waverley** on Sunday, November 23.

13 former Presidents and their wives and four widows of deceased presidents accepted the invitation of the present Conference President, **Ron Elbourne**, and of the **State Executive**, to the **Glen Waverley morning service**, and to lunch.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

The honoured guests took no official part in the service, but rather worshipped meaningfully with the congregation under the leadership of young adult, **Wendy Bienvenu**. She and five other young adults participating in the service had been baptised by **Ron Elbourne** during his 10 year ministry at **Glen Waverley**. Wendy's worship theme was the cross as evidence of God's full and continuing participation in our humanity, in our suffer-

ing and joys, and in his world. **Ron Elbourne** spoke of the daily calling forth of his sheep by the **Good Shepherd**, to follow him and to receive life from him in the world. It was worship of a high order.

SUNDAY LUNCH

In welcoming the past Presidents **Ron Elbourne** made special mention of **Robert Geyer** who had laid hands on him at the time of his ordination.

After the service the official party shared lunch with the **Elders and Deacons** of the **Glen Waverley church**, and three Presidents reminisced. Memory tints past events with pathos and humour.

Two past Presidents came from interstate with their wives, **Graham and Glenda Gilmour** from **A.C.T.** and **Geoff and Molly Foot** from **Tasmania**. Of the 104 past Presidents only 29 are still living. Six of these are interstate. Four were not well enough to attend.

ECUMENICAL SOCIAL ACTION

For some years representatives from **The Wattle Park** and **Hartwell Churches of Christ** have combined with representatives from six churches of other denominations in this district, namely the **Uniting, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches** on this council.

The **Social Action Committee** of the **Council** has the special purpose of working through each year to give caring **Christian support** such as transporting sick people for treatment, assistance in various ways in children's homes, helping families in cases of illness, and sharing in **Manning Street collection posts** in shopping areas for the **Christmas Bowl**. **Ecumenical services** are held quarterly in the various churches, and all combine for a **Christmas Festival of Music**.

For the past 10 years the **Social Action Committee** has held a **Progressive Dinner**. All the churches share in providing the meal at their various venues, and all join

for a final time of fellowship and to enjoy a program.

450 people attended the dinner held recently and \$1,530 was raised. This amount has been raised annually over the years, and is given to different needy causes in this large district.

The fellowship with Christians from other churches and wider knowledge of the work of other Christians in our area is a rewarding experience for all members. We believe that this ecumenical work is a continuing witness in the community of Christians working together as Christ would have us do.

— E.R. Scambler

MARION (E. P. C. Hollard). Four baptised at morning service . . . Ladies conducted gospel service.

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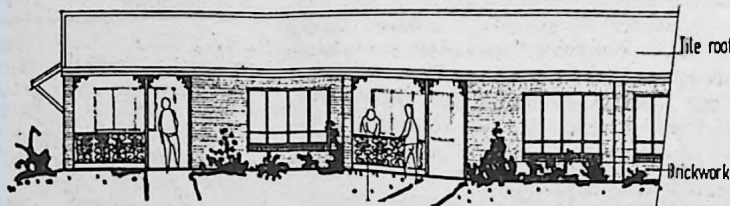
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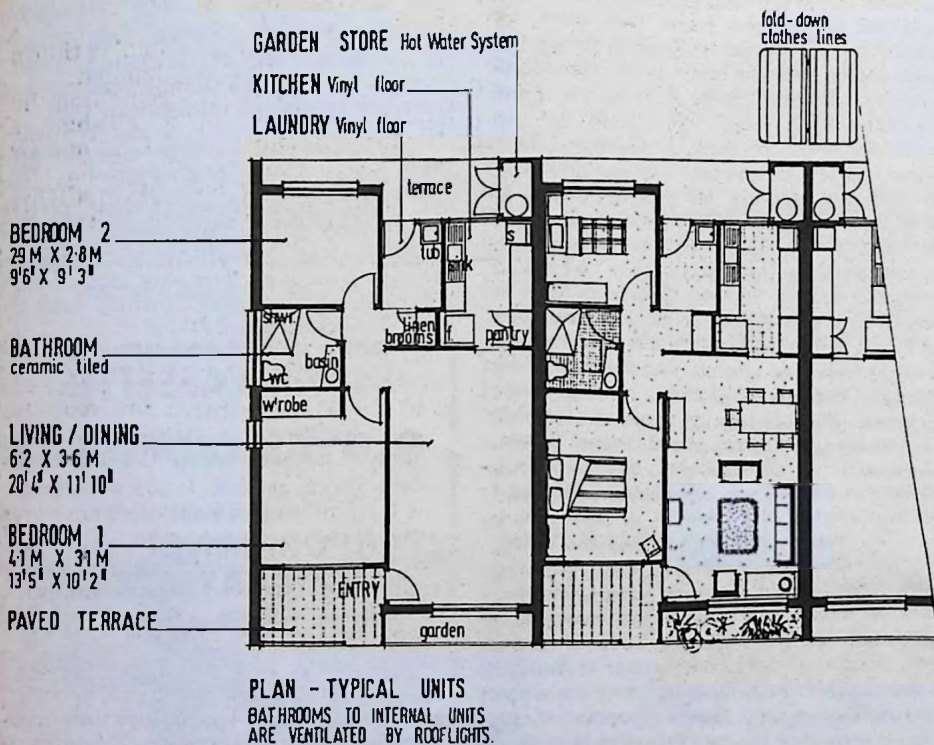


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OBITUARY

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

BLANCHARD, Sydney Algernon (21.10.1980). Mr Blanchard was born at Chinchilla in 1899. In 1923 he married Mona Brown. Mr Blanchard loved the word of God and the Scriptures were read twice daily in the home. Because of his love of God and the desire to spread the gospel Mr Blanchard was a faithful supporter of the Bible Society and was a life member. Mr Blanchard was for 25 years a linotype operator and was also for many years a farmer. In later life Mr Blanchard took a great interest in the Chinchilla and District Historical Museum. He was for many years Secretary, Manager and Publicity Officer for the Historical Society only resigning because of ill health. Last year he was made a life member of the Historical Society. Left to mourn his loss are his wife, daughter Gladys (Mrs (Mrs V. Fiedler), son Eric, seven grandchildren and five great-children.

DIGGENS, Maureen Patricia
The Diggins family came to Chinchilla in the early '60s Mr Diggins was the Council dogger and while in the rough country after dingos he became interested in rock hunting. Maureen shared this interest and they were for many years members of the local Lapidary Club. At the age of 10 Mrs Diggins was stricken with polio and though handicapped she was a devoted mother and an industrious housewife. Mrs Diggins contact with the Church of Christ came about when the late Fred Davis took her children to Sunday School. She became interested in the ideals of our churches through the ministry of Barry Rice. She attended prayer meetings and joined the Christian Women's Fellowship. In 1970 Mrs Diggins was baptised and received into church membership. For several years she was treasurer of the C.W.F. but relinquished this office because of ill health. She died peacefully after a long illness. Then church offers sympathy to her husband Kelly and daughters Ivy and Vicki.

EVANS, Dorothy (10.11.80) Dorothy's sudden and unexpected death came as a shock to all who knew her. She was aged 42 and had just recently been advised of a pending appointment to Deputy Principal at Rosebud High School. Dorothy joined the church at Bambra Rd., Caulfield. She chose teaching as her profession and after taking qualifying degrees from Toorak Teachers College and Monash University she taught at Jordanville and Monash High Schools before being appointed as a lecturer at Goroka Teachers College P.N.G. On returning to Australia she took up an appointment at Rosebud. She took up active membership with the Red Hill church. She was an efficient and respected teacher and was given many responsible positions within the school. One year she was nominated "most popular teacher" by the students. She took a personal interest in her students and would visit their homes to talk with their parents when she felt this would be helpful. For relaxation she enjoyed golf and she also entertained many friends. While not a regular attender at church she maintained a consistent and real interest in the church

and was loyal in her support of the Lord's work. At all times she manifested a strong stand on Christian principles and influenced many young people by her firm but kindly approach to life. J. Fraser, the Principal of Rosebud High School paid a fine tribute to her personal and teaching qualities and Chaplain R. McKenzie spoke of his early association with her while at Bambra Rd. Church. The service was conducted in the Red Hill church and later at the Dromana cemetery by A. R. Pigdon. — A.R.P.

FENN, Donald George (14.10.80) To live and yet be slowly blocked out of the lives of those with whom and for whom you have lived calls for tremendous faith and courage on the part of that person and his loved ones. Don Fenn and his wife and family showed all of the qualities associated with such an experience. Stricken with a disease which slowly wasted him away, Don was an object of faith and courage. He lost the power of speech, and his eyes became his voice, and through those eyes there shone his continuing personality. Then on October 14 he died with his family close by. Don was born in Adelaide and was associated with Churches of Christ through all his life. He was a young man at Mile End church, and there married Dorothy Thompson, in 1951, to begin a life together. The passage of years and service took them to churches at old Chapel Street, Norwood, to Semaphore, Warrnambool, Keith and Ascot Park. Then towards the end he was part of the melding of Ascot Park and Clovelly Park churches into the newly formed Marion church. In that growing enterprise he and Dorothy gave unstinting service. Every task offered him was gladly accepted, so he served in Boys' Brigade, was Superintendent and teacher in Sunday Schools, Deacon almost wherever he went. By profession Don was a pharmacist, ultimately owning his own business in several places. In every phase of church life Dorothy stood alongside him and shared, responsibilities and privileges. When Don was sinking, the church which he loved and which loved him, gave a demonstration of caring and love which bound them all together in a sense of what ministry is all about. At the funeral service the large attendance of business associates, fellow Christians and friends was ample testimony to a life well lived and honoured. The marriage saw the coming of three children, Peter, Trevor and Margaret, and to them and their mother, Dorothy, a host of friends say, "thank you for sharing him with us . . . to know him was to see faith in action . . . and a life like that speaks to us all in our onward journey". — Eric Hollard.

HOLT, Lena Helen (18.9.1980). Mrs Gill Holt, an old and well loved identity of the Chinchilla-Hopeland district, died after a short illness. She was born at Minyip, Victoria, in 1900. S. C. Flett brought his family to Queensland in 1907 and took up a property in the Hopeland district. In 1930 Lena married Gilbert Holt and they continued in the Kogan and Hopeland district. Lena's life interests were her church and her family. For some years she was a Sunday School teacher and organist. She was often called upon as a counsellor on spiritual problems. She was a capable tennis player. Well loved and respected she will be sadly missed by many. She is survived by her husband, Gill,

three daughters Elva (Mrs Eric Blanchard, Hopeland), Joyce (Mrs Ron Sansome, Toowoomba) and Hazel (Mrs Selwyn Dickfos, Brisbane) and one son Cliff, also 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MELTON, (J. Midgley). B.S. and worship commence together at 10 a.m. and finish (in two groups) at 11.15 . . . Church and B.S. picnic held on Wycliffe property at Kangaroo Grounds . . . Church participated in Melton's "Community Service Time" . . . WROC Prayer Meeting hosted . . . Minister's son baptised at combined C. of C./Wesleyan Methodist service . . . Jim Midgley moving to new ministry at Maitland (N.S.W.) January . . . Church planned to link with Werribee in circuit ministry in 1981.

BENTLEIGH (Chris MacKenzie). Parent child dedication service held. After service farewell for Gay, Carl, Jeffrey and Charyn Brown as they leave for P.N.G. to continue their missionary work . . . Ed Bishop showed his film on Israel. Mr and Mrs Ken Townley from J.E.W. guests at evening. Mrs Townley sang and Mr Townley spoke.

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PENDLE HILL (R. Bassett). Church family outings have included the Conference Monday at Stanwell Tops and a theatre party . . . Temple Day response resulted in reduction of manse debt by over \$2,500 . . . Family camp planned . . . C.W.F. having Christmas luncheon.

GREENACRE (Garry Towle, Dennis Nutt, Peter Holt). Boys' Brigade participated in Founders Day march . . . Bethel group completed first year with assignment and night out . . . B.S. Anniversary attracted 230 people for gospel presented through song, verse and play and fellowship tea with parents and

children . . . Games and fellowship feature of family night . . . C.W.F. held annual Christmas program for pensioners of area, providing entertainment, supper and gifts for 100 . . . Church supporting Dennis Nutt as he commences full-time lecturing at Carlingford Theological College. 1981.

THORNLEIGH (D.W. Mansell). For B.S. Anniversary guest speaker at Kindergarten Session was Miss J. Gordon, D.C.E. Ted Bjorem lecturer at the C. of C. Bible College guest speaker at evening service. The program presented by Upper School.

INVERELL (R. A. Powell). Ian and Heather Morton, presently at Berkley Vale, have accepted ministry invitation from 1981 . . . Bundles of used clothes and some Christmas gifts transported to

Tamworth Aboriginal church . . . C.W.F. entertained senior citizens at "Cooinda" . . . New 16mm projector purchased . . . S.S. anniversary held. Peter Wakeley guest speaker . . . Tracey Powell will spend 12 months as Rotary exchange student in Japan.

TWEED HEADS, COOLANGATTA (L. Wylie). Mother and daughter baptised. One other baptism . . . Folding wall added to hall and four electric fans supplied by C.W.F. . . . Don Bartrim, junior church Principal, returning to Murwillumbah . . . Mr and Mrs L. Wylie will conclude a five year ministry mid February, 1982. . . Ron Kallmier, N.S.W. Director of Dept. of C.E., spend weekend with church instructing teachers and youth workers and also spoke at both services.

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The President of Federal Conference, **Barry Grear**, conducted the Ordination which followed the Graduation Ceremony of the College of the Bible on November 14.

Ordinants who represented the Australian churches in the laying on of hands were: **Ken Collins**, **Herb Prime** and **Graeme Strudwich** of South Australia, **Keith Robinson** of Western Australia, **Miriam Holloway**, **Barry Ryall**, **Helen Banks**, **Alf White**, **Jim Wright**, **Les Dewberry**, **Geoff Page** and **Bruce Graham** of Victoria.

Those who were ordained (and the churches to which they have been called) were: **Peter Broadbent** to **Warragul (Vic.)**, **Wayne Clinton** to **Elizabeth (S.A.)**, **Stephen Curkpatrick** to **Salisbury East (S.A.)**, **Tim Hanna** to **Kalamunda (W.A.)**, **Iris Lawson** to **Boronia (Vic.)**, **Stan Mott** to **Dalkeith Road (W.A.)**, **Grant Simpson** to **Morwell (Vic.)**, **Arthur Tanner** to **Prospect and Kilburn (S.A.)**, **Peter Wells** to **Hampstead Gardens (S.A.)**, **Bruce Williams** to **Eastern Hills (W.A.)**, **Ron Wilson** to **Gatton and Ma Ma Creek (Qld.)**, and **Ken Wray** to **Nailsworth (S.A.)**. The prayers of the congregation were representative of the many in the Brotherhood who would express their support and joy for those who were ordained.

PAINLESS CHRISTMAS DRINKING

End of year festivities without the traditional hangovers are a definite possibility this year. You can choose from 100 non-alcoholic wines as alternatives.

A new Victorian company formed in July 1980 plans to make a major impact on the drinking public as the end of year festivities draw near. NIBco (the non-intoxicating Beverage Company) has been established by a merger of the two non-alcoholic wine retailers in Melbourne, **Non-Al Cellars** and **Diamondvale Non Alcoholic Wines**.

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OLD

AVENELL HEIGHTS (Brian Francis). Covenant Players at C.W.F. morning tea and stalls helped raise funds towards new church building fund . . . Pastor's daughter Ruth, joining Covenant Players in January . . . Fellowship luncheons and soup and sandwich nights held alternately one Sunday each month . . . 24 baptisms to end of October with six baptisms and 10 re-dedications in November . . . Fund raising committee of C.W.F. working towards carpet fund for new church . . . Walls and roof of new church building being built by voluntary labour.

KEDRON (David Hamilton). Kedron host church for Northside World Community Day Service when Fellowship of Least Coin was presented and dedicated . . . Young Adults organised special afternoon for the third year of gathering of the aged Telelinkers. (A gathering of shut-ins linked by phone each week for devotional period of half hour — three groups — about 40 participate.) . . . Men's Fellowship held evening with Rev. Ed Smith, Cross Roads, introducing International Year of Disabled . . . Young Adults breakfast took form of Hawaiian barbecue.

REDCLIFFE (A. Taylor). Church celebrated 24th church anniversary. Randall Edwards, Lecturer, Kenmore, speaker. Items given by Roy and Gordon Fenney and Kay Smith. Thank offering \$2290 for building fund . . . Rosevale Y.P. visited for youth exchange weekend . . . Redcliffe and Kippering B.S. held happening on new land . . . Dr and Mrs L.E. Jones visitors prior to State Conf. . . A. Taylor to continue ministry 1981. Don Napier B.S. Supt.

PINE RIVERS (Malcolm Chandler). October 17-19 weekend titled "Let God Touch You" held with Graham Barber from Nambour and song leader Sam Kemp from Boondall. Items by Redcliffe youth, Mrs Julie Flood and own choral group . . . Stephen Male baptised in home pool followed by church family lunch in nearby park . . . Colin Smith, Social Services Chaplain to Homes, Hospitals and Prisons, spoke on three Sunday evenings . . . Pine Rivers well represented at first Sunshine Coast Fellowship held at Bribie Island.

RINGWOOD (K. & S. Ludgater). House survey conducted in new estates . . . Family concert held . . . Bike-a-thon raised \$180 towards Explorers' service project . . . Community Centre held open day display . . . Planning for mission with Bruce Leslie of Campaigners for Christ underway . . . Youth camp held at Blairgowrie . . . Gary Hone, Melissa and Malcolm Lawn members of Ringwood Festival Orchestra which won competition at Ballarat . . . 9.15 family service attendances increasing.

DANDENONG (W. J. Edwards). Minister now at home progressing slowly . . . Interim minister Peter Rama Rau still taking services . . . Six Y.P. made decisions, seven have been baptised . . . Youth tea held in home of David and Eris Thane. Peter Rama Rau led study.

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SO

ALDGATE VALLEY (James Dow). Church celebrated 93rd church anniversary. Four Y.P. including the minister's two sons baptised. Many visitors present including many from Balaklava. Luncheon held after the service . . . Arts and crafts day raised \$760 for the Bible Society.

STRATHALBYN, MILANG, POINT STURT (H. Prime). Four commitments to Christ at Strathalbyn S.S. Anniversary . . . Gerald Rose, D.C.E., preacher at morning service followed by luncheon for S.S. staff . . . Community Bus from Strath used for circuit rallies at Milang and Point Sturt . . . H. Prime accepted further three year term beginning 1981 . . . Strath Youth Group majors on school years 7-9 . . . Point Sturt, packed for anniversary rally. Party of nine came from Flinders Park . . . H. Prime attended C.O.B. Graduation service as ordinant.

CROYDON (Rex Chamberlain). Croydon hosted 4 km churches rally. 180 heard Joe Lindsoe, at present at Magill church on exchange from U.S.A. . . . Morning service featured B.S. students as part of the activities to commemorate 200 years of S.S. Following the service a picnic lunch in Botanic Park was held . . . C.W.F. celebrated 25th birthday with a social evening.

TOAS

LAUNCESTON (M.D. Hamilton, R.J. Allison). Peter de Wildt has accepted invitation to join ministry team in 1982 . . . Rob Head, Wycliffe Bible Translators, showed audio-visual . . . Underground evangelism film screened . . . T.J. Wilmot improving.

VIC

SUNSHINE (F. B. Alcorn, E. M. West). Eight attended W.R.O.C. dinner at Strathmore . . . \$97 sent to both Werribee and Gisborne churches . . . Ladies raised \$207 from street stall . . . Dedication of family room extension to chapel . . . Ray Horwood appointed Elder . . . Ron Elbourne, Conf. Pres., speaker at 54th anniversary. Thank offering of \$1381 to go to Overseas Missions, Ron and Glenice Liff, Shirley Strong (W.E.C.) and Wendy Freeman (H.C.J.B.) . . . Marge Hounsell new C.W.A.F. president . . . Family tea held at Glengala before B.S. anniversary service.

THORNBURY (W. Clinton, C. Jones). Ian Adams and family have accepted call to ministry commencing Feb. 1981 . . . This year's project to raise \$3,100 for World Vision self-help training program in Sevasedan, India . . . Girl's Club performed musical play on Jonah at morning

service . . . Julie Reid, Pascoe Vale, took morning service involving S.S. . . . Several boys from Boys' Club took an evening service.

BLACK ROCK (Theo and Alison Mackaay). Theo and Alison to continue for another 12 months . . . Joint boards of Black Rock and Hampton met to discuss future co-operation. Aim for full-time

minister in 1982. Ian Tippet spoke on behalf of Dept. M.E.D. Churches combined for service of commitment and dedication followed by barbecue at Jells Park . . . Questionnaires distributed to ascertain who lives in area and what interest there is in the church and Christianity . . . Bible studies now held in private homes.

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AVR5070

WOD

SOUTH PERTH (K. Denton, L. Cox). Final Come Alive crusade for the year held ... K. Denton at Whyalla for mission in September and at Telopea for mission in November ... Bob Brown recent speaker ... Ralph and Irene Mitchell, missionaries from Indonesia, given welcome luncheon ... Quiz Night to support David Stanford in Venture for Victory Basketball ... Ladies paid visit to missionary Shirley Birch at Roelands ... Singing group Family at Gospel Services ... Marj Johnston died at Bunbury. Mrs. Rose Chapman's death also occurred.

ARMADALE, KELMSCOTT (Des Nelson). 130 at Gospel services. Steady growth with decisions for Christ ...

Building of brick and tile chapel creating interest ... Des Nelson recent speaker at annual Albany Men's convention and shared in teaching mission at Inglewood church ... B.S. combined with Thornlie for picnic at the property of W. Horner ... Young marrieds group growing ... Home Bible studies held ... Members showing hospitality to one another ... Voting taking place for new Officers' Board ... Homemakers held final meeting for year.

CARNARVON (Barrie Yesberg), S.S. anniversary held Festival of Song. 120 children were seated on a tiered platform especially erected in the chapel for the occasion. Puppet theatre included. Junior S.S. dressed in national costume depicting message that gospel is for all the world ... Minister and others spent weekend sharing in worship with the Roebourne church. Further visits planned ... Miss Debbie Hoepfner has returned

to Adelaide after helping for several weeks at Ingada Village.

MANDURAH (M. Suter). Two young men, R. Suter and M. Williams teaching in B.S. ... National costumes worn by children at combined service of "One World" for Christ. Ishmael Bangga from Vanuatu special speaker. Supper dishes represented other countries too ... Church saddened by death of G. Croyton ... Manse building taking shape ... C.W.F. visited Bethesda Hospital.

NORTHAM (M. Randell). Attendances increasing at both services ... 12 baptisms and one rededication in recent weeks ... Y.P. groups recent speakers Denzil Humphries and Graham Laycock ... Choir assisted at Fremantle's 88th anniversary ... G. D. Carslake spoke on H.M. and David Stanford on Venture for Victory basketball tour ... C.W.F. giving Christmas cheer to Aborigines, missionaries and Avon Ward at hospital.

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

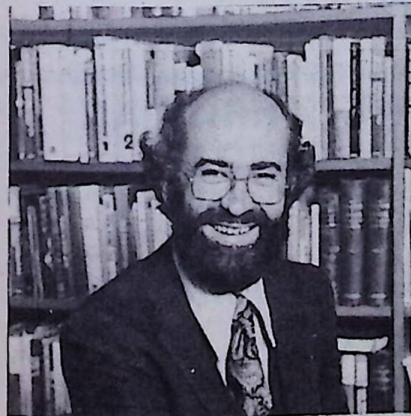
Friday, February 20th, 1981, 7.45 p.m.
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RECOGNITION OF

GORDON STIRLING

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and 45 years of ministry



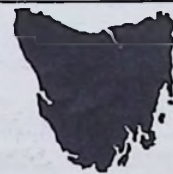
INDUCTION OF

DR BILL TABBERNEE

as Principal of the
College of the Bible

The service will include a welcome to new students and a recognition of the ministry of Dr Keith Bowes, Principal 1974-1980.

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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SEASONS GREETINGS

Gordon and Leslie Stirling and Chris and Mary Ambrose pray their friends a meaningful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

GRAINGER, George and Eva Grainger wish for all their friends an inspiring Christmas season. Please accept this in place of cards.

MASON, Glad and Wal Mason, 69 Market Street, Essendon, Vic. extend their best wishes to all their friends for the coming Christmas and New Year.

BIRTHS

AUSTIN (COLLINS) To Kathy, Alan and Darren, a boy, Brett Nicolson, born 25th November, 1980 at Kew Vic.

HYMAN (COOK) Jadie and Graham praise God for the safe arrival of Jacinta Jadie on 21.11.80. What a magnificent Creator!

RUMBLE (REED) Robyn and Greg thank God for the safe arrival of their daughter (Tarley Brooke) at Frankston Hospital on the 26th September.

STRACK (VEITCH). David and Sandra welcome with love on November 8 Mark Alexander to complete their family. A brother for Graham, Daniel and Heidi.

ENGAGEMENTS

REID - MORTIMER Julie and Graham praise God on the occasion of their engagement.

RUBY WEDDING

BARNETT - CUNNINGHAM Roy and Ercil announce with pleasure their 40th wedding anniversary. Married at Stawell Church of Christ on Dec. 26th, 1940 by the late A. C. Thurrowgood.

BARNETT - CUNNINGHAM Roy and Ercil were married at Stawell, Vic., on 26th Dec. 1940. Congratulations to a couple of really great parents, in-laws and Grandparents from Margaret, Jeff, Leanne, Kerri, Cheryl and Darrin.

GOLDEN WEDDING

DOWLING - SCOPIE. With gratitude and much love the family of Geoff and Elma announce the 50th anniversary of their parents and grandparents marriage celebrated on 3.1.31 at Dawson St., Ballarat by the late G. T. Fitzgerald.

DIAMOND WEDDING

THOMAS - WARNE. Rose and Drummond have pleasure in announcing the 60th Anniversary of their Wedding celebrated at Nth. Melbourne Church of Christ on Dec. 18th, 1920 by the late A. E. Hurren. Present address 16 Orana Drive, Mt Martha, 3934.

DEATHS

SANDO. Daisy Isabel. On 13th Nov., at Churches of Christ Nursing Home, Murrumbidgee, loved wife of Henry (dec.), late of Northcote, Langwarrin and Carum. Dear mother of Isabel and Les Stirling, fond nanna of Heather and John, Bruce and Deborah. Aged 80 years. In God's care.

RETURN THANKS

NORMAN H. MATTHEWS of Warrimoo, N.S.W., would like to convey heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all in the Brotherhood, and to many friends for the messages of loving sympathy expressed in various ways and also for beautiful floral tributes at the passing of my beloved wife, VERA FIELD MATTHEWS, on 13th November, 1980. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one for the loving tribute paid to my dear wife at the crowded service at the Marriickville church and also at the graveside.

IN MEMORIAM

GOLDSWORTHY. Memories of our wonderful parents Reginald 12th Jan. 1941, Amelia 2nd Jan. 1954. "Till we meet again." Inserted by their sons and daughters.

LANGLEY, Harold Ernest. In loving memory of my beloved husband and our dear father whom the Lord called home 12.1.79 also our dear son and brother David Malcolm called home 24.12.85. You are both still loved, still missed and so very dear. Until He come. Rene and family.

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7.00 p.m. Gospel Service

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● Kathy Seymour, Matthew Hemer, Jamie Dow, Calum Dow, Aldgate Valley, S.A. ● Mark Midgley, Melton, Vic. ● Mark Davies, Carnarvon, W.A. ● Carolyn Thane, Bronwyn Thane, Kristen Jones, Rodney Brough, Greg Johnson, Martin Dempster, Scott Dempster, Dandenong, Vic. ● Joanne Leidtke, Maureen Randell, Cindy Williamson, Roslyn Kuhl, Kerry and Frank West, Margaret Criddle, Kaye Loane, Mavis Joyce, John Spring, Sandy Jones, David Kemp, Northam, W.A. ● Mrs R. Carah, Mrs G. Bassett, Tracey Bassett, Tweed Heads, Coolangatta, N.S.W. ● Anne Gatenby, Carolyn Armstrong, Robert Whipps, David Whipps, Murray Pearce, Michael Parr, Ron Walker, Darryl Furness, James Dickson, Grant Davies, Alan Whyborn, Owen Hertz, Bill Black, June Black, Merrill Black, Delma Hancock, Brita Hancock, Beryl Crossie, Southport, Qld.

● Susan Stevens, Mark Fallon, Kadron, Qld. ● Jeff Luckett, Croydon, S.A. ● Mrs O. Cornish, Mrs O. Thomas, Susan Kemsley, Chatswood, N.S.W. ● Douglas Gray, Boronia, Vic. ● Elizabeth Stenning, Mark McDonald, Horsham, Vic. ● Stephen, Male, Pine Rivers, Qld. ● Susan Hams, Chris Smith, Rodney Seip, Ethel Cook, Mackay, Qld. ● Tom Chapman, Margaret Chapman, Sue Holland, Laraine Harris, Fred McAlister, Nunawading, Vic. ● Mrs Terry Rowan, Greg Taylor, Mrs Lianne Balke, Miss Chris Irvine, Bonney Scotney, Harlaxton, Qld. ● Angela Faye, Craig Prestidge, Wattle Park, Vic. ● Lisa Cooper, Sally Bone, Rodney Bone, Hampton, Vic. ● Neil Treganza, Victor Harbor, S.A. ● David Virtue, Ken Gaffney, Box Hill, Vic. ● Mrs Celeste Pierott, Bob Summerhayes, Bob Pettet, Ken Symons, Marion, S.A. ● Karen Shepherd, North Essendon, Vic.

MARRIAGES

● Susan Clark to David McHarry, Belmont, Vic. ● Jeanette Cousin to Wayne Jones, Red Hill, Vic. ● Carolyn Fox to Philip Radford, Warragul, Vic. ● Beverley Lunn to Stephen Dobie, Oakleigh, Vic. ● Robyn Brown to Peter DeZwart, Burwood, Vic. ● Dianne MacLean to Ray Moos, Dorothy Watkins to Malcolm Brown, South Perth, W.A. ● Chris Goss to Warren Raines, Thornleigh, N.S.W. ● Carol Heath to Brian Quinn, Sallyanne Holmes to Clyde Allison, Black Rock, Vic.

DEATHS

● Margaret Taylor, North Beach, W.A. ● Mrs Gladys Stabe, Wembley Downs, W.A. ● Mrs Ruby Durdin, Miss Olive Bartlett, Stretthalbyn, S.A. ● Dan West, Redcliffe, Qld. ● Bill Harwood, Miss Vera Russell, Miss Violet Russell, Belmont, Vic. ● Dorothy Evans, Red Hill, Vic. ● Mrs D. Grimm, Ormond, Vic. ● Sydney Blyth, Ann Rankin, Ellen Olive, LaTrobe Terrace, Geelong, Vic. ● Miss Alice Tieman, Mrs Sando, Ron Salisbury, Mrs Jean Patton, Preston, East Preston, Vic. ● Bill Alves, Nunawading, Vic. ● Mrs Rose Chapman, South Perth, W.A. ● Mrs Edith Stevens, Gardiner, Vic. ● G. Croyton, Mandurah, W.A. ● Annie Keyes, Black Rock, Vic. ● Robert Whipps, Southport, Qld.

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"SEVEN OUT OF TEN"

— A LOOK AT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR TODAY WITH ALF. WHITE.

DEC. 21. 7 p.m.

REFLECTION SINGERS.
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

DEC. 25. 9.30 a.m.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS DAY.

DEC. 28.

"The Ultimate Loyalty".
Music: Verity Cormack & Cheryl Connor

JAN. 4.

"Weak End With The Family".
Music: Marilyn Bertram

JAN. 11.

"The Broken Vow".
Music: C.Y.F.

JAN. 18.

"Property Values".
Music: Jim Lawry

JAN. 25.

"Eyes of Blue and Green".
Music: Telford Sisters

FEB. 1.

"Everybody has One".
Music: Geoff Merrett.

FEB. 8.

"True or False?".
Music: Jodie Cormack and Shelley Steart

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NUNAWADDING: Unhitched (03) 877 6077 or 873 4531

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

WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.

PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435

BRISBANE: Gleneagles Singles (07) 379 9122

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

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December 21 9.15 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m.

December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 9.00 a.m.

NOTE:- Over the holiday period Sunday services will be held at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (No 9.15 a.m. service).

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

OLD

DALBY, BONGEEN (B. Thygesen). Week of ministry with Jim Vine and Jim Muir. 19 contacts plus commitments made through home meetings and children's programs. . . B. Thygesen to go to Rivervale, W.A., in 1981 and Trevor Meares to come to Dalby. . . Bongeene commenced "Kings Kids" club with over 30. . . Kings Kids club camp held at Toowoomba with six decisions. . . Annual meeting held. Agreed to Dalby-Bongeene circuit ministry. Bongeene formerly Branchview now affiliated with Conf. Plans for Bongeene multi-purpose building complex under way. . . One baptism. . . Y.P. exchange with Albion. . . C.W.F. entertained Jubilee ladies. . . Fund-raising under way for bus fund. . . Y.P. led gospel service at Bongeene centred around "court room" scene.

MARGARET ST., TOOWOOMBA (Bruce Armstrong). Miss Ella Draney has resigned from position of arranging flowers for church services each week after several decades. She continues as Kindergarten Supt. . . Mylo Garden Party opened by Mayor, Miss N. Robinson. \$2000 netted for nursing home. . . M. Pieper, Taree, guest speaker at 98th anniversary. 150 at tea on Saturday night. C.M.S. held service on Sunday afternoon. Faith missionary offering concept introduced. . . 15 Bethel group completed 1st year O.T. studies.

SOUTHPORT (N. Newton, D. Capuano, D. Holloway). Two storey extension commenced in July with budget of \$80,000 built on a voluntary basis will be officially opened by Conf. Pres. Ron Sansome on January 31. . . Over past three months 20 decisions and 15 baptisms in four weeks. . . Holiday services 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. . . Land purchased near church for future expansion. . . Possibilities of commencing work at Nerang, seven miles from the church, being explored.

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.

KENMORE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT 1981



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VIC

STRATHMORE (Stan Bannon, Jim Spiker). Gordon Bannon accepted at C.O.B. for 1981 . . . Bible study group studying the following Sunday's readings . . . Girls Club commenced this year has 20 meeting. They recently took 11 a.m. service . . . Leisure Time continues to attract many. Craft Day people learning enthusiastically . . . Church cabaret great success . . . Senior S.S. class held weekend away under leadership of Jenny and John Forrest and Bet and Ron Bucknell.

SOUTH YARRA (Peter Nelson). Church saddened by death of Myrtle Livvy . . . E.W.F. held stall at Prahran Market where \$396 raised . . . Good Companions held enjoyable Girls' Sunday. Girls selling snowballs to raise funds towards their project . . . Annual meeting held . . . Services well attended. Guest speakers have been George Warren and Rev. Murray John of Prahran Mission.

SWANSTON ST. (A.L. Webb, B. Morton, Mrs P. Deuble). Communicant average for October 360 . . . Recent speakers have been Rev. Ken Low, Director F.E.B.C. in Hong Kong and Ian Dennis, European Christian Mission . . . Family camp held for first time at Monbulk. 40 participated . . . At evening service four Y.P. baptised including three from Chinese Uniting Church . . . 40 of overseas students planning to return home permanently to S.E. Asia at the end of this year. Special camp and summer training program being organised . . . Painting of exterior of church completed and paid for. Next project is painting chapel interior . . . Five of our Bible College students in training will be sharing with us in ministry next year.

MT. EVELYN (B. O'Grady). Ladies Luncheon held. Mrs Alice Widdowson guest speaker, 44 attended . . . Weekly Youth Training Course in progress . . . Visiting speakers included Mrs Nancy Harkin, Darryl Kernick (W.B.T.) and Ken Clinton.

COLAC (Ian Smith). Ian Smith to continue as student minister 1981 . . . Family social held . . . Ian Smith represented local churches at Alcohol Seminar . . . Council erected church sign at corner of main street . . . Lions' Club bus taking Bill Sonnett to work at Colanda . . . Ian Smith started I.S.C.F. in local Technical School . . . C.W.F. annual meeting held . . . Ladies making bags for the use of Judy and Paul Williams. P.N.G.

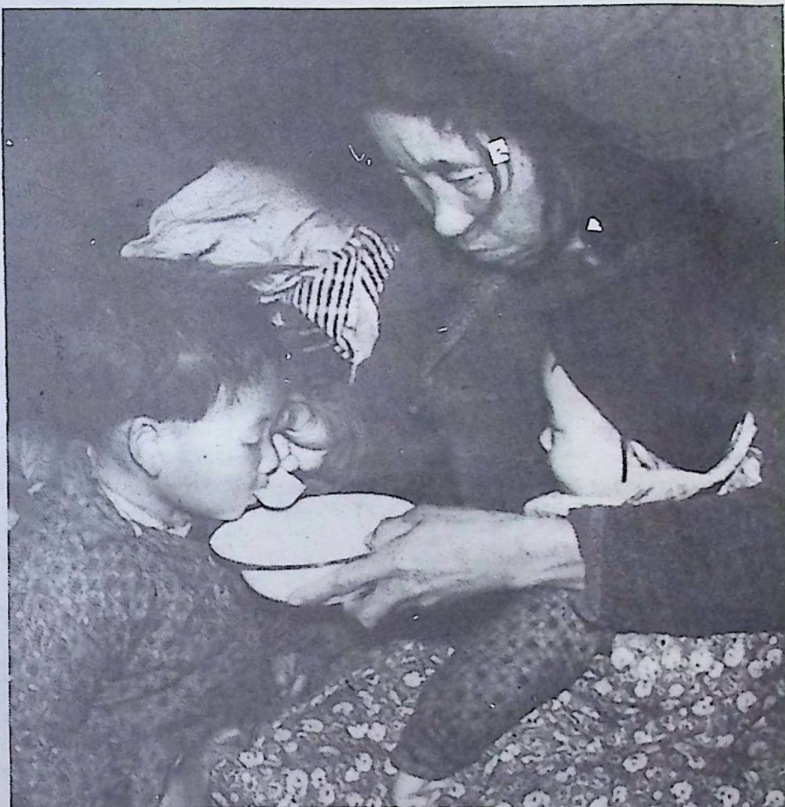
CHADSTONE (Bruce Skillicorn). C.W.F. celebrated 25th birthday. Yukana Singers entertained. C.W.F. presented church with cheque for \$539 from Minifete . . . Girls' Club entertained folk at Christian Guest Home . . . Boys' Club held annual display and presentation at Oakleigh church . . . Bible study held weekly . . . Bruce Skillicorn commences full-time ministry . . . Ron Wilson terminated two years of student ministry. Presentation made to Sue and Ron. Ron commences full-time ministry in Queensland in January . . . Ladies at Hall's Gap camp.

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

CHRISTMAS

This issue of the Australian Christian is the last one of the year and has some thoughts around the Christmas theme featured in various sections. This column was written in late November and even at that stage there had already been Christmas specials on television, gift exchanges had started as well as all the Christmas parties (including Santa Claus).

For many families this month of December is one of the most hectic in the year. Every group we are involved in will have its special breakup. Even our churches will be flat out with activities and special concerts and outreach activities to the community. Alongside of this goes the special secret shopping trips and the attempts to hide the purchases until the right date.

I heard that a student at a local state school when asked what the importance of Christmas is linked it with the death of Jesus. How much understanding is there about the true meaning of Christmas around not only in the community but also in the churches? We get to sing some lovely carols about the little baby. But he was born in not very pleasant circumstances a fact not very often realised.

The Advent of the only Son of God into the world is the most important event that has ever happened in world history. It happened quietly in a very unimportant part of the world and in

circumstances that had some unusual features but which say nothing of the future.

Today we think in Australia more of conditions that apply in Europe over this time of the year. Many Australians have not seen snow and yet decorations and cards etc. really feature snow. Many of the customs we observe at Christmas time are imported and many are not really suitable to our climate or activities. Those Australian customs that have arisen are likely to exclude any mention of the religious significance of the event we are commemorating at Christmas time.

What amazes me is that God allowed his Son to be born in such unhygienic surrounds and in a way that may well have raised questions about the babies legitimacy in the community. The one who was to be the Saviour was born in very humble circumstances and in fact was in danger from the fear that his forecast birth brought to the ruling authority Herod.

Are we Christians in all our activities during this period of the year stopping to think about the true significance of this birth? Do we remember the reason for Christ's birth was our disobedience and the loving concern of God wanting to bring us back into a complete relationship with Him. Do we live up to that new relationship or do we all get self centred at this time of the year? I find it difficult to realise that God became human in Jesus. This is the time to work through what this means to my attitudes and thoughts.

THE LAST WORD

But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:7,8.

I hope the Christmas star will shine
Your house within,
For love and wonder, joy untold
Will then begin,
And miracles will be for you
A part of life the whole year through.

★ ★ ★

An ironworker was nonchalantly walking the beams high above the street on a new skyscraper, while the pneumatic hammers made a nerve-jangling racket, and the compressor below shook the whole steel structure. When he came down, a man who had been watching him, tapped his shoulder. "I was amazed at your calmness up there. How did you happen to go to work on a job like this?"

"Well," said the other, "I used to drive a schoolbus, but my nerves gave out."

★ ★ ★

Efficiency Expert: Sort these old letters into alphabetical order and then throw them away.

★ ★ ★

When we were borrowing customs from older civilizations, who passed up the siesta?



"You're allergic to reindeer."

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