



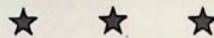
# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol 83. No. 4 March 15, 1980

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

## IN THIS ISSUE

AFFECTION AND INHIBITIONS



PAPA EM I GIVIM MI LAIP



DIVORCE CEREMONY?

## NEW FAMILY GROUP HOME FOR BUNDABERG

The Minister for Welfare in Queensland, Sam Doumaney opened a new Family Group Home in Bundaberg on February 16. This home, costing \$102,000 which is the first Family Group Home in Bundaberg is a project of the Queensland Social Service Department and has received subsidy from the Department of Children's Services. It will cater for the needs of children from the Bundaberg area.

The new house parents are Tony and Joyce Payne who recently returned from the U.K. after 12 years away from Australia. They have had valuable experience working with children while in the U.K.

This project has been assisted by the Darolin Street Church in Bundaberg as well as the Queensland I.C.A. scheme. The opening of this home means that the Queensland Social Service Department is now operating 4 homes for children and youth.



Tony and Joyce Payne with son Gary discuss the operation of the Family Group Home with Don Stewart (right) Social Service Director.

## SHARING IN INDIA — IMPRESSIONS Ian Allsop

The Sharing in India visit by 18 Australian and New Zealand young adults, arranged by the Federal Board of Christian Education, was judged as highly successful by participants and the Indian churches.

Team members appreciated the financial and prayer support from many individuals, churches and youth groups which made the program possible. After 6½ weeks of sharing with the people in their life and Christian witness, the team members report many stories about people who reflect a happiness and purpose in their Christian faith. Many Indian people live with personal dignity in a country that has extreme material poverty by Australian standards.

The week in Southern India enabled the team to participate with Churches of Christ people in Madras and with Barry Jenkins in Ootacamund. Participants were impressed by the evangelism among the tribal groups and were challenged by the personal stories of Indian Christians who suffer because of their faith.

In Western India the hospitality from the Churches of Christ people was welcoming and enjoyable. We were constantly in their homes sharing faith and experiences. The work of the Bombay church, particularly in its outreach to the slum and fishing settlements, was challenging. Team members assisted in various ways in this outreach and their times of worship with the Rammabai colony people were significant and beautiful.

The Conference area around Dhond and Baramati was the work location for many of the team. They visited many schools, churches, homes and villages experiencing what it is like to teach, preach, lead groups and share in a context vastly different to that of Australia. Throughout the four weeks in Western India it was the intention of the team to work alongside the Indian people in their ongoing work. We did not want to be tourists simply observing the work, but partners who were learning through doing and living in the Indian context. It was soon obvious that the Indian people fully accepted us and allowed us to join with them.



The Indian church faces many issues. They have few resources but immense need and opportunity. There are a number of existing institutions, such as the Dhond hospital and the schools and children's homes, to staff and maintain. In addition, local churches have their programs that require greater financial and manpower assistance. How can we share in this need and opportunity in genuine partnership?

When we shared with the Church of North India in Delhi and Calcutta we heard how they wrestle with the issues. They constantly ask — "What does it mean for the Indian church to be responsible for mission in a partnership with Western Churches?" A. C. Dharmara), the General Secretary of the Church of North India stressed that the Indian Church must increase its commitment to stewardship. They must work towards financial self-reliance for the ongoing work of the church.

Unfortunately such an idealism seems impossible to conceive in the short term. There are many aspects of church life and witness that call for substantial support from the affluent churches so that a genuine partnership can continue.

The Social Action and Relief work amongst the very poor, as performed by various Church of North India agencies and Mother Teresa in Calcutta, demands substantial support from affluent

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# ON MY MIND

## GENUINE AFFECTION

## BREAKS

## DOWN INHIBITIONS

Philip Jauncey

Philip Jauncey is a graduate of Kenmore Christian College, the University of Queensland (B.A. B.D.), and New Mexico State University (M.A., Ed.D.) His wife Eileen has the degree of Master of Education (University of Texas). He is a lecturer and counsellor at Mt Gravatt College of Advanced Education. He lectures part-time in Hebrew at Kenmore and assists in the ministry at Albion (Queensland).

For a variety of reasons we have accepted a tradition not to show genuine affection. Culturally it is felt that anyone who shows affection with words, touch or gestures is a prospective spouse, if not already. I think it is a shame that puritan and Victorian traditions have made the term "intimate" a rude concept. My Oxford dictionary defines "intimate" as "familiar, close" (noun) or "make known" (verb).

### SHOWING POSITIVE REGARD

As Christians it seems that we need to share our feelings as well as our religious ideas. Yet it has been shown that many people are not willing to confide in their minister, elder and fellow church members. They believe that if they express a guilt, doubt or "taboo" emotion, they will be rejected. A counselling theorist, Carl Rogers, states that for a person to be helped, he must be able to trust you and rest assured that he will not be rejected. He described this as giving unconditional positive regard (no matter what you have done or feel, I won't stop caring for you as a person). Christ showed positive regard for so many — the leper, Zacchaeus, the adulterous woman, the woman at the well . . . Perhaps it is fear of judgement that holds us back from showing our emotions. (What will they think!?)

### ACCEPTING AS WE ARE ACCEPTED

I believe that as we start treating other people as we would want them to treat us, our Christian church families will become much more fulfilling. We need to accept that all people have weaknesses like everyone else. That is why we need Christ's strength. Some people sin in taboo areas (sex, crime, heresy, etc.) and are rejected, while we almost condone those who sin in non taboo areas (gossip, apathy, bossiness, etc.) All of us are sinners. We not only need God's love but other people's love. This love needs to be more than love of family (Philo) and more than the love that demands a favourable response, closeness and emotional expression. It needs to be a love which remains strong despite the other's goodness, response, emotion or closeness (agape).

### CHRISTIAN INTIMACY

It is my desire that our Christian church families will start demonstrating unconditional positive emotion (without fear of judgement) and will develop a relationship within, whereby secrets no longer will have to be kept. Both weaknesses and strengths shown in Christian intimacy will be treated with genuine affection.

# "PAPA EM I GIVIM MI LAIP"

One of my greatest delights in visiting Papua New Guinea is sitting down in the villages talking to and learning from my brethren in Christ. Their simple, uncomplicated trust and belief in God teaches me so much about faith.

## LIMITED BY ILLITERACY?

At first, I was of the opinion that their understanding of God was limited by illiteracy and immaturity in the Christian life. I considered that they knew little of the great mysteries of the Godhead — that they knew nothing of the great theological truths — that their faith was simple, primitive and childlike. How much of this view is mistaken I do not yet know. However, I am convinced that their understanding of what Christ has done to free mankind is greater than that of many who have been brought up on the Gospel. I am convinced that their awareness of the presence and power of God in their lives is very real. Indeed, their knowledge of the reality of other spiritual beings in their daily lives may give them a greater appreciation of the great mysteries of God than we Australians can possess.

## MANGGA

Mangga, an elder in the Chungribu church, is one of these faithful brethren. Since his conversion just over 20 years ago, he has faithfully served his God, the Church and the mission. Despite times of great disappointment, the indifference and even opposition of his people, Mangga has remained loyal and steadfast to Christ and the Church and has been a great source of encouragement to missionaries and new Christians alike.

Mangga told me, "Before, it was the other spirits who talked to me. I was a real heathen man. But now I believe in God. He showed me the way. It is Jesus who talks to me now. I have left those other spirits. Every morning, the first thing I do is to sit on my verandah and read God's Word and I thank Him for looking after me and helping me. Then the day goes right. If I don't start my day with prayer, nothing goes right. The Bible is the Christian's food."

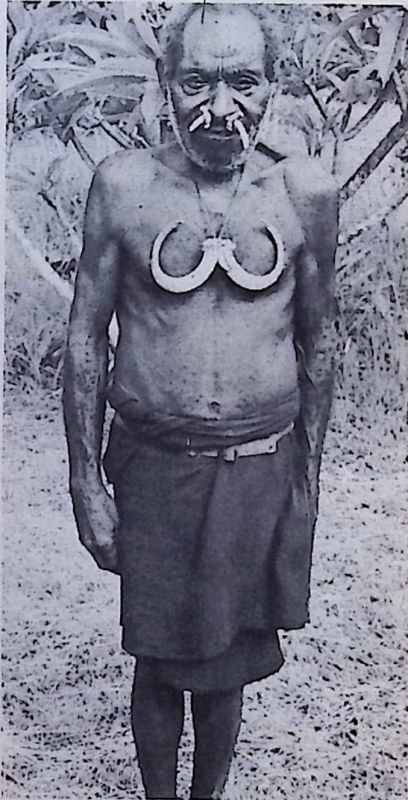


Mangga with grandson

Dianne Feeney

## WONGOT

Wongot is not yet a Christian, but he is a believer. An old man, with much knowledge of the magical and spiritual powers traditionally held by his people, he is receptive to God's Word. He lives in the village of Paniten, close to Samban. Like Mangga, he too is a great encourager of the missionaries and pastors, always there to give moral support when the going gets tough. He knows what it means to live like a Christian and he exhorts the new Christians to live up to their new found belief, even though he has not yet fully accepted Christ into his own life. As yet, the old beliefs and the responsibilities of his own position as an important possessor of religious and magical knowledge are preventing him from becoming a committed Christian.



Wongot, old man from Samban area.

## PULI

Another old man who also possessed much knowledge of the spirits, but who became a Christian, was Puli. I was with Puli when he died recently in Samban. He had only been a Christian about four years and was regarded by his village as the expert in his people's mythology and religious practices. He is known to have used his powers to kill people in the past. Yet once he became a Christian he forsook

those powers and he constantly talked of what God meant to him.

When I arrived at Samban last October, it was clear that he did not have much longer to live. Naively I tried to cheer him up and talked of him recovering. He didn't need cheering up! He was confident that God would take him soon. In an effort to cheer me up he said, "Whether I live or die is not something to do with me. It is 'something belong Papa'. It's God who gives me life. Soon He will stop my suffering and I will see His face."

Now, for an old softie like me, that really did something to my emotions. Here I was sitting in a leaf-roofed hut in a remote village in the middle of the grassy swamplands, being ministered to by an illiterate, emaciated old man, suffering with pain, yet stoically bearing it and looking forward to eternity.

His last words to me before he died peacefully were "Papa em i givim mi laip" — God gives me life.

Dianne Feeney is a lecturer at the NSW Bible College at Woolwich. She has been doing anthropological research in our mission areas in New Guinea.

## 1979's TOP RELIGIOUS NEWS STORIES

The editors of the *Christian Century*, selected a list of the top 10 religious news stories for 1979. This list is of the American stories that were prominent in the secular news media.

The list is:

- (1) — Religious fantacism in Iran.
- (2) — The Papal visit to the U.S.A.
- (3) — The woes of South-East Asia, particularly the boat people and the situation in Cambodia.
- (4) — Carter's Sunday night sermon on energy problems.
- (5) — Power struggles in the Southern Baptists.
- (6) — Black/Jewish tensions.
- (7) — Homosexuality — Especially in relation to ministerial ordination.
- (8) — CELAM II — The gathering of Latin American bishops and theologians of the Roman Catholic Church, attended by Pope John Paul II.
- (9) — The SALT II debate.
- (10) — Chinese religious moves.

## SOVIET BAPTIST LEADER ARRESTED

Nikolai Baturin, a member of the Council of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches, the executive body of the unregistered Baptist Churches in the USSR, was arrested on November 5, in the town of Smela, Ukraine.

Pastor Baturin, whose home is in Novoshakhtinsk, has already served 16 years in labour camps. After completing his last sentence in 1976, he continued his pastoral work openly in his home church for some time, but more recently he had been forced by KGB harassment to go into hiding. It is not yet known what charges will be made against him.

— Keston College

## NEW TEAM FOR TELOPEA



Teloepa Church of Christ has always involved itself in innovative ministry programmes, and it goes into the 80's with a unique ministry team.

The Teloepa Christian Centre is embarking on a ministry approach which involves the joining of theology with practical management and communication, as it attempts to relate the message of Christ to the average person. To achieve this, the church has called two ministers, Ron Hewitt and Graham Jones, who will work as a team — one a trained theologian, the other an experienced and successful business man.

The Bible teaches that all Christians are 'ministers' and the church recognises the need for the practical management, motivation and communication skills possessed by a man with the background of Ron Hewitt. He has been involved in business management in industry in NSW over the past 30 years and has served as Conference President for the NSW Churches of Christ, on the Executive of the NSW Council of Churches and is on the Broadcast Committee of Radio 2CH. When asked what he saw as a man of his background being able to contribute to a modern church situation, Ron said, "being able to assist people in living out a practical christian life in their every day experience". Ron Hewitt, his wife Shirley and their son and daughter will be living at North Rocks.

Graham Jones is keenly interested in Christian Education, and last year accompanied the former minister of Teloepa on a study tour of the United States, looking at Christian Education programmes. A single man, he was also looking at programmes developed to meet the needs of single and formerly married people. Graham is a graduate of Woolwich Bible College where he was student President in his final year. He is currently completing

a Behavioural Sciences degree at Macquarie University. Graham commented, "Working as a team — of a Christian business man and a theologian — we can cover a much wider area of both the church's and the community's needs, so that the church can become even more involved in the life of the community."

Teloepa Christian Centre is well-known in the Dundas Valley because of the wide spectrum of programs which are part of the life of the church, especially those provided through Teloepa Family Resources: i.e. a full-time Day Care Centre for preschoolers, After School Recreation and School Holiday programmes for children of working parents, and Family Day Care — care of preschoolers in private homes. The programs at the Christian Centre cater for a wide range of interests, seven days a week — clubs for all age-groups, activities for women, singles, teenagers and family groups, including Playgroup. Also, with the growing numbers attending the morning worship services, an additional service was commenced last year to relieve the overcrowding in the Chapel.

The Commissioning Service was held on Sunday, February 3. The service attracted a large crowd, including representatives from Federal, State and Local Government, who expressed their appreciation of the contribution being made to the community by the Teloepa Church.

— Dawn Craig

## THE CHURCH IN CHINA

Recently a government official told a friend of "Open Doors" that three churches will reopen in Canton in the next 90 days. Work is already underway to clean up a Protestant Church in one of the old foreign concessions next to the Pearl River. Until recently this church was the site of a government press.

## ● World Conference on Evangelism

### RALLY TO BE MELBOURNE CHURCHES' HIGHLIGHT

On Sunday, May 18, at 7 p.m., the great Festival Hall will be filled with Christians from every major denomination within Australia and across the world. They will be meeting together to celebrate their faith and to recommit themselves to passing it on.

### CHURCH LEADERS AND EVANGELISM

The rally will take place at the midpoint of the World Council of Churches World Conference on Evangelism. From May 12 to 24 the leaders of the world churches will gather in Melbourne to think, pray and talk about evangelism. Despite the fact that Melbourne will be the host city, only a few Melbournians will be able to participate in the life of the Conference.

The May 18 Rally is the one exception. The rally will be attended by many of the delegates. Phillip Potter will be the preacher. The life and the colour of this Conference will in many ways contribute a special richness to this event. The program for the evening will commence from the moment people arrive in the vicinity of Festival Hall. Street theatre, Salvation Army bands and buskers will all be telling forth the good news through their art.

### A PEOPLE'S AFFAIR

The rally will be very much a people's affair. Although the leaders of the world church will be present they will be present as Christians amongst Christians. For instance, Phillip Potter's address will be on the subject of his own personal faith journey. The occasion will be memorable for young people and children as well as adults.

### "YOUR KINGDOM COME"

The rally will be the culmination of the "Your Kingdom Come" series of studies now being pursued in hundreds of small groups across Australia. Contributions from some of the study groups will form an important part of the celebration. The evening will conclude with an act of personal and group commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel.

The rally will take place at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday evening, May 18. It is likely that early arrival at Festival Hall will be necessary if folk wish to take in all the good things there will be to see and hear and still obtain good seats. Churches bringing large numbers will be able to make block bookings. There will be no sale of tickets, rather an offering will be collected to defray expenses.

Inquiries can be directed to the World Conference Organiser, Rev. Hamish Christie-Johnston phone (03) 654 2488.

The official stated that the government will reopen as many churches as Christians can fill. Capacity crowds continue to fill the first Protestant church reopened in Canton in Sept. 1979.

("Open Doors Asia")

# A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM CHURCH OF CHRIST.

## A NEW NAME

The Blackburn and Mitcham Churches of Christ celebrated their amalgamation Service on February 3 when they became the **Nunawading Churches of Christ** with a combined congregation meeting at two centres (Surrey Road and Springfield Road). The two congregations worshipped together for the Inauguration and Induction Services, and nearly 400 broke bread together. The Mitcham church, situated two miles away from the Blackburn church, had found it increasingly difficult over recent years to sustain a full time ministry because of limited finances. The pooling of resources of the two churches has meant that the Nunawading Churches of Christ have been able to call a third minister to join the ministry team.

## THE NEW MINISTER

C. H. J. Wright, formerly of Glenelg, has been inducted to the team ministry with **Ted Keating** and **Paul Burnham**. Jim, who has been Conference President in three States, one of the Australian delegates to the World Council of Churches Conference at New Delhi, and a speaker at the World Convention in Adelaide in 1969, has been Minister at an impressive list of Churches, Albion (Q.) Launceston (Tas.) Brighton (S.A.) Ainslie (A.C.T.), Glenelg (S.A.) His first ministry (1942 to 1946) was at Blackburn. Jim and his wife, Marjory, are occupying the former Mitcham manse.

## NEW CHURCH OFFICES

Three spacious offices, lined with bookshelves and cupboards, a large reception room with adequate space for two typists and equipment, a medium size



Newly arrived member of the ministry team, **Jim Wright** 'in action' in the new Pastoral Care Centre.

meeting room and creche, kitchen and concreted carpark and driveway — have been built for \$16,000. This Pastoral Care Centre was also opened on the day of the Inauguration and Induction Services. It was originally the Blackburn manse, but with the vision of Architect, **Ray Drayton** of the Doncaster church, the organising ability of Church Board member, **Ken Roberts**, and hundreds of hours of voluntary labour, it was converted to a functional administrative centre. The three ministers work in the same building and have easy access to each other, which is an essential ingredient for a successful team ministry. Churches of Christ in Nunawading have the ministry team, the facilities and the vision to achieve great things for God in our local area.

## MOUNT CLEAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

On February 10 Dr Bill Tabbernee inducted **Mark Dunn** into the ministry of the Mount Clear and Dawson Street Church of Christ. Working in a team ministry with **Graeme** and **Helen Chapman**, Mark and his wife Jan will be responsible for the growing congregation at Mount Clear, a developing area on the outskirts of Ballarat.



**Mark and Jan Dunn**

The Mount Clear church is looking beyond denominationalism as it seeks to share its faith in life-sized situations. Because of this thinking, it will now be known as the Mount Clear Community Church — a Church of Christ. This title is considered an apt description of the function and stress of the growing congregation as it is the only church in the whole area.

A series of "At Home" evenings has been planned for the next four weeks, to enable more than 200 members and friends to meet them in a home atmosphere.

## BOMB SCARE FOR BIBLE SOCIETY IN TURKEY

At the recent Izmir Fair in Turkey, the Bible Society's stand was showered with stones resulting from a nearby bomb explosion. Bible Society officials thought their display may have attracted the attention of fanatical Muslims who had harassed them at previous Fairs.

Fortunately the bomb was not meant for the Bible Society as it exploded outside the grounds of the annual fair.

The Bible Society in Turkey has had a stand at the Izmir Fair for the past six years. It is the only Fair of its kind in the country.

Scriptures in Turkish, French and English were on sale and some 50 or 60 Muslim's who had bought Scripture Selections last year returned for more at this year's Fair.

One man who picked up a Scripture Selection card bearing passages from the Ten Commandments was so impressed by what he read, he exclaimed: "These words are so beautiful they must be from the Koran".

Although virtually all the visitors to the Fair were Muslims, a total of 27,000 Scripture items were distributed from the Society's stand throughout the month.



# TODAYS WOMEN



## A WORD IN SUPPORT OF "WOMENS' MEETINGS"

Why is it that gatherings composed solely of women are despised and derided?

Every other organisation, Church and Community, have regular meetings to plan their program, co-ordinate their activities and generally 'get it all together'. Why, then, when C.W.F. does the same thing we are accused of having a 'Women's Meeting'?

'Small groups' are very much the 'in' thing these days, especially in church circles. Indeed they are encouraged, applauded and generally considered to be most desirable. We call them Support groups, Bible Study groups, Family Clusters. But let one of these groups be composed solely of women and call itself C.W.F. and once again we are holding a 'Women's Meeting'.

Our local C.W.F. has a definite Outreach program among elderly people in our community and at Mt Royal Hospital. For most of these people this is their only contact with the church. These outings and visits give great pleasure both to the visitors and our own ladies, as is also the case in our visits to the Churches of Christ Homes.

Other activities include — Missionary support, clothing of Aborigines, stocking the Community Care and College of the Bible grocery cupboards, and other emergency needs.

We like to be involved in this work. We feel that we are doing something worthwhile. We are meeting peoples' needs in a practical way. We appreciate that people who are well endowed with this world's goods have needs too, and we hope that we are aware of these needs and are seeking ways to meet them.

Yet when we try to get together to organise our activities, and to inform the local ladies of help that is needed, and to plan a program that is interesting, entertaining, and informative, we are again 'holding a Women's Meeting'.

M. Hone, Vic.

### LET US PRAY ...

for all C.W.F. State Conferences which will be held in the near future. Greetings from the 'Women's Page'.

Eph. 5:27.

Jesus Christ is eternal — the Church is indestructible. He is Head of the Church . . . the Church is His body. The Head is perfect. It depends on the Church as to whether it is healthy or unhealthy, strong or weak. Are we aware of our weakness as part of the body — the Church? The body needs to be perfect (mature) as the Head is perfect.



Mrs Dorothy Turner

## "WOMEN'S SPIRIT RISING"

— In the Church . . . In the World  
(A study by Rev. Wacker at S.A. Annual Study Day)

"Women are learning to express themselves in different ways. We are surrounded by new thoughts, hopes and questions. Who do we feel we are as women in the Church? What does it mean to be man and women in relationship?"

The story of women in the Bible surfaces in many different ways. After reading the stories of Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Dorcas, and Lydia, it was plain that our story is part of their heritage of faith, we are in tune to continue writing this story today." We thought, in silence, about our lives in the context of the Church and the World.

Groups discussed understanding, questions, angers, joys, and suggestions, based on Genesis 1: 27, 28; 2: 18-23; Galations 3: 27-28. Emphasis was placed on companionship, wholeness, recognition, development, and use of gifts, on the need to be supportive of women taking a new step, equality in partnership, 'person' gifts rather than 'male' and 'female' gifts, on dealing with inconsistencies, remembering we are here to develop as 'spirit' being, letting our lives lie open to God.

"In thinking of "Women's Spirit Rising" in the World, we were reminded that 'nothing can separate us from the love of God'. Positively, we are to offer warmth and caring; our partnership with God leads us to DO something about our World, and its suffering, hunger and violence, by making love operative, and bringing fullness of life."

A. Saunders S.A.



### QUEENSLAND NEWS

Springwood, Pine Rivers, and Alexander Hills, Home Mission churches provided the monthly program at Ann St. After prayer time for Home Missions, a message was given. "It was only when we keep our eyes on Jesus that we are strong. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus he denied Him. Sometimes God has to lay His hand on us and it pinches. Something has caused us to grieve Him. We often resist God's hand. We should always be looking unto Jesus".

E. E. Sheriff, Qld.

## HOSPITAL VISITATION

Dorothy Turner, Supl. Hospital Committee, Vic.

"I was sick and in prison and you visited me . . . inasmuch as you did it to the least of these, you have done it to Me".

These are the words which motivate over 60 women to regularly visit about 20 of our major hospitals, some private ones as well as our Church Homes and Nursing Home. Hospitals are visited some monthly, some fortnightly, some weekly.

Entertaining patients who are being rehabilitated, visiting and comforting the sick and lonely, caring for and loving those who are frail and incapacitated, reading to the blind, and comforting and cheering the sick, frightened, or confused child are some of the things being done by these dedicated women. Most importantly, all try to LISTEN when someone wants to talk, and then to assure the patient that we care and that God cares. Many and varied are the confidences received by these visitors and as opportunities arise, we are glad to share our faith, or help to strengthen the faltering faith of some because of their sufferings.

Most visitors take gifts, such as, Lavender bags, Hankies, Toiletries, Pots of jam, or pickles, writing materials, Bed sox, Knee rugs, to demonstrate our loving concern. In the Children's Hospital, each child receives a small gift with the visit each week. This often results in a crying, frightened, homesick child being left comforted and smiling.

Special gifts at Christmas time, are given to the patients, sharing "love that came down at Christmas".

The visitors have often commented that they come away from their visiting more blessed than blessing, humble in the face of suffering bravely borne.

The authorities of most hospitals have repeatedly written letters of appreciation and thanks for services given. Thanks to women who supply gifts, thus sharing with us as we go in the name of One who said, "You do it to Me".

(This is the first of a series of Activities done by C.W.F. women and which come under the "C.W.F. UMBRELLA NAME").

### THIS I KNOW

I know not by what methods rare,  
But this I know — God answers prayer.  
I know that He has given His word  
Which tells me prayer is always heard,  
And I will be answered soon or late,  
And so I pray and calmly wait.  
I know not if the blessing sought  
Will come in just the way I thought.  
So I leave my prayers with Him alone  
Whose will is wiser than my own —  
Assured that He will grant my quest,  
Or send some answer far more blest.

Joy Frost.

# MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

## A CEREMONY OF DIVORCE

The couple shall proceed down the centre aisle together to meet the pastor. A few chosen friends, perhaps those who stood with them at their wedding, could meet them before the altar.

Friends, the church gathers for both joyous and sad occasions. Today we have met to dissolve the marriage of ... and ... It is a sad occasion. There will be no music, dancing, eating or other elements of celebration. We meet with this couple because we are admonished to bear one another's burdens, because Jesus concurred with Moses that a writing of divorce should be given and because we wish to affirm our love for and support of both ... and ...

In so doing we acknowledge that we live in a fallen world and are sinners by nature, each falling short of the glory of God. We realise no human edict can remove the stain of sin, but we confess our sin, knowing that God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from unrighteousness. Shall we pray.

(Prayer of Confession).

(To the husband) Do you wish to dissolve your marriage with ... and be released from your vow to love, honor and keep her, being fully convinced that it is beyond your capacity to do so to the mutual satisfaction and benefit of you both?

(The husband shall answer) I do.

(To the wife) Do you wish ... etcetera.

★ ★ ★

This is part of the divorce ceremony instituted recently by the United Methodist Church in the USA.

The ceremony, according to the Methodists, must not be taken as an indication that they don't think divorce

is a serious problem, or that they condone divorce. Rather, they explain, "it could be a way of saying we live in a sinful world and we take our participation in evil seriously and seek forgiveness and reconciliation in our helplessness."

Which sounds compassionate and fine. But are these good Christian folks going to stop there? Let's hope they display the courage of their convictions and pursue their reconciliation consistently.

I mean, what about those of us who are managing to keep our marriages intact but have failed to fulfil God's plan in other areas? Take adultery, for instance, a worthy contender for compassion and forgiveness, Biblically speaking, if ever there was one. I wonder if the United Methodists will soon institute an Affair Ceremony. And a Fornication Ceremony. Fornicators also need forgiveness and reconciliation in their helplessness.

Then what about a Tax Evasion Ceremony, an Armed Robbery Ceremony or a Spouse Bashing Ceremony? And so on ...

The American Christian monthly The Wittenburg Door has the solution: "Let's sanctify and institutionalise all sin and then only have ceremonies for those that don't sin ... that would cut the ceremony load."

★ ★ ★

Entitled 'An Open Letter to You, Church', the following is also from The Wittenburg Door.

"My name is Patricia Chavez and I'm divorced.

"When I was converted and cleansed of all my sin, I had the presumption to think that included my divorce.



"It seems I was wrong. It seems I must always live under those laws written especially for those of us who are divorced.

1. Thou shalt not remarry.
2. Thou shalt not hold any responsible position in the church anymore.
3. Thou shalt not sing in the choir.
4. Thou shalt not mix with married folks for thou might take away someone's husband.
5. Thou must always look and dress dowdy.
6. Thou must NEVER discuss sex with anyone.

"You demand that I not commit adultery, but you don't help me work through my biological and emotional needs. You don't consider that everything on radio, television, books, movies and shop talk all challenge me to accept the new morality. When I need help to live out God's intention for me in my circumstances, you preach at me and then go home to your husband or wife. I go home alone.

I did go through an emotional crisis and recovery hasn't been easy, but I'm recovering. You can ask me for ideas ... I do have some. You can give me a task. I am able to carry them through to completion. And you don't have to assume that because there aren't any single men on the committee I won't be interested.

And, please, quit trying to pair me off. I can come to dinner without a man on my arm. I do know how to talk to people socially without a man to smile at my clever repartee. I know how to answer invitations without a man to tell me whether or not to accept. I even earn my own living, thank you.

"Look, I love the church. I need to be involved with you. I need your support. You don't have to banish me to the lepers' colony you call the Singles' Group. I can actually relate to all kinds of people.

"One more thing. I know divorce is a sin. I would have preferred not to have gone through it. But I did. Please try to understand that. I would appreciate not being put in your "you-should-never-have-done-it" box for the rest of my life. Forgive me and let us get on with the business of doing God's business ... together.

"Tell you what. You forgive me and I will forgive you. And then, I believe, God will forgive us both."

— Patricia Chavez

## JASON'S HOUSE

IT'S REAL DEPRESSING...! EVERYONE LOOKS DOWN THEIR NOSES WHEN YOU'RE ON THE DOLE AND IT GETS TO YOU AFTER A WHILE...

AND IF I TALK ABOUT IT AT CHURCH ALL I GET IS PIOUS CLICHES... IT GETS ME REAL FRUSTRATED AND UPTIGHT!

YOU SHOULD PRAY ABOUT IT!



# OPEN FORUM

Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the management or editorial panel. Correspondents are requested to say only what is true, kind, necessary and Christian, and to say it in no more than 150 words.

## THANKS FOR "PAGE 13"

To the Editor,

I've just finished reading Page 13 of the latest "Christian" and felt I must write to thank you for writing with insight and wisdom.

Some years ago now, God saw fit to let me "speak in tongues" and I can easily understand and sympathise with those who group themselves together because of criticism from, and rejection by, members of our churches. This, fortunately, was not a problem for me, partly I believe, because of my solid background in Churches of Christ, and also because of the acceptance I received from the ministers closest to me and many of the members of my own church.

I just pray that all those in leadership positions in our Brotherhood may learn to accept in love the gifts and abilities of their fellow Christians, so that the work of Jesus Christ will not be hindered.

—Marlene Messert (S.A.)

## LOVING CHARISMATICS

To the Editor,

May I both endorse the comments and congratulate the unknown author of "Let's Live In Love With Our Charismatics!"

The 'charismatics' need the stability of a 'traditional' heritage and the traditionalists need some of the life and vitality of charismatics — we need each other!

—Barry Cutchie (Camp Hill, Q.)

(The Editor writes Page 13)

## EITHER/OR OR BOTH/AND

To the Editor,

I am concerned about the "either/or" attitude that is evident in articles and letters appearing in the "A.C." on the subject of the gifts of the Spirit.

On the one hand, Noel Newton, in "On My Mind", talks about the need to "spell out what we believe the Bible says on this subject". Final Except for two things. How can we find a consensus on such a delicate matter of Biblical interpretation? Further, his plea for Unity of the Spirit is hardly consistent with his claim that, "I am far from convinced that the teaching of the Charismatic movement is Biblical". Is he saying that there can only be a unity of the Spirit when people understand the scriptures as he does? Again, I would like to know why he talks against the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, (which is a scriptural term Luke 3:16), but agrees with being filled with the Spirit. Aren't these synonymous terms?

## INDIAN FOOD PARCELS

Do you send food parcels to missionaries in India?

If so, please write clearly on the outside of the parcel —

**FOOD ONLY. ADDRESSEE HOLDER OF FOREIGN PASSPORT.**

The parcel will then be exempt of duty in India.

On the other hand, Don Jackson, in the same issue, concludes his letter with the statement that the Charismatic movement is "God's latest wave of renewal and recovery of lost truth, that His church may be more what it was originally". Such statements can only be regarded as a criticism of the lives and ministry of all those people who have been faithful in witnessing to Christ through the centuries; and who are still witnessing to Him today, without the sort of manifestation of the Holy Spirit, that some like to call "charismatic".

Surely within our brotherhood we must acknowledge that the ministry of the Holy Spirit will always be "both/and", and not "either/or". As much as it may be hard to accept, none of us has the right to tell God how to minister through His Holy Spirit to His people, nor what the guidelines of that ministry must be.

— Maurice Keatch (Bendigo, Vic.)

## WOOLLY THINKING IN CHURCHES OF CHRIST!!

To the Editor,

There seems to be a certain amount of woolly thinking in Churches of Christ about the charismatic renewal which is at present sweeping the Christian world.

There have been some things done under cover of the charismatic renewal which would have been bet-

ter left undone. But there are also hundreds, and thousands, of lives that have been turned completely around into a God-ward direction because of it. According to the ABC's Vaughn Hinton, there are an estimated 100,000 Christians in Australia who are rejoicing in a new depth in their relationship with God and with the Church because they have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

If this thing is not of God, it will come to nothing — the Holy Spirit will see to that. If it is of God, then the national journal should be carrying more stories of the lives that are being changed, the healings that are taking place and all the other good things that are happening.

— A. S. Williams (Chatswood, N.S.W.)

## ANOTHER "A.C." VETERAN

We have "unearthed" another who has subscribed to the "Australian Christian" for well over 50 years. He is the respected veteran minister, Wilkie Thomson, whose record is 55 years. He is hereby notified that his next annual subscription is on us.

Although Wilkie Thomson has been a subscriber for 55 years, he has been a reader of the "A.C." for even longer. He first read it when 4½ years of age. Perhaps his later well known literary and broadcasting skills may have come from these early reading experiences.

Friends of Wilkie and his wife Anne have been distressed by the accident that hospitalized Anne for many months. She is now home again but attending physio-therapy twice a week. She may have to return to the Austin for further surgery. Anne and Wilkie express appreciation to their many friends for their prayers, letters, cards and personal caring over recent months.

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### WHAT CAN WE DO WITH HERETICS?

To the Editor,

Our minister has been talking a lot lately about the church at Corinth. This is always a sign that some of our people are not seeing eye to eye theologically with some of the others, and that they are not being very Christian about it.

The undercurrent surfaced at our place the other night. Matt Peel and his wife were at dinner. My wife, God bless her, is "given to hospitality." Matt spoke with a lot of feeling about the nature of the heresies of a number of people in the church whom I had always thought of as faithful, run of the mill Christians. I didn't understand all of the fine points of what he was saying, but it seems that they don't think and talk and act and believe like our fathers in the faith used to ... according to Matt. We have apparently strayed from the "old paths."

My practical mind is lost in the theological depths of such discussions, and begins to look for solutions. I said to Matt, "If these people changed to your way of thinking, just to fit in with you, they would be dishonest, wouldn't they?" He said, "I suppose they would!" So I pushed on and said, "As they don't agree with you and your group, do you think that they should leave the church?" "No!" he said, "I wouldn't expect that." I asked him then if he thought that he and his group should look for a more orthodox fellowship. He admitted to having thought of such a possibility, but had rejected it. "Well what do you want?" I said. He went on and on. But summed up, he seemed to be saying, "By all means let them stick around, but let them keep quiet and leave us in peace and quiet to run the church our way, without feeling threatened and without having to think too much."

I'm sure that my noble efforts at peace making failed and that we are in for a few more sermons from Corinthians.

Yours for the good old days ... of the Inquisition!

TERTIUS

## OPEN FORUM

ALL CUT UP

To the Editor,

I finally got around to cutting up the material I wanted from the "Australian Christian" for future sermons.

In doing so it became abundantly clear to me that the most dominant subject in the "Australian Christian" for the past four years has been the Charismatic Movement. By far the most helpful has been the writing of Gordon Moyes in "Word Talk".

Attacking the "Australian Christian" with a pair of scissors is wonderful therapy. If there was some way we could get to it with scissors before it was mailed it would be a much more holy paper.

— Steve Downie (Vic.)

(We normally use a blue pencil. — Ed.)

## THE CHURCH ON RADIO

Each day on Radio 3HA, five spots are heard, written and recorded by Russell Wesley the minister of the Hamilton Church.

Since the beginning of the year he has been recording four spots a fortnight and this will continue throughout the year with additional spots being recorded for Easter, Spring and Christmas. Over Easter there will be a spot on the hour explaining the meaning of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, inviting the community to make this Easter a special one.

When the management of 3HA changed hands in August last year, Russell took the initiative and the local ministers invited John Wiltshire, the new manager, to address them. He outlined what he wanted in radio religious content — local people and local themes. Russell was the only minister to take up the challenge and has since become a regular on 3HA.

He has received much positive feedback from the district. He also has the support of the other ministers.

Here is a sample script of one of his spots:

"Many people feel that the world of show business and the Christian faith are incompatible — Cliff Richard disagrees;

He believes God has placed him where he wants him to be. (music interlude from his record).

Cliff Richard's constant struggle to remain the person he is, belongs to us all. Each one of us is unique in the eyes of God and we all have an important place in this world.

"This is Russ Wesley bringing you the Good News from your church in the Western District."

The messages deliberately avoid heavy theology, involving a local theme and challenge, usually no more than 30 seconds. Russell says his experience in drama, a tour of Radio Station CBA in Sydney and 3BA in Victoria and some practical help from Frank Clark of Ballarat has made it possible for him to move into the electronic media to bring the Gospel to where people are.

## "PURE WORDS" 1927

Does any reader have old copies of the children's magazine, "Pure Words?" If so, do they include 1927 copies. Mrs Thelma Trenerry a guest at "Mylo House", 15 Arthur St., Toowoomba, 4350 would like to know. A copy of the magazine during that year contained Mrs Trenerry's first literary effort, a short story. Her name then was Metcalf. Please write to her if you can help.

## BELGRAVE HEIGHTS EASTER CONVENTION

Missionary Doctor and authoress Dr. Helen Roseveare will be a speaker at this year's Belgrave Heights Easter Convention to be held from Good Friday morning to the Monday afternoon. Dr. Roseveare served for 20 years as a medical missionary doctor in the Congo and was a survivor of the Simba rebellion. She is the author of a number of books including 'Give me this Mountain', 'Doctor among Congo rebels' and 'Living Sacrifice'.

Other speakers at the Convention will be Rev. David Stewart, Principal of the Bible College of New Zealand who will lead the morning Bible Studies and Graeme Smith and Dr. Colin Kruse both from Melbourne. Mr. Smith is Associate Pastor at Blackburn North Baptist Church. Dr. Kruse has recently moved to Melbourne to lecture at Ridley College. He is a former missionary to Indonesia serving in central Java.

Upwards of 2,000 visitors gather for the program featuring morning Bible studies, Convention and Missionary meetings, Children's and Young Teenage programme. The meetings are held each day at 10.45 a.m. 3.00 and 7.00 p.m. (no 7 p.m. meeting Monday). A fully equipped Play Centre also operates.

Further information regarding the Convention and programme may be obtained from the Convention Office. Phone (03) 836 6839.

## F.E.B.C. RECEIVES LETTER FROM TIBET

Dr Robert Bowman, President of the F.E.B.C., shares the Chinese staff's joy over receiving a letter on October 4, out of Tibet. This was in response to the Living English program. This station broadcasts the Gospel to Korea, Japan, Russia and China. Tibet is one of the most closed areas of the world and for even one letter to reach the outside world is concrete evidence that these Gospel broadcasts are being heard by many in Tibet.

F.E.B.C. broadcasts 22 hours a day into China, including Tibet, from San Francisco, Korea and the Philippines. For over 25 years, there was little or no response out of all of China; but thousands of letters to the F.E.B.C. this year indicate that there always has been a large audience. F.E.B.C. staff believe this to also be true in Tibet, the only Chinese province they had not heard from this year, until the letter arrived.

## SHARING IN INDIA — IMPRESSIONS

(Continued from page 1)

Christians. The immensity of the task in bringing about social change and helping the poor and destitute to achieve wholeness and justice is well beyond the capacity of the relatively small India church. Only in partnership can the task be achieved! Team members were constantly confronted with the realities of the Indian situation, the presence of poverty, the population pressures, the lack of adequate sanitation, the polluted water and air and the apparent hopelessness of quickly changing the situation for the better. It is easy to despair, to be overcome by the culture shock and to want to "go home to the beauty and security of Australia". At times some team members felt the struggle, but we stayed and continued to see beyond the filth to the beauty.

Poverty became a relative word. After six and a half weeks in Indian villages and cities the cleanliness of Delhi and the lack of chaos on the roads impressed. Yet Western visitors often remark how dirty Delhi is! After thousands of kilometers travelling by train some team members actually came to enjoy the experience of hard wooden seats, the crowded trains, overcrowded stations and drinking coffee from dirty cups.

When the team first arrived in Madras the culture and conditions tended to shock. By our time of departure six and a half weeks later, Madras was seen as a relatively quiet city of 3½ million people that had a beauty, history and dignity that we could not see on arrival. The change reflected how much we felt we belonged and how we had identified with the people, their lifestyles and their struggles.

The team now looks forward to sharing with Australian churches the insights gained and encouraging people to take Partnership in Mission seriously.

## FESTIVAL OF FAITH FOR MELBOURNE

An exciting and adventurous Festival of Faith is planned for Melbourne from May 15-25 this year.

Organised by the city churches of Melbourne in conjunction with the Australian Council of Churches, the Festival of Faith will coincide with the World Council of Churches international conference on mission and evangelism to be held at Melbourne University High School May 12-25.

The Festival program includes daily lunch hour forums in two locations, St Paul's Cathedral and the AMP Theatre; the Christian Art in Asia collection at the ANZ Bank corner, Queen and Collins Sts., a music festival in city churches, a youth rally at Dallas Brooks Hall, and a series of displays and exhibitions at various city locations.

# PRESIDENT — ELECT RON BROOKER

The Conference Secretary, Clive L. Ward, announces the appointment of Ronald W. Brooker as President Elect of the Victorian Tasmanian Conference. Mr Brooker will take office as from Conference 1980 and will succeed Ron B. Elbourne as Conference President in May 1981.

Ron is the son of Les Brooker, remembered throughout the Brotherhood as a song leader during the "Tent Mission Bra". During his lifetime Ron has been associated with the churches at Middle Park, Brighton, Bambra Rd. Caulfield, Ringwood, Cheltenham, North Balwyn and is now a member of the church at Frankston. It was at Bambra Rd. Caulfield that Ron began his years of service to Christ and his local congregation. He has served on Officers' Boards as a Church Secretary, as a Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, as a youth leader and a member of numerous Committees.

For a number of years Ron served on the Department of Christian Education and the Federal Board of Christian Education. It was as Treasurer of the Department of Christian Education that Ron, together with Frank Richards, played a significant part in the negotiations with the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism, negotiations which led to the formation of the Department of Mission Education and Development of which he is currently an Executive Member. Ron is an Associate Fellow on the Australian Institute of Management



and an Associate of the Institute of Marketing.

In January 1976, Ron experienced sorrow in the passing of his wife Desley after a serious illness. Just over two years ago Ron married Dorothy Williams who had lost her husband Phil. Williams, whose passing was a loss to the whole Brotherhood. Dorothy Brooker is the daughter of the late Alan Cleland and Mrs Jess. Cleland. Ron and Dorothy have four children. David Brooker who after graduating as a B.Sc. (Hons.) entered the College of the Bible and is currently student minister at Brighton church, Ian Brooker is a final year student in dentistry at the Melbourne University and is in membership at Doncaster, Meredith Williams is a Dental Therapist in membership at Frankston and Katrina Williams who is presently in the U.S.A. as a Rotary Exchange Student.

Ron will bring to the office to which he has been appointed his experience in administration, his knowledge of the local church and the Brotherhood and his real sense of dedication to the cause of Christ and his church.

## OUTREACH IN INDIA "LOVE MAHARASHTRA" CAMPAIGN

Christians are uniting to launch a statewide program under the title 'Love Maharashtra' for 1980/81. Hazel Skuce writes that as part of the campaign one million tracts advertising the Bible Correspondence Course are to be printed and placed in packets for distribution.

To cope with the anticipated response, the correspondence lessons on the gospel of John will be reprinted in three languages.

The enthusiasm of people for the Bible Correspondence Courses is clearly demonstrated by the statistics. From July — December 1979, 1170 new students enrolled and 5797 lessons were marked.

The 'Love Maharashtra' campaign is directed at 60 million people in this predominantly Hindu state. Pray that many may discover Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour through this combined outreach program.

## BOMBAY CHRISTIAN CENTRE WIDENS MINISTRY

In the city of Bombay over 60 languages are spoken. To communicate the gospel, churches are catering for specific language groups. In the early days of our Bombay church the use of the Robinson Memorial Church at Byculla was greatly appreciated. Now it is our privilege to reciprocate.

The Bombay Christian Centre is being used by a branch of the Methodist church of S.E. Asia whose language is Tamil.

According to recent OXFAM report the need for food aid to Kampuchea will continue during 1980, as the current harvest is small and will be exhausted by March.

CAA has undertaken to provide seeds, fertilisers, equipment and tools essential for agricultural rehabilitation and development throughout 1980.

Community Aid Abroad will ask the people of Australia to respond to the ongoing needs of the people of Kampuchea by walking in this year's National 'Walk Against Want' on Sunday, April 20, or sponsoring others who do so.

CAA expects 6,000 walkers will walk 20 km or 33km in Melbourne and suburbs, as well as country centres and raise over \$100,000 for its work in developing countries.

Kampuchea is one of 5 projects which will benefit from the funds raised in the Walk. The other projects are for 11 Aboriginal outstation health units in South Australia; outboard motors to help in transport and communications in the Solomon Islands; a co-operative shipping project for villagers in Vanuaku (New Hebrides) and an animal breeding project for the Lambadas in India.

For over 10 years people of all ages and professions have joined together on walk day to show their concern for the 800 million people living in poverty.

Anyone interested in helping should phone CAA (03) 419 7044.

## 'WALK AGAINST WANT' APRIL 20



Rivers abound in fish. C.A.A. is funding nets to allow the harvest to be gathered.

# BOOKS TO READ

## THE PHENOMENON OF CHRISTIANITY

by Ninion Smart (Collins).

Ninion Smart is a renowned author who has written a number of books in the area of comparative religion. He will be well remembered for his B.B.C. T.V. series "The Long Search" which appeared on A.B.C. Television.

"The Phenomenon of Christianity" seeks to examine the spectrum of Christianity looking at it simply as a phenomenon of religious experience. In doing so he combines brief descriptions of various "denominations" of Christianity, some of the doctrines and practices as well as a little of the history that went into their making.

Diverse elements are dealt with that include the Orthodox Churches, Catholicism, Coptic Church, Swedish Lutheranism, the Baptists and the new Churches of Africa, as well as a brief look at Mormonism and Christian Science and others.

The second part of the book seeks to look at Christianity in terms of issues that lie behind the variety of Christian expression.

It does become apparent however that this book is not quite what is claimed in terms of an objective look at Christianity. I was struck by the obvious bias towards the catholic-orthodox-coptic end of the spectrum and surprised to see that "evangelism" was degraded to "ambition" and the importance of the Bible given scant attention as a driving force against the concepts of tradition and ceremonial.

The book is heavy going and somewhat superficial in its wordy approach accepting much of the 19th and early 20th century biblical critical approach. It seems to me a book giving a sympathetic view of the spectrum of Christianity still needs to be written.

Don. E. Stewart

## HAVE A GOOD DAY

by John Edmondstone (2CH) \$2.00

A collection of some of the 45 second spots that John Edmondstone presents each day on 2CH. John Edmondstone is a Baptist minister as well as being the Honorary Director of Religious Programmes on 2CH.

This collection is a very interesting short presentation of Christian truths. This could be used as a gift or in presenting devotions at a club. If it is not available from a book seller it can be obtained from 2CH, 47 York St., Sydney.

## IS ANYONE THERE?

by David Watson (Hodder & Stoughton) \$2.90

This is an excellent book written by a writer with a gift for simplicity. Somehow David Watson explains many of our questions about God and life convincingly but without getting sidetracked. Some of the chapter headings are "Is Anyone There?", "Look at the Facts", "Dead or Alive", "Doubts and Difficulties".

This is one book that I have no hesitation in recommending to both old and young.

— John Urquhart.

## THE POLITICS OF JESUS

by John Howard Yoder (Eerdmans)

An examination of the teachings and ministry of Jesus from a Christian social ethics position. The author is one of the evangelical social activists in the U.S.A. and this book is the study of the teachings of Jesus that have led him to this position.

John Yoder looks at the gospel text, particularly the gospel of Luke, to look at the fundamental issues of Christian behaviour in the world. The primary concern of the author is to proclaim the full relevance of the incarnation for the social faithfulness of all disciples — both in N.T. times as well as today. Very challenging.



## SLOW TRAIN COMING

by Bob Dylan (C.B.S. Records)

This is the first album by Bob Dylan since he became a Christian. It is in effect his statement that he is a Christian as he has given no press conferences and refused to make any interviews after rumors of his conversion had circulated for months. Reviews of this record in the rock press have ranged from comments that it is his best record ever to comments that he has sold out. The religious press is similarly divided in its opinion whilst all have welcomed Dylan's conversion.

This record is typically Dylan with his lyrics and the voice which is distinctly his. If you like Bob Dylan you will like this record but if not then this record is not for you.

The record starts with the statement that you have to follow somebody — the Devil or God. The rest of the tracks outline Bob Dylan's faith in Jesus Christ. There are also tracks that call America (and the rest of the West) back to God. Recommended to all who like rock music and also for the Christian statement by this former Jew who is a rock and folk superstar.

## THE FAITHFUL SAYINGS IN THE PASTORAL LETTERS

by George W. Knight (Baker)

An examination of the five occasions in the letters to Timothy and Titus that start with the phrase "Faithful is the saying". This book is designed for the scholar and the reader would need an excellent knowledge of Greek to follow the thread of the argument. It is interesting that this phrase does not occur in any other of Paul's writings.

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



# HAPPENINGS

St. John's Lutheran church has at a meeting decided to sell its present building to the developers of the casino in Melbourne in exchange for cash and an alternative site. The meeting was not all in favour of the sale. This will enable the casino to be built on the banks of the Yarra in the heart of Melbourne.

Stan Barrett who recently broke the world land speed record at 739,886 miles per hour at Mojave Desert in the U.S.A. says he did it to provide opportunities to share his Christian faith.

Don Stack, A chartered accountant of Brisbane, is the new Operations Director for the Haggai Institute in Australia. Miss Robyn Power the previous Executive Co-ordinator is undertaking a 12 month course of studies at the Baptist Theological College in Brisbane.

In 1977 there were 4,669 Catholic newspapers and magazines being

published around the world. Total copies printed that year were 1.8 billion.

August Ben has been appointed by the New Hebridean Conference to the position of Director of Missions and Evangelism.

The American military forces each year use as much oil as does the entire African continent.

More than 35,000 have been baptised over the past five years by the Union of Evangelicals and Baptists in the U.S.S.R. Since 1974 more than 200 churches have been opened and 120,000 pieces of literature — Bibles, New Testaments, hymnals and concordances — distributed.

According to a private survey conducted by a professor of the London University the Methodist Church in England could lose one third of its ministers in the next 20 years.

The new Miss America, Cheryl Prewitt, says she is a born again Christian. Cheryl says her faith was strengthened through the miraculous healing of her left leg which was damaged in a car accident.

In America 1500 Roman Catholic priests and laypersons recently attended a National Catholic Celebration of Evangelism. They started a campaign to evangelize the estimated 80 million unchurched Americans as well as about 12 million "fallen away" Catholics. Churched people are not targets for the effort.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are now Spain's largest non-Catholic group. Their 1979 congress in Barcelona attracted 50,000.

Iran has ruled that only three minority religions will be officially recognized in the Islamic republic, and these may exercise their rights only within the principles of Islam. The Council of Constitutional Experts in September approved a clause that named Christianity,

Judaism, and Zoroastrianism, but excluded the Baha'i community, Iran's largest minority religion. (Approximate figures: Baha'i, 450,000; Christians, 300,000; Jews, 60,000; and Zoroastrians, 20,000.)

Argentina has implemented a law requiring denominations and religious organizations to register and be officially recognized. As decreed by the military junta, the measure appears targeted at smaller, newer, and less orthodox denominations and cults. (Groups already banned include the Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krishna, Divine Light, and the Children of God). Roman Catholicism, the nation's majority religion, is exempted. The law gives religious groups 90 days to furnish the National Bureau of Religions with information including: a summary of doctrine, a schedule of regular activities, a description of ties and dependence on other institutions inside the country and abroad, and the approximate number of adherents in Argentina.

## DIARY

- NATIONAL
- March
- 16 Annual offering — Aborigines Mission
- April
- 4 Good Friday
- WESTERN
- AUSTRALIA
- March
- 21-23 Youth "Exodus" to Country
- TASMANIA
- March
- 15-16 Annual Conv-entio
- NEW SOUTH WALES
- March
- 21-23 Men's Camp
- VICTORIA
- March
- 25 C.W.F. March Effort
- 28-30 C.W.F. Camp — Halls Gap
- 30 Engaged Couples Program
- April
- 4-7 Banksia Easter Camp
- 12 Explorer Outdoor Sports
- 12 Youth Ministry Country — City Dinner
- 13 C.M.F. Annual Rally and Dedication
- 19 Youth Rally

# 25 Years Ago

The front cover of the March 15, 1955 issue featured an account of an evening to celebrate the 80th birthday of Will H. Clay. The cover also contained an account of a personal visitation program conducted by the Oakleigh Vic. church.

A. G. Elliott then at Kingsford, N.S.W. wrote an article "My Brother's Keeper".

The answer is most emphatically, "Yes". Of course, it is true that the whole idea of the brotherhood of man can only be conceived, practically, in the light of the acknowledgement by man of the Fatherhood of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

The Duty of the Christian.

Love, the great Christian virtue and the spring of all service to others, has two aspects. Mutual love implies justice toward our fellows, the very message of the Prophets; but they in turn foreshadowed Christ . . .

Consequently, because of God's merciful love towards us, in Christ, it is our duty, as Christians, to reach out in love and justice to all men.

Christ saves the whole man — body, as well as soul and spirit.

The motive for our service should be gratitude — for what he has done for us.

It is interesting to read of the efforts made 25 years ago to complain to the Post Office about the late arrival of the "Australasian Christian". Nothing much has changed there except the rate of postage.

The chapel at Dubbo and members in the Dubbo and Gilgandra churches in N.S.W. suffered flood damage. Before the floods both churches had baptised two people.

The memorial building to past Principals at the College of the Bible was opened on March 26 by the Federal President I. A. Paternoster.

The Thornbury, Vic. church reported on a mission held with Eric Hart (Toowoomba).

Nine decisions, one reconsecration and two who asked for baptism were reported in the results of this mission.

## TWENTY MILLION FOR KAMPUCHEA

World Vision has increased its Kampuchean budget by \$15 million to \$20 million.

It is hoped that \$3 million from the total budget will be raised in Australia. Already Australians have given \$1.4 million to Kampuchea through World Vision.

World Vision has increased its budget following the approval by the Kampuchean Government for the agency to commence large scale rehabilitation and long term development projects.

World Vision will be assisting in seed rice crops and irrigation, a small animal breeding industry, a youth receiving centre, the Phnom Penh Medical Faculty and an animal feed factory.

This is additional to the program announced earlier in which World Vision will be re-equipping its children's hospital in Phnom Penh, supporting for a number of orphanages and assisting a condensed milk factory.

## TO WHOM DO WE PREACH?

94% of preaching is to the 9% of the world population which has already had an opportunity to respond to the gospel. 6% of preaching is to that other 91% — the unevangelised. 96% of finance given by God's people for his work is used for the 9%.

— Buzz Magazine.

# KEEPING MAD IN A SANE WORLD

# Page 13

One of our younger preachers was holding forth one Sunday morning on the Sermon on the Mount. He talked of turning the other cheek and going the second mile and loving our enemies. His polite congregation knew that it was all true, but that it would be crazy to live like that in our sort of world. But respectfully they said nothing; that is all except one frank modern youth. As he passed the preacher at the door, he explained: "What you said was stupid!"

By the world's standards, the lad was right. Christianity is an idealistic insanity, quite unworkable in a sane, practical world.

## SANITY AS THE WORLD SEE IT

The Australian nation prefers peace to war, yet we spent 4% of our national budget on peace making and over 25% on preparation for war. Nations still consider the possibility of killing millions as a way of handling world problems.

During the First World War, a missionary explained to a Pacific Islander that thousands of men had been killed in Europe. The old man wanted to know when they were going to eat them. Disgusted, the missionary said that they would not be eaten. Equally disgusted, the islander said: "Why do you kill them, if you are not going to eat them?" What was insane to primitive man was sanity to civilized man.

## AUSTRALIAN SANITY

Australians reject the sort of things that Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. They believe that it is sane to hate and resent and compete and retaliate and to act tough. Yet we fill our hospitals and law courts with the results of such feelings and behaviour.

We still believe that it is saner to gain the world and to lose our souls. Even Christians find it necessary to limit their commitment to the gospel by economic and political expediency.

Australians believe that the new sanity is in scrapping traditional moral standards in favour of doing our own thing, even when we see the increase in rape, violence, child abuse, drug dependence and the break-up of family life.

## MORE AUSTRALIAN SANITY

Australians seem to think that it is sane to spend more on organized gambling than on education, and a thousand times more on luxuries than on helping our Asian neighbours. We apparently see nothing incongruous about the fact that our pets live better

than half the people in the Third World. If we put down in a Kampuchean village the pet food from one aisle of a local supermarket, the villagers would think that heaven had descended upon them.

## SANITY OR MADNESS

To lose oneself, to take up the cross, to take Jesus Christ seriously, to put God before economic and political expediency, are all madness in our sort of world.

This is not surprising, because his world thought that our Lord was mad. "He is raving, why listen them him?" they said, just after he had talked of the Good Shepherd giving his life for the sheep. It is raving to contemplate giving yourself freely for others. "He is out of his mind," they said, after conflict about healing on the sabbath.

## PAUL WAS MAD

Festus said that Paul was mad, as the result of too much education. This was after Paul had testified to the risen Christ.

Modern cynics have said that Paul's vision on the way to Damascus was the result of an epileptic fit. This led the eloquent Joseph Parker of City Temple, London, to raise his arms and to cry out: "Fly on thou mighty epilepsy!"

When they said that Joan of Arc was mad, a bystander commented: "We can do with a few more mad ones. Look where the sane ones have landed us." This could be a shrewd commentary on our contemporary sanity in relation to the madness of the way of Jesus Christ.

## WHAT ARE SANITY AND MADNESS?

In the eyes of the world, and perhaps in the eyes of some in the church, faith, repentance, baptism, church worship, the Bible in the home, the family under God, loving our enemies, and total commitment all represent madness. Yet these could represent the only sanity in a crazy world.

In the epic film, "The Bible", they all know that Noah is mad. Even his family have moments of wondering. Finally Noah and his family are pictured in the Ark with the deluge going on all round them. Suddenly one of them says: "What is that cry? Is it the moaning of the wind?" But it is the moaning of the sane ones. The mad ones are in the Ark.

Perhaps the hope of the world after all is in those who are willing to be thought "fools for Christ's sake", or to use Alexander Campbell's phrase: "fools of God".

# OBITUARY

**HOOK, Harry**

Harry Hook was born at Sydney in 1908, and whilst at home at 33 Horseshoe Bend, Gympie, he died quietly and peacefully. Baptised by the late S. W. Vanham in a creek on the Anderson's property at New Veteran around 55 years ago, Harry had identified himself with the Gympie church as one who truly loved his Lord and was a faithful servant through all of those years. Only until a little time prior to his death he was regular in his attendances at the Sunday services and the mid-week prayer meeting. He was a real prayer warrior. He served his Lord through the church as Sunday School teacher, and as deacon, for many years. From when his mother died when he was 6 years of age, he was reared by his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Portas, of New Veteran, Gympie. He married Olive Fittell and set up a home where the name of Jesus was honoured. To Mrs. Hook and the three families — Mr. and Mrs. B. Ewels (Glenys), Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. S. Jones (Lexie), Moranbah, Queensland, and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Smith (Ailsa), Brisbane, and their children, and other relatives, loving sympathy is extended in the hope of the resurrection and with thanks for a wonderful life well lived. A funeral service was held in the chapel at Gympie followed by cremation in Brisbane.

McQUEEN, Frances May.

(20.2.1980). After years of patient suffering, the last two in the Warracknabeal Hospital, Miss Frances McQueen died on February 20. Baptised in 1923, for 57 years she lived a life of devotion and service. She was a faithful steward with her time, talents and treasure. She loved Christ, the church and the Brotherhood. From her youth she continued as a Sunday School teacher until ill health forced her to resign. For many years she was both church and Sunday School organist, the leader of the C.E. society, and also of the Golden Circle, a group of young people whose concern was the development and welfare of the Church. Frances lived a complete life, a keen tennis player and with an interest in most sports. Services at the church and graveside conducted by the writer were well attended which was a fitting tribute to a worthy Christian lady. To her two surviving sisters, Miss Olive and Agnes (Mrs Crostie) the church at Warracknabeal extends Christian love and sympathy.

— R. Will Marshall

**PRITCHARD, Rita Mary (nee Home).**

(15.2.1980). After a long period of illness at the Ridge Park Nursing Home, Mrs Pritchard died aged 85 years. At the age of 16 years she accepted Christ and was baptised at Queenstown during the ministry of W. C. Brooker. In 1920 she married David Pritchard. Her two daughters are Helen (Mrs Morrow) and June (Mrs Everett). In 1945 the Pritchards moved to the Eastern suburbs where they remained to the present time; Mrs Pritchard became a member of the Dulwich church from that time. She was a woman who worked quietly in matters of personal involvement. She was in charge of sending out cradle roll certificates for many years at Queenstown and in those earlier days was a voluntary worker with the Mothers and Babies Association. At

Dulwich there were a number of ways she gave practical support, one in particular was the gift of the electronic organ and the money for lessons for church organists. Mrs Pritchard was for some time a regular attendee at Women's Conference. All her life her attendance at church was very loyal and regular. Her faith was real and sure; she knew the Christ in whom she believed. To her husband and family the Dulwich church and Christian friends extend to them Christian love and sympathy.

— Trevor F. Lawrie.

## PRIME OF LIFE

Rejoicing in the name "Prime of Life," a group of 20 couples from 40 to 60 years of age meets monthly at the Red Hill (Vic.) church for Christian social fellowship.

The group desires to contact any similar groups in the churches.

If you are interested write to Mrs. Margaret Johnson, 40 Ocean View Av., Red Hill South, Vic. or phone (059) 89 2531.

## MILESTONE FOR "THE CHANGING MOODS"



For a number of years now, contemporary Gospel music has emerged as being a leading form of presenting God's message, and is becoming increasingly popular throughout our churches. The Changing Moods is a group of young adults who present Jesus Christ in this popular form and members are drawn from many areas of Melbourne.

A significant milestone was achieved recently, when at the Parkdale Church of Christ (Vic.) the group celebrated their 10th anniversary. Although formed in 1969, their associations actually go back to "The Campbell Singers", who were well-known for their choral music. The Changing Moods first came to being when it was decided that a change in music and direction was needed.

As a result, the musical ministry of the group has been readily accepted by all denominations and performances nearing the 200 mark have been given in all major provincial cities of Victoria together with Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne Town Hall rallies for State and Federal Conferences, St Paul's Cathedral, Wesley Central Mission, churches within the Melbourne area, homes for retarded

children and detention centres.

As a group name, "The Changing Moods" really is quite appropriate when one considers all the members that have come and gone (around 100), the different styles of music and the various methods of production over the years.

Now at the start of the 1980s the group consists of about 20 singers and a fine band of musicians led by Gill Cutler on keyboards. Many soloists are found within the group and with the help of a good chorus of singers, music, speech, choreography and lighting are now combined into programs that tell a Christian message. Special mention must be made of Bronwyn Booth and Christine White who produce the choreography for the group and of Kevin White and Marjorie Plummer who provide the lighting and audio. It is interesting to note that original members Peter Strack and Alan Byrne are still going strong!

Conductor Harold Plummer would like to hear from anyone interested in joining the group. For more details please ring Harold on 848 1093 or President Andrew Smith on 848 1872.

— PHIL DAVEY

# nsw

**TAREE** (M.H.A. Pieper, Graham Warne). Dual ministry of M.H.A. Pieper and Graham Warne commenced . . . United boards met and planned the pulpit ministry until the end of June . . . Churches secured residence for second minister on the road that links Taree and Wingham.

**GOONELLABAH** (Rob Holt). Church has purchased brick home for manse. Rob Holt commenced ministry in February. Church dinner held to welcome Holt family . . . Play group being held two mornings a week in church hall . . . Youth commenced year with a sausage sizzle at the manse . . . Mini Midgets held on Wednesday nights . . . Eric Graydon, Bruce McDonald, Tom Kemp inducted into Eldership . . . Gospel services as well attended as morning service.

**GILGANDRA** Church continuing without a minister, services being taken by various members . . . Home Mission planning to help one Sunday a month . . . Past minister Arvid Franzen preparing for work with Christian Literature Crusade.

**PENDLE HILL** (Ron Bassett) Church rejoicing in arrival of Ron Bassett to commence ministry. He is still using Thornleigh manse until a suitable residence is purchased . . . Sunday morning services to be at 10.30 a.m. . . . Average of 40 attendance at service at Ashwood House . . . Two visits from John Scotland to present gospel message in song . . . Creative Living Centre started 1980 with encouraging attendances.

# tas

**LAUNCESTON** (M. D. Hamilton, R. H. Allison). 24 members have commenced two year course of Bethel Bible Series . . . Heather Ferguson of Essendon, working with Scripture Union in Tasmania welcomed . . . Grace Tang has returned to Hong Kong . . . Girls' Brigade and Good Companions have united, meeting at Margaret Street centre . . . Invermay and Margaret Street B.S. have also combined.

# vic

**WARRAGUL** (B. Crowden). Combined Warragul church B.S. held a teacher's dedication service conducted by minister . . . Four families welcomed into fellowship.

**CHELTENHAM** (A. E. White, S. Wilson, M. Humphries, D. Smith) Doug and Dawn Smith and family welcomed as youth minister . . . Over 30 lads and dads attended weekend camp . . . "Survivors" singing group took part in evening service . . . 260 attended first family service for year . . . "Open Door" led by Carolyn Urquhart providing enjoyment and fel-

lowship . . . Play group organised by Brenda O'Mahony . . . Gary O'Mahony keeping fathers and others fit with jogging.

**HORSHAM** (W. Gibney) New ministry commenced with Wallace Gibney . . .

Two rededications recently . . . Members stocked manse pantry . . . Young lady made decision . . . C.W.E.F. held progressive dinner to raise funds towards N.G. pastor . . . Monthly family services at 9.30 a.m.

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- Unfortunately this ad was unable to catch the previous issue, therefore it is a week late for the start of the sale. Much of the sale stock is still available, however, including many popular authors and titles.

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

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

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

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Visitors to these centres are welcome and may obtain information re  
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**PEEL STREET, BALLARAT** (J. Cunningham). 130 attended Feb. 3 gospel service and fellowship hour in thanksgiving for church growth during Jim Cunningham's first year of ministry. Seven adults welcomed into membership and of-

fering of \$725 on day . . . Over previous 12 months attendances increased by 25% and offerings by 31% . . . Church saddened at the death of Miss Elsie Brogan after a lifetime of faithful service to the Brotherhood.

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# OLD

**SOUTHPORT** (N. Newton, D. Capuano, D. Holloway). In February 1979 a missionary faith pledge for \$8,400 launched by Southport and Burleigh Heads churches to support Van Harran and Wythe families in New Guinea. \$8,600 received in 12 months . . . 300 attended official opening of "Irwin Blowers Memorial Youth Emergency Accommodation" home on Feb. 9. The home will cater for eight young people 12-16 years under the Children's Service. The project cost \$112,000 of which the church's share is \$56,000. Home opened debt free . . . 30 bed nursing wing at Golden Age Retirement Village underway and scheduled to open in June . . . Plans to extend church facilities currently at council . . . Minister Noel Newton to attend seminar at Monbulk for "Strategy for the Eighties."

**PINE RIVERS** (Malcolm Chandler). Fifth anniversary services held with John Timms, newly appointed Home Missions State Evangelist, guest speaker. Decision at evening service . . . Ministry through puppetry included in morning services. Theatre has been made . . . Ladies visited guests at Bribie Island Retirement Village and shared morning tea and a program with them . . . Four generations of the Kieseker family, formerly from Roma, now meeting with Pine Rivers Church.

**MARGARET STREET, TOO-WOOMBA** (Bruce Armstrong). Report of activities showed successful interim ministries of A. G. Elliott followed by Greg Deuble prepared way for arrival of Bruce and Iris Armstrong and family . . . Chapel filled to capacity at morning and most evening services . . . Bethel group ready to start studies . . . Boys and Girls Brigades increasing in numbers . . . Merv Muller reappointed president of C.M.S. . . . Jean McCullagh retired after 14 years as Matron of Mylo. Sister Evelyn Friebe appointed new matron . . . John Friebe spending 10 hours weekly as assistant to the minister.

**EAST IPSWICH** (B. A. Rice, C. O'Dempsey). Barry Rice shared in family leadership camp at Maryborough and also conducted induction of Don Herbert . . . Family camp held at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre. 160 attended under the leadership of Chris O'Dempsey . . . John Fulford, pastor of Annesbrook church N.Z. and speaker at Kenmore retreat and convocation spoke at church worship services . . . Bethel Bible study classes recommenced at both teacher training and congregational level . . . Barry Rice represented Queensland at National Conference on Evangelism.

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### BIRTHS

**GENAT (GARDNER)** To Tricia and Geoff God's blessing of a beautiful daughter (Megan Laurel) on February 27th.

**KILGOUR (AUSTIN)** To Russell and Judy a daughter Lauren Kate born February 28. A sister for Erin.

### MARRIAGES

**HILL — DEDRICK.** Peter and Fran's wedding took place at the home of Robert and Mavis Hill, 22 Pacific Ave., Sunshine Beach, Qld. on March 8th.

**QUAYLE — WILKES.** The marriage of Jenny, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vic Quayle, to Laurie, son of Mrs R. Wilkes, was celebrated on 22nd February, Jenny's father officiating.

### PEARL WEDDING

**HILL (HEMBROW)** Robert and Mavis. Much love on your 30th wedding anniversary from Brian, Carolyn, Peter, Deb, Cameron, Bob, Pete and Fran.

### RUBY WEDDING

**FRASER — WILSON.** Jack and Netta Fraser are celebrating their 40th Wedding anniversary on the 16th March, 1980. They were married by P. J. Pond at the Ashfield Church of Christ, N.S.W. They were later blessed with two gorgeous girls, Heather and Glenda, who thank God everyday for such wonderful parents. Our congratulations Mum and Dad, you are the greatest!! With all our love. Heather and Bryan, Glenda and Gordon and families.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

**GREEN — SPERLING.** Percy to Estelle at Graceville Methodist Church on 29.3.30. Congratulations from family, Ross & Myrtle Green, Lola & Colin Lebeter, Betty & Kevin Dunn and nine grandchildren. Present address Graceville, Qld.

**YOUNG — AULD** Robt. and Mary 28 Ocean Ave., Port Lincoln, S.A. married March 28th, 1930 by the late Mr H. L. Davie at the Tumbay Bay Church of Christ. John, Jean, David and families congratulate them and praise God for their love and guidance. Hebrews 6:10

### DEATHS

**McCALLUM** Arch of Chelsea formerly of Ascot Vale. Passed away March 2nd at Prince Henry's Hospital. Dearly loved husband of Jess, loved father of Rowie and Jean, Vi and David, Beryl and Ron, grandfather of Margaret, Colin, Gary, Margaret, Shirley, Geoff, Sandra, Judi, Glenys, Lawrie and Phillip, great-grandfather of Jason, Grant and Glenn. "Forever in our hearts."

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## ADVERTISING RATES

"The Australian Christian" regrets that it has become necessary to increase advertising rates as from the April 19th issue. This has been due to an increase in costs over the past 12 months which includes a 17½% increase in printing.

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

No change

### DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENTS

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52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne. 3000**



# CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

invites you to their

## MARCH EFFORT

Tuesday 25th March 1980 at 8 p.m.

at Blackman Hall  
Hawthorn State College,  
442 Auburn Rd., Hawthorn

## SONG IN COSTUME

With guest adjudicators

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Proceeds — Multiple Sclerosis

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(03) 789 3490

or Vere Stewart  
(03) 44 6142

Tickets are available on the night at the door

# PERSONAL

## DISCIPLESHIP

● Mrs Anne Spoelder, Louise Pawson, Mrs Kay Duffy, Mrs Grace Perrott, Tom Perrott, Albert Park, S.A. ● Lex Mildren, Michael Nesvadba, George Randall, Gina Randall, Julie Scott, Shane Taylor, Jean Tuton, Mark Tuton, Jillian Churchill, Donna Scott, Richard Thornton, Jayne Thornton, Shane Scott, Rick Fielding, Sandra Roth, Iris Hull, Kors Swets, Kylie Walker, Paula Stafford, Southport, Qld. ● Lisa Blackmore, Renee Forder, Rosa Frecker, Denise Squires, Andrew Bennett, Peter Forder, Bruce Gray, Amanda Walker, Steven Smith, Glen Waverley, Vic. ● Meredith O'Brien, Wayne McCarthy, Daryl Walker, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic. ● John and Betty Matula, Gary Wood, Tanya Grant, Rob Price, East Ipswich, Qld.

## MARRIAGES

● Sue Young to Les Reed, Box Hill, Vic. ● Lyn Barnes to Bryan Barker, Loretta Taber to Neil Moxey, Southport, Qld. ● Julie Kuchel to Timothy Plush, Horsham, Vic. ● Joylene Wheaton to Graham Dallow, Kaniva, Vic. ● Barbara Leet to Alan Muston, East Ipswich, Qld.

## DEATHS

● Mrs Margaret Fairs, Albert Park, S.A. ● Zell Sims, Stan Jacobs, Southport, Qld. ● Mrs Mavis Pickup, Marion, S.A. ● Miss Elsie Brogan, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic. ● Mrs Dorothy Jones, East Ipswich, Qld.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

STRATHMORE: Minister — J. Spiker, 9 Kilburn St, Strathmore, Vic. 3039. Phone (03) 379 4403. COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE: Students — Phone Numbers. The number that was (03) 25 6270 is now (03) 299 1443. The other student number is still (03) 25 8158.

## NEW ADDRESS

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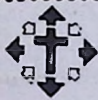
## NORTH FITZROY

107th Church  
Anniversary

SUNDAY MARCH 30

Services 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m.

Speaker — J. Harmer



## HOBART CHURCHES OF CHRIST CHRISTIANS' CHAPEL FUND

Major renovations to the Collins St. chapel in Hobart were dedicated in April 1979. Total cost of \$13,880 was met in part by a loan of \$9600 from the Hobart Churches Trust Fund. Members have accepted the task outside of their budget offerings and already \$7050 of the \$13,880 has been raised through a variety of ventures. Friends and former members are invited to share in this effort by supporting a

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

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

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

## 4. TOURS TO CAIRNS WITH TRANS OTWAY

Leaving from Melbourne on June 21st, this 26 day coach tour travels via Princes Highway to Sydney, Port Macquarie, Surfers Paradise, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Townsville and Innisfail to Cairns. We visit Atherton Tableland, and on the return journey Mackay, Gladstone, Maryborough, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga returning to Melbourne via Albury. We visit Hayman, Daydream, Green, Magnetic and South Molle Islands, and take a cruise through Whitsunday Passage. This is a good value tour and is well priced from Melbourne \$1276, Sydney \$1018, Brisbane \$721.

## 5. ALICE SPRINGS & THE RED CENTRE

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

## 6. TOUR TO WEST AUSTRALIA

Departing October 20th this 18 day tour takes us by coach to Adelaide via Mildura, to Port Augusta, Whyalla, Ceduna, Norseman, Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Esperance, Albany, Busselton, Perth, Darling Ranges, El Caballo, by rail to Port Pirie then by coach to Melbourne. Fares: from Melbourne 1st Rail \$1111, 2nd Rail \$1070; Adelaide \$984 (\$943); Sydney \$1143 (1077); Brisbane \$1263 (1187).

## 7. GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN

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

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

Send for brochures for cruises leaving on March 26th, April 17th, September 5th October 17th, 1980 and January 13th 1981, but HURRY as the ship fills quickly.

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N.S.W. — 5th Floor, 83 York St., Sydney, 2000. Ph.: 29 7594  
S.A. — 2nd Floor, 44 Gawler Place, Adelaide, 5000. Ph.: 223 6300  
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# VIC

**RESERVOIR** (P. Stevens). E. O. Stevens conducted induction service for his son Phillip . . . C. Candy took interim ministry during January . . . Annual meeting held, C. Crossfield Elder-Secretary, J. Welsford Treasurer . . . Bruce and Judith Grayden and family returned to the Philippines to continue working with Wycliffe Bible Translators . . . C. Crossfield recuperating after surgery . . . C.W.F. visited folk at Fred Combridge House . . . Working bee held at manse.

**BENTLEIGH** (Chris MacKenzie). Chris MacKenzie dedicated into the office of minister of the church. Service led by G. J. Crossman and minister, elders, deacons and church made declarations of service and witness.

**DANDENONG** (W. J. Edwards). Vera Pearson now a resident at Emmaus Rest Home . . . Mrs Mitchell now residing at Sandown Private Hospital . . . Kam-puchean appeal raised \$414 . . . Power through Prayer seminar held . . . C.W.F. took meeting at Oakleigh Guest Home . . . Judy and Paul Williams spoke to C.W.F. . . Harvest Thanksgiving held and goods given to C.O.B. . . Warm clothing donated for Afghanistan refugees . . . Marion Jones still ill . . . Explorers held parent leader get together . . . C.W.F. held stall at Parkmore . . . Five have made a commitment or re-commitment.

**ASHBURTON** (K. Ridge, P. Clayton) Christmas Bowl offering \$240 . . . Members filled pulpit during January . . . Church offers sympathy to Isabel Hill on the death of her husband Jack . . . Robyn Haskell introduced Keith Ridge and family to church. Peter Clayton has since then joined the student team . . . C.W.F. honoured Mrs McFadzean on her 90th birthday . . . Group Lenten studies commenced on "Your Kingdom Come".

## ● C.O.B.

### GARDEN PARTY

The College of the Bible Garden Party was held on Saturday, February 23. The picnic tea was followed by an Inaugural Service on the main lawn. This included welcomes to guest lecturers, Professors Elza and Lois Hawkins from the U.S.A., Graeme Chapman from Ballarat, and Alan Niven from Werribee.

#### OTHER STAFF

Lyndsay Smith of Chelsea was introduced as the voluntary Librarian and Assistant Registrar. He has commenced part-time service and will be full time from July. Clarice Verco from Bordertown, S.A. was introduced as the new Housekeeper.

#### NEW STUDENTS

18 new students were introduced with their families, a total of 44 in all. The new students are — Ken Barrett (Darwin, N.T.), Cliff Blowers (South Melbourne, Vic.), Peter Clayton (Berwick, Vic.), Daryl Colless (Yarrawonga, Vic.), Robert Corrie (Castlemaine, Vic.), John Elliott (Brighton, S.A.), Glynthea Finger (Annerley, Q'ld.), Dorothy Fowler (Mitcham, Vic.), Robert Frazer (Enfield Heights, S.A.), Robin Gibson (Kalamunda, W.A.), John Gilmore (Ainslie, A.C.T.), Leigh Mellberg (Mildura, Vic.), Steven Ogden (Mitcham, Vic.), Karen Pawsey (Berwick, Vic.), Keith Ridge (Port Pirie, S.A.), Sharn Waldron (Parkdale, Vic.), Ken Whitcombe (Blackburn, Vic. and formerly N.Z.), and Nitish Wahgmode (India).

## PRIZES

Prizes were presented as follows — First year — Theo Mackaay, Second year — Phil Webber and Faith Smith, Third year — Iris Lawson, L.Th. and Wayne Clinton, B.D., Fourth year — Mark Dunn, L.Th. and Alan Niven B.A. (Hons.) B.D. Dip.Ed., Diligence and Development — Peter Broadbent and Ian Smith, Contribution to College Life — Jan Dunn Th.A. and Mark Dunn L.Th., Preaching — Denise Wissmann, L.Th., Dip.R.E.

#### HONOURS DIPLOMAS

Having completed his work for the Bachelor of Theology Degree, Bruce Waldron, B.Theol., was awarded the Honours Diploma of the College. David Hamilton has also qualified for the Honours Diploma, but being in Queensland was unable to be present to receive the award.

### S.A. ADOPTION PROCEDURES REVIEW

Procedures and legislation relating to "non secret" adoptions were under review and changes may be made to correct any anomalies, the South Australian Minister of Community Welfare, John Burdett said.

"Non secret" adoption involve cases where, for example, a spouse of a parent or relative wants to adopt a child.

Mr. Burdett said the South Australian Adoptions Panel is already looking at possible changes to procedures following concern expressed by natural parents who wanted to have their child adopted by a husband or wife of a second marriage.

## BICHENO CENTRE, TASMANIA

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

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

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SO

**NOARLUNGA** (M. Munyard, F. C. Hunting). Conf. Pres., Barry Grear, inducted Frank Hunting into a part-time associate ministry ... Morrie Munyard has made speedy recovery from heart attack ... Friendship Centre meeting fortnightly has crafts for all community.

**ALBERT PARK** (Roger Risson). Letter-box drop using Encounter leaflets followed by personal visitation to 250 homes ... "Simeon's Palace" raised \$210 for Freedom from Hunger ... Two stoves fitted in kitchen ... Church sponsored O. Gillings to music seminar at Cooma ... Fortnightly cake stall commenced at


shops as outreach venture. Youth auxiliaries combined ... Strawberry Fair raised over \$300.

**OWEN** (John Wilson). At A.G.M. four elders re-elected and budget system accepted ... Four J.C.E. girls attended junior camp at Mt. Barker ... \$100 raised by J.C.E. in 1979 donated for gospel broadcasts to Russia ... Ian Marshman, apprentice chef, second in his year and goes into finals ... Mr. Wray Snr. hospitalised ... Combined S.S. dedication service held ... Women's Fellowship recommenced with progressive tea.

**MARION** (E.P.C. Hollard). "We Expect!" theme for year ... Indoor bowls club practicing ... Nine received by transfer, also two couples and three single members have moved into the home units adjoining the church ... Church sad-

dened by sudden death of Mrs. Mavis Pickup. Sympathy extended to family ... John Shepherd recently returned from the Philippines with Venture for Victory Basketball team presented a wood carving depicting the Last Supper ... Conf. Pres. Barry Grear speaker ... Mrs. Margaret Battersby, Pres. Womens Conf. also took part ... Ben Mason, Aboriginal pastor recent preacher.

**FULLARTON** (W. J. Philp). Church farewelled Mr and Mrs J. A. Luff as they retire from full-time ministry. Building full with speakers E. Roffey (Brotherhood), C. Higgins (Gawler), K. Averay (Mile End), T. Thomas (Forrestville), K. Collins (Victor Harbour), Janine and Val Creeper and A. Harkness (Fullarton) ... B. Gear conducted induction service for W. J. Philp and spoke at church luncheon that followed ... Lenten studies being shared with Uniting church.



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**March 16, 23, 30**

9.15 a.m. Expository studies in John's Gospel  
11.00 a.m.

7.00 p.m. Gleanings from Genesis

**Ministers:**  
A. L. Webb, Bruce Morton

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# VIC

**CAMBERWELL** (V. Longthorp, A. Tanner). Church conducting letter drop followed by visitation in surrounding area . . . New board members are R. Hayes — Chairman, J. Ryall, R. Porter and J. Warren . . . During holidays speakers were Ron Bucknall, B. Kennedy and W. Fordham . . . Table Tennis club active with success in district competition . . . Daisy and Bill Kent, Nance and Ern Allsop honoured on golden and ruby weddings respectively.

**NORTH FITZROY** (J. Harmer). Letter box drop of 2,000 folders with Christmas message and information of church activities including new ministry . . . Holiday program for children and teenagers for three weeks in Jan. had average attendance of 40 . . . John Harmer inducted into ministry by G. Warren. H. Miller delivered the charge . . . Church purchased 12 seater bus named "The Good Companion" in view of \$2,500 raised by Good Companion project . . . Combined evening services held with Uniting and Baptist churches over Jan . . . Miss L. Ross celebrated 90th birthday.

**CASTLEMAINE** (Peter Haylock). Auxiliaries back in action . . . Own members filled pulpit during ministers holiday . . . Rob and Ruth Corrie farewelled to a part-time ministry at Kyneton . . . Gordon and Rhonda Bickford home on furlough from Roeland, W.A. . . . Mixed choir to sing at N.D. Conf. on March 1.

**FRANKSTON** (Allan Avery, W. D. Mills) Letter drops to 500 homes followed by doorknock . . . Special series held on faiths with Jewish faith — Rabbi John Cooper, Roman Catholics — Fr Barry King, Protestants — Mervyn Himbury

. . . Greg Rumble new S.S. supt. . . Kevin Hillier undertaking further music studies in England . . . Katrina Williams a Rotary Exchange student in U.S.A. . . . Films shown each evening service in Jan. . . Christmas Bowl offering over \$1000 . . . Fran and Sunny Waghmode took part in Indian Sharing Venture . . . Board viewing extensions to present buildings . . . Men's and Ladies' Slimfit clubs started again . . . Church in Mission series held where chaplains to school, defence forces, prisons, commerce, Police Dept. and hospitals spoke of their work followed by questions . . . Several baptised . . . Leaders' Breakfast held to discuss future work . . . Russell Baker resigned from leading Bible Study after many years . . . Bruce Leslie, Director of Campaigners for Christ, began two weeks of morning coffees, evening house parties, special services and counselling . . . 57 now resident at "Greenways".

**STRATHMORE** (S. Bannon, J. Spiker). Manse purchased and occupied by associate minister . . . 25 members journeyed to Mooroopna to renovate their chapel. . . Sausage Sizzle at Hainsworth's raised \$67 . . . "Leisure Time" commenced for 1980 . . . Mutual Fund introduced by A. and D. Thomson.

**RED HILL** (A. Pigdon, Doug Walladge). Doug and Julie Walladge welcomed into assisting ministry . . . Operation World (church's missionary program) sent \$300 to three missionaries . . . Carol service held at local school with combined churches choir . . . Ladies Evening Fellowship organised barbecue with proceeds from Kindilan homes Red Hill (handicapped children) . . . Prayer meetings held weekly at Red Hill and Dromana . . . Christian Endeavour held weekend camp on member's property. Mark Ryan giving leadership, also weekly Bible study . . . Church in 1979 distributed ACTS literature to all Red Hill homes . . . Gordon Moyes visitor from Sydney.

**WATTLE PARK** Jim Bunston farewelled as he leaves for Fitzroy Crossing with U.A.M. . . . Church donated \$1,000 to the Christmas Bowl . . . Mary Pallot and Jill Adam successful at H.S.C. . . . Church Growth Committee has commenced visitation and letter box drop . . . Explorers appoint first female leader, Wendy Bunstan, to assist with junior boys.

**BOX HILL** (S. C. Downie). Rev. David Paech speaker recently . . . C.W.A.F. held garden party, speaker Alison Loft . . . C.W.E.F. had S.E.C. rep demonstrate electrical appliances . . . Y.P.C.E. — Fusion guests in program . . . Cricket Club held parade . . . Bethel Bible studies commenced . . . Chart of Biblical history presented by Roger Buckmaster . . . Guest speakers at gospel services have been Peter Wing Tan and Keith Ware . . . Artists Elizabeth Aumann, Helen Price, Bev Lang, Le Maseurier family singers.

**GLEN WAVERLEY** (R. B. Elbourne.) Dedication service for teachers and leaders held . . . Explorer leaders breakfast addressed by minister . . . 16 ladies undertook course in volunteer training for Care Groups . . . 17 welcomed to church family recently eight by transfer and nine by baptism . . . Alan Watson A.C. agent for 25 years . . . Youth 1 and 2 had weekend camp at Taggerty . . . Outreach Group established.

**ESSENDON** (A. Clark, J. Keatch). Jim Keatch, Gayle and daughter Amy welcomed at church family tea . . . Heather Ferguson on 12 months leave to serve with Scripture Union in Tasmania . . . Farewell to Rosemary Peeler leaving to attend Adelaide Bible College.

**HAMPTON** (T. Hanna, D. Morffew). Doug Morffew welcomed as part of ministry team . . . Amplifying system installed . . . L. Caudwell and Mrs E. Benjaminsen preached during the absence of student ministers . . . C.W.F. raised \$130 for work of Barry and Maureen Jenkins in India.

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# Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

## HARE KRISHNA

The official title of this sect is the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. The Hare Krishna movement is basically a sect of Hinduism that unlike most of Hinduism is aggressive in its attempts to gain adherents. The movement has elevated the Hindu god Krishna to a place of supreme honour amongst the other Hindu gods. Their main magazine is "Back to Godhead" and the group in their eastern saffron robes, shaved heads and Hindu marks on their faces are seen in many cities in Australia. They often chant and play Indian musical instruments. They can beg and often attempt to sell incense on the streets and in the past have run into legal problems over noise and the lack of hawkers' licences.

In 1486 a boy was born whose followers worshipped him as an incarnation of Krishna (a very minor god). He claimed that Krishna was the Supreme Deity and that his truth was revealed in the sacred Hindu Vedic books the "Srimad Bhagavatam" and the "Bhagavad Gita". For most of the time this has been a minor group of Hinduism.

In the 1960's Swami A. C. Bhaktivedanta went to America to spread the message of Krishna Consciousness and it is from this move that the current movement dates. In practice the Swami who died in 1977 is treated as a god and worshipped and his sayings along with the Hindu scriptures mentioned previously are the "bible" for the Hare Krishna devotee.

It is interesting that most of Hinduism tends to be impersonal in its feeling about God whilst Krishna Consciousness stresses the importance of a personal relationship with Krishna.

The devotee of Krishna has high spiritual ideals. For him man's chief task is to discover God, worship him

and by this encounter to fulfil himself. Along with this high spiritual ideal there is a high ethical ideal, an ethic of love, peace, gentleness and service to others. The ethical ideas are exhibited in things such as vegetarianism. The meals at the temples are typically Indian and all food before it is cooked is offered to the idols.

The reason for the chanting of the "mantra" (Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare) is to purify the soul and bring it back to its original consciousness of the gods which was lost through contamination with the material world. The chant was popularised in the hit record by George Harrison "My Sweet Lord".

For the Krishna devotee any action done on behalf of the god is not bad. Krishna is above good and evil. Their belief with regard to Jesus is that he was not God but was pure devotee sent from another planetary system.

The habits of a devotee are very strict. No gambling, no frivolous sport or games, no intoxicants of any kind. The place of sex is wholly within the marriage and then in a very strict setting. Women have a very subservient role to play in the temples.

Whilst admiring many to the ideals and the personal standard of their lives we as Christians would have to raise questions as to the gulf between Krishna Consciousness and Christianity. Firstly there is the place we have to give to Jesus Christ. Secondly we must disagree with the basic assumption that they have that the world is an evil illusion which is escaped by a "salvation" of becoming lost in Krishna. The Christian believes that the present world is good although marred by our sin and that salvation comes through belief in Jesus Christ as God's son.

# THE LAST WORD

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.

Emerson

## Whatever Happened To Him?

"Whatever happend to Lakenan Barnes?" Ask old-time friends, while spinning yarns. The truth is that his back's to the wall And nothing ever happened at all.

Lakenan Barnes

★ ★ ★

A little boy was walking down the street, crying bitterly. A man stopped and asked, "What's the matter, son?"

Among sobs the little fellow managed to reply, "My mother lost her psychology book and now she is using her own judgment."

★ ★ ★

Little Woman: "They have no car, no television set, no piano. I can't imagine what they do have!"

Spouse: "A bank balance, do you suppose?"

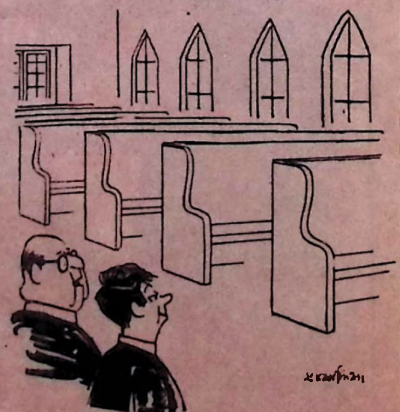
★ ★ ★

WHEN space travel becomes common there will still be those of us who can afford a vacation only on the dark side of the moon.

★ ★ ★

THE best way for a man to avoid having to lift a finger around the house is by proving he's all thumbs.

★ ★ ★



\* WHY NOT LEAVE OFF THE AIR-CONDITIONING FOR TODAY'S SERMON. THE SWELTERING HEAT WILL SERVE AS A GOOD REMINDER. \*

THE AUSTRALIAN  
CHRISTIAN

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