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THE LIVING AND
THE DYING



GOD'S CROSS

VIA DOLOROSA

— Allen Elliott

How grand 'twould be
For you and me
To tread the rugged path where long ago
The Son of God
In anguish trod;
To hear the fierce tumult, and to know
That savage crowd
Is shouting loud,
As, sagging 'neath the awful two-fold weight —
A wooden cross,
Man's sin and loss.
He journeys up the hill beyond the gate —
To bear the shame
For which He came:
To see His blessed bleeding thorn-crown'd brow,
And understand
It was the hand
Of man that smote Him down. Yet even now,
This very hour,
In risen power,
He lives and reigns and comes again, as then,
To humble hearts;
New hope imparts,
Enlightening the weary lives of men.
The Corner Stone,
Though all alone,
The bitter way of sorrow gladly chose,
Rejected, scourged,
Yet in Him surged
The mighty power that conquered all His foes:
And to and fro,
He bids us go —
His own disciples, radiant and bright,
For you and me,
How grand to be
Ambassadors for Christ, the Truth, the Light.

IRWIN BLOWERS YOUTH EMERGENCY ACCOM- MODATION OPENED



Mr Sam Doumaney, Queensland Minister for Welfare, declares the Irwin Blowers Youth Emergency Accommodation open.

as their contribution to the International Year of the Child. The Home has been built by Jennings Industries who also gave a donation of \$7,000 to the project. Many Gold Coast Service Clubs and businesses have also contributed to it, so that it has been opened free of debt.

The Centre will cater for emergency accommodation and some short term accommodation for teenagers and will operate in co-operation with the Department of Childrens Services and the Police.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Taber, members of the Southport church have been appointed House Parents of the Centre. This together with the new Bundaberg Family Group Home brings to four the number of Childrens' Homes operated by the Queensland Social Service Department.

Co-operation between the Southport church and the Queensland Social Service Department has resulted in the opening of a home for youth emergency accommodation on the Gold Coast. The project has been a contribution to the International Year of the Child. The Minister for Welfare, the Hon. Sam S. Doumaney officially opened the Centre on February 9.

The Centre is named in honour of the late Sergeant Irwin Blowers who, as a

member of the police on the Gold Coast, worked with the youth of the area before his death in January, 1977. It was Sergeant Blowers who first suggested to the church the need for such a Centre. Sergeant Irwin Blowers gave his life to Christ shortly before his death.

The new home costing \$111,000 has been financed through the Southport church and the State Childrens Services Department. The \$22,500 cost of the land was donated by the Hooker Rex Company

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ON MY MIND

THE "TENT MAKER" MINISTRY

Gordon Henderson.

Gordon Henderson is a graduate of the College of the Bible. He has a part-time ("tent-maker") ministry at Boort-Pyramid Hill. He works a small farm and sells insurance. Recently there have been 17 decisions and 12 baptisms in the circuit. Gordon is President of the Northern and Central District Conference.

Somewhere near Port Fairy (Vic.) I noticed an old church stacked with hay. That old church, no longer required for worship in our so called progressive age, was still able to gasp out a message to me. The sight of it made me feel sick in the spirit. The Christian message, of which I was a part, seemed a joke, for a church once probably dedicated and used to the glory of God was now so crowded with hay it could not have been used even for a manger. Perhaps the old church is still there. Anyway, its skeleton echoed a message to me that was the means of my going from a full-time ministry into part-time or "tent-making" ministry.

My wife and I grew up in the district of Boort, (Vic.) and we accepted a call to nearby Pyramid Hill and this ministry later extended to Boort. The two towns are 25 miles apart. The ministry at Pyramid commenced on April Fool's Day in 1962!

Let's have a look at these such little churches in the light of the overall ministry.

A TRAINING GROUND FOR MINISTERS AND LEADERS.

If I had belonged to a large church in my early Christian days I may never have had the opportunity of preaching. But little churches (small attendances and low membership) do not have a lot of great evangelists and pastors waiting to help out. In due course I entered the College of the Bible. After graduation I "took off" with one of the organists from Boort . . . as my bride of course.

Our small struggling churches need help and recognition, but like a drowning man or an accident victim they hardly know whom to call. Our big sisters could well need very clean ears and good eyesight together with a receptive heart to God if such churches are not to die a sad but tragic death.

A CHALLENGE AND A COMMISSION TO CONVERT.

True our farms are getting bigger and people fewer in numbers, but that is no reason for despair. There are still people within the small towns who have never bothered to respond to Christ. A small church can and should rise to the challenge to attract such people into the fellowship. It is much easier to develop friendship where there are only 30 people in a congregation. In addition to my part-time ministry, I find in my other facet of work lots of people who are lonely and seekers. Where there are people there is potential.

THERE IS A SOLUTION.

There is a solution to the small rural church problem. Prayer is number 'one' in priority. Prayer changes things . . . and people (including the preacher). Preaching the Word is the second priority. Those two united, will do things for the church and progress will follow. Finally, Jesus Christ needs missionaries in our own land as well as overseas. Christian bank managers, teachers, doctors, nurses and Government employees are a moving group of people. They can shape to the challenge of the Lord to 'go bush' where they will be welcomed with open arms and plenty of opportunities.

THE LIVING AND THE DYING — Brian Spencer

Brian Spencer is Minister of the **Dareton (NSW) church**. He was one of the members of the **Indian Venture Team**. The following is an extract from his diary written in Calcutta on January 26, 1980.

I am sitting on the cement floor
of Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying Destitute;
looking at some men and youths,
dying.

There is a rank, unpleasant smell about the place,
which I can't identify.

The place is clean, but crowded;
fifty-three beds in a room fifty by twenty feet.

The man in front of me has no legs,
others lie shivering under blankets;
it may be malaria.

I am being bitten by mosquitoes.

A young man with a blanket and walking stick
has sat down beside me.

He is thin and looks weak.

I shake his hand.

I am at once shocked, fascinated and pleased.

Shocked at the sight and thought
of so many dying people, who are not all that old,
people who until recently
may have been healthy beggars or labourers.

Fascination persists

to look into the faces of these people,
smell their smells,
touch them.

Pleased

that this place exists

so that people can die in clean dignified surrounds
in the midst of love.

The man in front of me has laid down.

He is talking to me

I have no idea what he is saying.

He has just given me an orange!

This dying, destitute man has given me his food.

The man beside me gives me his apple.

He shows me his back,

he has large ulcerous sores near his spine.

Two boys are coming along with water, soup and tea.

The need to give
as well as receive.

It is easy to give to a beggar;

am I humble enough to receive from one?

Am I brave enough to eat his food,

to drink from his cup?

I sip his tea.

I am sweating, but it is not hot.

I can feel the mosquito bites itching.

What can I give?

I want to kneel and pray with him.

I hold his hand between my hands and pray very briefly.

I give back the orange and apple,

I cannot take one third of these people's earthly goods.

I take two photos

with these men in the foreground.

Both men sit erect, proud to be recognised.

Will they still be alive by the time the film is developed?

We are visiting the Pratt Memorial School.

The choir sings "I need thee every hour"

with beauty and sensitivity and beauty.

I do not face the choir but concentrate my attention
on the sanctuary lamp and a brass crucifix
with a figure of the naked dying Jesus on it.

As I listen to these two songs,
my mind is still tossing over what I have seen
at the home for the dying destitute.

As I meditate upon the dying Jesus,

my mind starts to alternate,

I see first the brass figure

then the body of the man who gave me his orange and tea.

This happens in rapid succession
like two films spliced together.

I feel an overwhelming desire to kneel
in adoration and worship of Jesus Christ.

This was the same feeling I had at the Home,
I not only wanted to pray with that dying man,
but to kneel beside him.

The realisation hits me that just as the dying man,
to all normal reasoning in need of my help,
had given sacrificially to me;
so too the suffering, dying Jesus,
while in His greatest apparent need,
while upon the cross,
himself gives to those who should be giving to him.

As I meditated upon this further
I felt the pressing conviction that I had met Jesus Christ,
in the person of that dying man.

I understood with a flash of insight
that unexpectedly, He had come to me.

That same feeling of shock, fascination and pleasure,
that I felt at the home, filled me.

Jesus said, "I was sick and you visited me."

Forgive me for dwelling upon this experience,

but as I continue to reflect upon it,

as I cannot help but do,

I see new things about the mystery and wonder
of the man Jesus Christ.

As I sat beside that dying, poverty stricken man,

with my wealth and possessions,

the situation seemed to call out for me to do something.

It was I who was well

he who was sick,

I who was rich

he who was poor

I who faced life

he who faced death. and yet

I sat there feeling absolutely helpless

my power and wealth meant nothing,

but he in his sickness and poverty continued to give.

I could but receive his unmerited goodwill towards me.

As I reflect upon the death of Jesus

it is upon the cross that we see him powerless,
sick,

stripped of all possessions,

and facing death.

No doubt the disciples who stood there,

felt that it was they who should act,

they who should help Jesus in his hour of great need;

and yet it is Jesus

poor, sick, and dying, who continues to give and care

and it is we who feel helpless.

O the greatness and majesty of our God
who when he appears to be at his weakest
is still greater and more powerful
than we in all our worldly wealth and power.
When he is weakest
he gives his greatest
and we can but humbly receive and worship.

WORLD CONVENTION HYMN

FOR HAWAII, JULY 15-20, 1980

The World Convention of Churches of Christ announces that **Carlton C. Buck**, retired Christian Church minister now living in Eugene, Oregon, has written the words for the 50th Anniversary Convention hymn. It is sung to the tune "Lancashire", which is known more popularly, as "Lead On, O King Eternal".

WE COME IN CELEBRATION

We come in celebration
In this our fiftieth year,
And join in jubilation
Where bound'ries disappear.
World fellowship in service
By holding forth the Word
And sharing it with others
Till all the world has heard.

This Golden Anniversary
Here in the fiftieth state
Gives cause for true rejoicing
And time to celebrate.

We've made the Good Confession,
And turned from worldly ways;
We've heard the Great Commission
And lift to Christ our praise.

The past was marked by courage
To meet a world-wide need,
The future lies before us,
In faith we now proceed.
Lord, help us to be faithful,
Forgive our many fears;
We need your strength and guidance
In facing future years.

Carlton C. Buck

WORD TALK

BY GORDON MOYES

No. 212

There are many people in the community who see the great needs of our age, and because they cannot do everything, do not do anything.

They say, "If I had money or if I were running the unions or if I were in Parliament I'd do something about it."

Because we don't have the money, the power or the position we don't do anything.

In the story "Fiddler on the Roof" Tevye is only a poor milkman. He keeps dreaming about what he could do if he could have money: "If I were a rich man, I'd . . ." But he never becomes a rich man because he never does anything.

Once Peter and John were going to worship God in the temple and as they went near the Gate Beautiful there was a man begging. He had been lame for forty years. He cried out, "For God's sake, money, alms." Peter and John stopped and said, "Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise: Walk!" And the man walked (Acts 3:1-10).

1. MANY PEOPLE ARE LAME ALL THEIR LIVES

There are multitudes of people who are lame all their lives. Some are lame socially, and have never been able to get on with neighbours, friends and people at work.

Some are lame matrimonially, spiritually, emotionally. Many people limp through life.

2. MANY LAME PEOPLE THINK MONEY CAN SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS

Here was the lame man crying out, "Alms, alms, money". Many people believe that if they only had more money it would be better. "Oh, if only I were a rich man, I wouldn't have the worry about this job, this wife, this temperament." Yet, money doesn't solve these problems.

Money doesn't help when your marriage is on the rocks, when spiritually you are bankrupt, when you are depressed. Money only complicates those problems.

3. LAME PEOPLE CAN BE HELPED BY PEOPLE WHO CARE

People like Peter and John, ordinary people who care, can give to the lame far more than money. "Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give to you."

He had something far more valuable than money. He said, "What I have I give you. My faith I give you. My love, my care, I give you. My friendship I give you. My concern I give you. My hope I give you. Now, rise and walk."

It was said that Thomas Aquinas, the great Catholic theologian, visited Pope Innocent II and found him surrounded by a great deal of wealth. Pope Innocent said to Thomas Aquinas, "Thomas, the church today cannot say "Silver and gold have I none," and Thomas Aquinas said, "Holy Father, neither can I say 'Rise and walk!'"

HELPING THE LAME TO WALK

While the church is busy in its counting house counting out its money, it is powerless and impotent. The only churches I know that are powerful are those that live by faith.

Caring people, ordinary people like Peter and John, can give far more than money: they can give time, friendship, care, joy, uplift, hope, life, and even a miracle.

4. CARING PEOPLE CAN LEARN HOW TO HELP THE LAME

Peter stretched out his hand toward him, a symbol of help, acceptance, friendship, and supportive care. Then he helped the man to stand on his own feet. The man felt his feet and his ankle bones strengthening.

We must encourage the lame to stand on their own feet.

He also encouraged him to praise God for we read that the man went into the temple walking, and leaping, and praising God. Wholeness had come. Healing was complete.

5. GOD MUST BE CENTRAL IN OUR CARING

A social worker complained to Mother Theresa that many Hindu social workers who start to help the lame become despondent and leave. They start with a sense of charity but find they can't keep up the pace.

Yet Mother Theresa and her Christian Sisters continue a ministry that grows. The Hindu social worker, said "I have just realised the difference between us Hindus and you Christians when we help the lame and crippled and diseased. We are helping them for some thing but you are helping them for Some One."

Mother Theresa said, "That is why we help the needy, that is why we care for the poor, because we do it for God and out of love for Jesus. That's the difference."

That is why silver and gold cannot really help the lame. What we can give them is faith through the love of Jesus Christ to enable the lame to stand on their own feet and walk. Those who are lame matrimonially relearn something about love; those who are lame socially learn something about friendship; those people who are lame emotionally learn something about support and encouragement; those people who are lame spiritually learn something about faith and hope.

That's why God is essential in the work we do.

When people looked at Peter and John they saw just ordinary uneducated men. I like that because that's the qualification we can have: to be ordinary people who just give ourselves at whatever level of education we have to care for the lame.

Because we can't do everything, that doesn't stop us from doing something.

The people perceived that they were ordinary men but they realised that they had been with Jesus. That was the secret — because they had been with Jesus they were able to care for and help the lame to walk.

JESUS

...the man you thought you knew.



This film will be commencing a season in most cities in Australia very soon. The film is the result of over five years work by the Genesis Project at the cost of many millions of dollars.

"Jesus ... the man you thought you knew" is a film of the life of Christ based on the Gospel of Luke. The only words used by the actors are those used in the gospel themselves and there is some narration to tie events together. The film uses primarily non-recognisable actors. Many of them are Arabs or Jews from Morocco

and other mid-eastern areas and this gives a reality to the film that many past efforts have lacked. The setting and actual customs of the time have been extensively researched and the small background details helps to bring alive the gospel accounts. For anyone interested in the Palestine of Jesus' time this film is one of the most faithful ever produced and is informative to any Christian viewing the film.

Scenes like the death and resurrection of Jesus were excellent and over the Easter period would help to bring these events alive to many Christians.

Whilst not wishing to give a bad review to such well produced material there were several factors that call for comment. One of these is the sudden use of King James' English in parts which were not expected especially as a lot of the dialogue was in more colloquial English that made the characters especially Jesus more human. Another criticism raised by some who saw the film was the disjointed nature of the story line. A person not having a good knowledge of the gospels would have found much of the plot difficult to follow.

In short this film is excellent for Christians to help them deepen their faith in Jesus and perhaps to give us a better understanding of the human Jesus. However, it is questionable whether many non-Christians will attend cinemas to view this film and then whether it will help them to come to a faith in Jesus as God's son.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

During February, 35 members of our South Australian churches toured New Zealand for 26 days under the leadership of Graeme Todd, ably assisted by his wife, Pat, and Colin and June Perry of Palmerston.

Home hospitality was provided by churches in Christchurch, Dunedin, Greymouth, Nelson and surrounding districts, Palmerston North, Gisbourne, and by the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church in Auckland. Hotels were used in other areas. In addition, the church at Wanganui provided an ample feast during our one day trip there, and Trevor Young, M.P. for Eastern Hutt, entertained us at the impressive Bashiye Parliament House building.

Every aim of the tour was achieved in full measure. We saw much of one of the world's most beautiful countries; we lived close and happily as a church family and most of all we shared a rich fellowship with scores of new friends in New Zealand churches.

Lin Fitzgerald, led the Australian contingent. The travellers thank all for their hospitality and friendship, but always felt that mere words were not enough. Graeme and Lin are already planning a Kiwi Tour of Australia for April, 1981. So, New Zealanders, be ready to join the party, and Australians be ready with hospitality and love.

— L. Fitzgerald

FIRST IN 92 YEARS



Ray Caudle (Elder), Trevor Hoyle (Secretary) and Mrs Joy Caudle welcome Jim and Kath Dow.

The Aldgate Valley Church of Christ has its first full-time resident minister in its 92 year history. James and Sheila Dow and Jamie, Calum and Alistair got to know their members at picnic held on Australia Day at Loftia Park which was attended by 110 people.

The previous ministries of Jim Dow

have been Kedron, Qld., Balaklava, S.A. and Portland, Vic.

Trevor Holmes the Aldgate Valley secretary said that historically the church has been connected with the Stirling church and in the past had shared services and ministers. Both have now grown to the extent that each can form its own separate identity.

● Vic-Tas

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

We have had recent information on the 94th Annual Conference of Christian Women's Fellowship to be held on Thursday, May 1, 1980. The site will again this year be the Melbourne Pharmacy College at 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.

The morning session will commence at 10.30 a.m. and will include a missionary focus on the India Sharing Venture Team along with other activities. Lunch will be a basket lunch with tea and coffee provided.

The feature of the afternoon session commencing at 1.30 p.m. will be an address by Mrs Barbara McKay of Griffith, N.S.W. Mrs McKay has been campaigning on the drug problem in Australia since the disappearance of her husband most probably because of information he had on the drug traffic in the Griffith area.

Tea will be available at your own cost but a 50 cent booking fee must be paid in advance. Booking tickets for either sitting can be obtained from the Secretary, 2 Larkspur Av., Doncaster, 3108 or phone (03) 848 1872.

The evening session including the introduction of the incoming President will commence at 7 p.m.



EVANGELISM — FIRST PRIORITY

"Evangelism in the Early Church," by Michael Green, makes exciting reading, as he deals with many aspects of this primary function of the first Christians. Among many enlightening statements, one stands out for me. It is that the early church gossiped the Good News not to keep a record of Christ's words, deeds, death, and resurrection, not because Jesus said, "Go ye . . ." but because the Christians were so possessed with what Jesus Christ had come to mean to them personally, that they could not refrain from telling others of His love and life.

Little is recorded of early Christian worship services, but it is recorded that finances were raised by giving "according to their means," concentration was on prayer, study of the apostles' teaching about Jesus Christ, care of the poor, sick, and troubled, and that regular worship was practised.

But the main purpose of the early church was *Evangelism*, i.e. telling the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Apparently early in the life of the church, women gathered together to do what they could in caring for those in need, and to tell the Good News.

EVANGELISM BY WOMEN TODAY

Personal Evangelism . . . one by one . . . is the *primary* aim of women's ministry in the church today.

Through the years, women's groups have existed in the church to facilitate this service by women. However, unintentionally, organisation in the groups has often taken precedence over evangelism. We have become so pre-occupied with how to structure, to absorb new ideas, to create effective programs, and how to find means of financing our commitments, that evangelism has become almost a thing of the past. Our efforts at outreach to non-church women are often non-existent. The result has been a tendency for women's groups to become "in-grown," mostly concerned with Brotherhood and local church support, and fellowship for church women, all of which are of vital, but not of *primary* importance, and all of which do not always promote evangelism nor growth in numbers.

When we have become aware of the lack of growth either from within or from outside the church, we have thought that the cause was 'dull programs.' So our concentration has been on finding new ideas, planning various types of programs, and generally making the meetings more attractive. It is important to have fresh, lively, attractive programs, and it is necessary continuously to shape our planning this way, but it is *not the primary need*, nor is the lack of such activities the reason for falling or static attendances.

WHAT THEN IS THE ANSWER?

I believe we need to look again at the methods of the early church. Evangelism was primary, spontaneous, and Christ-centered.

We need to readjust our priorities. All the work done by the women of our churches is highly commendable. Our Brotherhood would not function so efficiently if women relaxed their support. Local churches also would be the

poorer for a retrenchment in women's service. It is not our service that needs changing, it is our *focus*, and *pre-occupation* with what we believe is *primary* and *basic* that needs adjusting. Instead of emphasis on *organisation* as an *end in itself*, (and this applies to all forms of women's groups) the emphasis must be on *evangelism*.

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

Evangelism is personal contact, building friendships, practical demonstration of our love, and telling women outside the church what Christ is doing in our lives. It is being so 'possessed' with what Christ means to us that we can not refrain from telling the Good News. It is 'one to one' loving, showing that we care, befriending, opening our homes, and doing practical kindnesses to women, that attract them to Christ.

Involving church women in systematic visiting of non-church women in their home areas, aids growth in church women, and opens the way for evangelism with non-church women. Listening and sharing comes naturally in homes, and this is where the best evangelism takes place. When the 'outside' women come to our meetings, they will be received with love . . . not fuss . . . accepted as one of the family, and not left on their own.

As church women become involved in outreach evangelism, they will not need so much 'nursing' in the church. Evangelism will make them enthusiastic.

WOMEN ARE PERSONS

Another important thing is to think of women as *individual persons* and *not* as a *group* in the church. We will concentrate on the welfare of women personally, and not on organisation, or groups (regardless of what form they take). Just as the Church is *people*, so women's groups are *women*. To think of them as groups tends to create factions, and so women in the church become segregated and groups become fragmented.

EVANGELISM FIRST AND FOREMOST

Therefore if the fellowship of women in the church is to grow numerically and spiritually, we will need to shift the emphasis of priority from structure, organisation, efficiency, and form preferences to evangelism first and foremost. All these other important factors must take second place.

It will take much prayer, love, acceptance, forbearing, and putting others first. But we will become mature as Christ was mature, and our women's work will be blessed of God.

Lesley Stirling



TODAYS' WOMEN



QUEENSLAND NEWS.

One hundred and seventy-one women travelled to Southport for this year's Country Fellowship day. Morning tea was served at Golden Age Retirement Village. The meeting was held in the Church building. After a welcome by Southport ladies, Mrs Spencer led the meeting. Burleigh Heads brought Devotions, and Don Stewart, Social Service Director spoke on the new venture of Social service . . . appointment of Colin Smith, Chaplain to Hospitals, Homes, and Prisons. Connie Roberts, Pres., sang, and Joyce Parker prayed for Chaplaincy work. \$305 was presented to Don Stewart for Social Service.

E. E. Sheriff, Qld.

Romans 12: 9-15.

"A delegate to a large national church convention kept raising objections all the time to proposals to action. Finally a friend said to him in irritation, "For goodness sake, Fred, get on the positive side of something, even if it is only to move to open the windows." "365 Windows" by H. E. Luccock.

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN



It is now quite clear that the very rich in Australia legally do not have to pay any direct income tax. And whilst some of them still do, many of them don't.

For a number of Christians this is a matter of justice causing deep concern.

The Bible clearly affirms the right of governments to raise taxes and our duty to pay them. Taxation is important enough for specific instructions by our Lord himself; and by paying his tribute to Rome Jesus set the example.

Yet in Australia at the moment these principles are being grossly violated. And, as a result, many are experiencing considerable unnecessary hardship.

★ ★ ★

Until three years ago we had a system whereby the wealthy in the community paid a higher proportion of their incomes in tax than poorer people.

Now, however, we have the reverse. Low income families (less than \$5000 year) pay up to 40 percent of their income in taxes, one way or another. As incomes rise, this percentage drops until at around \$40,000 or so income tax can be avoided completely. These high income earners still pay indirect taxes, of course, such as car registration, council rates and sales tax, so they do contribute something (although often these are company expenses). But proportionally they pay less than lower income earners.

How has this come about? Three ways.

Firstly, the tax scales have been altered in favour of the wealthy. The so-called "tax-cuts" are in fact tax shifts, leading to lower taxes on high incomes but with little or no effect on low incomes. The two percent tax cuts in February 1978 handed back about \$1370 million a year to taxpayers. 43

percent of this went to the top 10 percent of income earners. The rest was spread amongst the other 90 percent favouring the upper much more than the lower end of the scale. The very low earners who were paying no direct income tax, of course, got nothing.

Following the next wage case hearing, incomes went up all around. But taxes automatically went up at a greater rate, especially at low incomes. That's the way the system works when we don't have full tax indexation. So for most taxpayers, savings from the tax cuts were immediately wiped out.

Secondly, indirect taxes have increased substantially. As these don't vary with incomes but are fixed amounts, they impinge more heavily on the poor.

And thirdly, tax avoidance by the wealthy is now the accepted thing. This takes place through artificial schemes which bend and twist the provisions of the Tax Act without actually breaking them.

Bruce Pascoe, President of the Taxation Institute of Australia, wrote in December 1978, "During the past year or two tax avoidance became a big business in Australia. It became a disease which, allowed by the Government to go unchecked, reached epidemic proportions. It is not going too far to say that high income taxpayers almost went mad in the rush to join a tax avoidance scheme."

★ ★ ★

All three of these factors are recent. Melbourne's Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research stated late last year, "It is important to note that this move towards a regressive tax system (that is, which hits the poor hardest) has taken place entirely in the past two years . . . The three contributing factors have all emerged in 1977-78 or subsequently."

And all three are continuing.

A staggering \$3.5 billion is estimated to be taken in taxes on petroleum products alone this year. That's equivalent to a personal income tax increase of 23 percent. But as these are indirect taxes they will hit lower income earners hardest.

We keep hearing that taxes "have been lowered" and the system "reformed." In fact, taxes overall have been substantially increased. Only very high income earners have had taxes lowered.

In January this year, our most distinguished taxation authority, Professor Russell Mathews, observed, "It is plausible to argue that the taxation system has become a major instrument for redistributing incomes and wealth in favour of the rich."

Personal income tax, he said, is now "a voluntary tax for the rich non-salary earner." The problem Professor Mathews sees Australia now facing is not to make the rich pay the same or higher rates than the poor, but "it is to make the rich pay any tax at all."

In human terms the consequences are clear. The Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research said, "These taxation developments are undoubtedly increasing the hardships of many families whose incomes have also been affected by unemployment or related economic developments."

★ ★ ★

Regrettably, income tax is only one of numerous taxation stices in Australia.

Large foreign countries, for example, pay a lower rate of company tax (46%) than small Australian private companies (59%) when retaining profits for expansion.

★ ★ ★

If we shrug this off as "economics" or "politics" which by definition are beyond the concern of our churches, are we really being faithful to our Lord's teaching? Or to our Father who "shows no partiality to princes, nor regards the rich more than the poor, for they are all work of his hands?"

Perhaps the prophetic warning of Proverbs 22 is relevant to our country today: "He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want."

The cell group to which your correspondent belongs is seeking a response to these injustices from our local members and the leaders of the major political parties. Copies of this correspondence — and further info on taxation in Australia — are available through "A.C."

JASON'S HOUSE

REMEMBER THE DAYS, JASON, WHEN A STIPEND RISE MEANT WE GOT MORE TO SPEND?

I CASHED MY PAY-CHEQUE TODAY AND THE TELLER SAID,

"... HOW DO YOU WANT IT... HEADS OR TAILS?!"



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.

"GOD DOES HAVE FAVORITES"

To the Editor.

I wish to first point out an error in Mr. Chivell's letter, "Does God have favorites?" The disease is Multiple Sclerosis and not Multiple Schirrhous as mentioned.

My wife died of this disease, and during her wheel chair days, I was urged to seek miraculous healing for her. I was given the name of a well known lady who was purported to have been healed of this disease. On enquiry from her medical advisers I discovered that she in fact suffered from hysterical paralysis which was "cured" by the emotion of a revival healing meeting.

I am a doubting Thomas who believes that so called miraculous healing in the world today, is either a doctor's wrong diagnosis or the healing of functional disease.

We are all called upon to suffer at some time in our lives. It is possible for me to suffer more from the loss of a wife and mother than she suffered from multiple sclerosis. Yes God does have favorites! They are those like Job who learn from suffering of the holiness of God, and are led to self knowledge and self judgment.

— Dr. G. Hall (Perth W.A.)

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

To the Editor,

Paul is the only one who speaks concerning the gifts of the Spirit at any length in the scriptures. This is in his letter to Corinth.

Are we not like the Corinthians misunderstanding the gifts and their place in the Church, misusing them either by not allowing their development in us by the Holy Spirit, or by wrongly using them?

How about the Holy Spirit's gifts to men!

1. They are given for building up the Body of Christ.
2. Whilst the use of a gift may bring stimulation to the bearer, its prime purpose through him is to witness to Christ.
3. All gifts are in the control of the person who bears the gift and if he abuses it the gift is not taken back.
4. When the gifts are exercised with the view to revealing Christ, then Christian love is expressed and revealed.
5. The gift of tongues which people blame for problems within the Church is not at fault but is one of attitude in both parties affected. In the Church tongues are for edification of the Body only with interpretation. For the individual believer it is for his edification in the knowledge of Christ. The gift is not for emotional kicks. Even though our emotions can be affected by a closeness to the Lord; these emotions need the exercise of control.

— Ian Johnston (Bayswater, W.A.)

"THE HISTORY OF BRITISH CHURCHES OF CHRIST" by A.C. Watters.

The College of the Bible is urgently in need of copies of this book which is now out of print. Any willing to sell or give copies to the library please contact the Acting Principal at 7 Elm Rd., Glen Iris, 3146 or phone (03) 25 6085.

"AM I GUILTY"?

To the Editor.

Having read with interest the many articles for and against the "Charismatic Movement" in your journal, and having the privilege over the past 12 months of sharing with some "Charismatic" leaders on a regular basis, as well as having a pastoral ministry to some "Charismatic" families, I believe that I am guilty of forbidding the "speaking in tongues" within the worship of the church under my pastoral care, even though the charismatics of my acquaintance are sincere people and pray for my Holy Spirit baptism regularly.

Whilst "Page 13" of your March edition quotes Paul accurately regarding speaking in tongues, the issue for us today is whether the spirit of modern charismatics is indeed the Holy Spirit of God.

Over the past 15 years 22 of my closest friends have become "Charismatics" displaying all of the usual attributes associated with that movement. 20 of those friends have now come out of those groups, utterly rejecting that doctrine, having had their tongues of praise identified as "Worship of the Devil" and "hatred towards Christ".

Some of my friends were in fellowship with fast-growing Charismatic congregations and had interpreters translate their so-called "tongues of praise" in their assemblies and in turn accepted the translation without question. My friends' tongue-speaking was certainly not praise of our Lord but mockery. No wonder the means of testing tongues comes under such heavy criticism from "Charismatic

leaders" who refuse to accept the freeing of a soul from Satan's power by the truth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why is it that amongst those who test tongues that a genuine speaker in tongues has not been discovered?

Yes, I am guilty, but not of disobeying my Lord in this matter.

— K. A. Rankin, Geelong.

CLOSING "OPEN FORUM"

To the Editor.

What a pity you have decided to close the matter of the Charismatic Movement from the A.C. Here we have the greatest movement of the Holy Spirit for many centuries and it is terminated from our national newspaper.

Wherever the baptism of the Holy Spirit has been experienced renewal has come. Yet we will not open our eyes to really see what the Lord is doing outside our traditional Christianity.

"Are we also blind?" some of the Pharisees asked and Jesus replied, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say 'we see' your guilt remains."

Let us not be guilty of quenching the Holy Spirit by our refusal to be open to the great power that God is making available today. And may you, dear editor, keep the "A.C." open to this mighty work of the Spirit of God.

— Don Jackson, (Perth, W.A.)

ED. NOTE: We are simply closing our columns for a while to the endless debate on "the charismatic movement" which was becoming tedious. "The Australian Christian" will always be open to report on the "mighty work of the Spirit of God", and "charismatics" do not have a monopoly on this.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

DOWN WITH STRUCTURES

To the Editor,

The anti-structure group are pointing the way to a glorious future for our traditionally structured church. They have lots of bright and interesting ideas about replacing our present church government and the traditional auxiliaries with something far less structured.

So far their main efforts have been in the field of unstructured worship, and their imaginative efforts have been excellent, except that they were not really unstructured. It appears that an enormous amount of effort goes into structuring something unstructured.

For instance, last Sunday morning they used balloons and streamers to celebrate our faith. And if balloons and streamers are part of contemporary celebrations, what better way to do it. But it wasn't unstructured. I was structured into writing a message on my balloon, and there was no let out. Not that I minded. But in our traditional structured service I can opt out of any part of it. I needn't sing or listen or participate unless I want to. Yet under the watchful eye of a non-structure enthusiast I was organised into participation, albeit willingly.

It occurs to me that it is not a matter of whether we have traditional structures or innovative structures, as such, but whether the structures we use are helpful. If a structure helps us to worship better and gives free movement for the Holy Spirit, I suppose it is good, whether traditional or otherwise.

I am interested to know what structures are going to emerge when our advocates of non-structure have re-organised our church life. Whatever they come up with, some future unstructuralists will rise up and want to change it. Thank God!

TERTIUS

OPEN FORUM

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

To the Editor,

Thank you for your editorial of February 16, entitled "Let's live in love with our charismatics."

Jesus prays in John 17: 20-23 "that they (his disciples) may be one . . . so that the world will know that you (the Father) sent me."

Our Lord commanded us to love one another and he also said "If you love me, keep my commandments."

Please, for the sake of Jesus, let us love one another.

— J. & C. Greatbatch (Hobart).

GOD'S FAVOURITES

To the Editor,

In reply to the question asked by my friend, I. J. Chivell (1/3/80) "Does God have his favourites?" the simple answer is "No, God has no favourites."

If He has, neither my family nor I am on His list! When our son was six months old, he contracted polio, badly crippling both legs. We, together with the church at Doncaster and numerous other Christian people prayed for his recovery. We even took him off all medical treatment for a period, in case the doctors messed up what we were sure God was going to do! But he did not recover the use of his legs. Today, at 25 years of age, he is still badly crippled and walks with the aid of two sticks. But we thank God that, although his physical handicaps are severe, he is a tremendous Christian character, the leader of the youth group in his church, and very active in the Lord's work, and an inspiration to all who know him.

Come to think of it, the apostle Paul was not one of God's favourites, either! He had some physical disability which seriously hampered his ministry, and he prayed many times over to be healed, but he was not healed. To say that some people are not healed because they lack faith, is just so much religious garbage. I have known numerous people who had all the faith in the world and who prayed earnestly and continually for healing, but who were not healed.

I have yet to find an answer to why it is that some tremendous Christians, whose work for the Lord is hindered, through some physical disability, whose faith nobody could question, who are magnificent believers in the prevailing power of prayer, are NOT healed?

I don't want texts. I know them all. Like I.J.C. I just want a simple, satisfying answer to my question — somebody, please!

— F. B. Burt (S.A.)

"PAGE 13" CALLED TO ORDER

To the Editor,

Until now I have been content to read others' letters re the Holy Spirit. However, "A.C." of 1/3/80 calls for response.

Page 13 should be called to order for its "However most of them seem to insist that there is no renewal of the Spirit in the fullest sense unless 'speaking in tongues' takes place."

"Most of them" — how many? "Seem to" — an admission of guess work?

There are problems regarding tongues. I know the reaction when one partner in a marriage has the "gift" and the other hasn't. But to write as has been published, surely borders on irresponsible journalism.

"After two issues, the matter will be closed" (the lead to Open Forum). Mr Editor, you may believe that, but those who are new creations in Christ will remain being continually filled with the Spirit in spite of your resolution.

— Wayne Lodge (S.A.)

COUNTRY PREACHERS

During 1979 the Country Centres Committee of the Ballarat Churches of Christ Regional Board, conducted 52 services in smaller country Churches of Christ in the Ballarat Region.

This included a 364 km monthly circuit preaching at Wedderburn at 11 a.m., St Arnaud 3 p.m., returning to Ballarat for the 7 p.m. service!

Interim ministries with Harcourt and Kyneton churches were conducted during the summer vacation period.

M. R. White, Convener (Peel Street, Ballarat), has co-ordinated meetings with Boards and help and advice on numerous issues as requested.

The Churches concerned are most grateful for this continuing ministry.
M. R. White

"ATTENTION ALL REVEREND MINISTERS"

In our local paper the following notice appeared in bold type:

"Attention all reverend Ministers. We are unable to convey your message because the regular weekly column has become irregular."

This pathetic editorial cry is, in effect, telling our community that the paper was willing to give two columns weekly to enable the local ministers to write the good news of Jesus Christ to 10,000 people in 20 suburbs. It is further telling readers that the Ministers could not be bothered sustaining the column.

TOO BUSY

Each of the offending Ministers has a good reason for his failure to write the column when his turn comes round. He is too busy. He is not too busy to prepare a regular sermon for a hundred or so "converted" listeners. But he is too busy to prepare something for 10,000 readers. Are clergy more obtuse than most people, or is it their cloistered, other-worldly existence that makes them like that?

They would no doubt say that the hundred faithfuls listen to them, but that they cannot be sure that the 10,000 will read their efforts. If their sense of urgency for the gospel can be judged by their newspaper efforts, we doubt if they will be either listened to or read.

THE CHURCH AND THE MEDIA

Some years ago I was invited to do a series of Epilogues for a city TV station. They came on at various times between midnight and three in the morning. I even set the alarm and got up and listened to one of them myself. Later I was invited to do the same again. I turned up ready and willing, but said to the producer, "Is there any real point in these Epilogues, coming on as they do at such ungodly hours of the morning?" He said, "There are still 50,000 people

with their sets on at that time. What other times do you get to talk to as many people as that?"

It seems that the church both underestimates the power of the media and fails to understand it. In my first church I worked for months to persuade the Board to advertise in the weekly free paper. The cost was three and sixpence, and you got some letterpress free, if you advertised. In the end they decided boldly to experiment. They put in the first ad. and the letterpress, which was my first effort in the secular press. With bated breath they waited until Sunday. No extra people turned up. So they agreed to stop advertising.

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

In the name of Christ let us grab every opportunity to get into the media, especially when we can do it for nothing. It is hard to crack the big TV and radio stations and national journals, but not impossible. It is usually easy to get into the local press and country radio and T.V. But when we do, let's make sure that we do it well, and consistently.

And let us have another look at the media without fear and prejudice and at state and local levels develop policies that make the most use of them. I suggest that the name Churches of Christ is better known in Melbourne because of Terry Lane's brush with the A.B.C., than from all of our efforts in the churches every Sunday. And if some do not like the name of Churches of Christ being known in this way, we would say, "Better to become known in any way, rather than not to be known at all!"

ATTENTION REVEREND MINISTERS . . .

And even more reverend church boards . . . put media publicity on your next Board agenda, and see what happens! (Ed.)

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

★ After a long wait for their visas, New Hebrideans Richard and Tina Lala arrived in Madang. They have now moved into their pastoral ministry at **Samban**.

★ **Ralph and Barbara Bennett** have undertaken an orientation program at **Bunapas**. They are continuing their study of the pidgin language as they prepare themselves for a pastoral and teaching ministry.

★ In November last year **Melanie Van Haaren** had to return to Queensland for hospitalisation. The needed medical clearance has now been granted. **Rob and Melanie** return in March to **Bunam** to continue the agricultural and nursing ministry on the **Keram River**.

★ **Harold Finger** is well known for his work in the New Hebrides and in Papua New Guinea. A visa has been granted for him to go to P.N.G. for about six months to assist in helping churches and pastors.

Leaving Brisbane March 19 and arriving Madang March 25.

★ **Greg Law** returns to **Bunapas**, P.N.G. after a short training program in nursing in N.S.W.

★ **Rod and Marion Feldhahn**, **Melissa** and newly arrived **Daniel** return in March to continue the business management ministry in **Madang**.

NEW HEBRIDES

★ **Russell and Jeanette Mutzelburg** are settling into their ministry at **Ndui Ndui**, **Aoba**.

INDIA

★ **John and Valerie Main** have returned to **Poona** after a short furlough in Australia.

Please remember these missionaries in your prayers as they settle into their ministries for Christ.

THANK GOD FOR REINFORCEMENTS

Rosalie Rofe

'Will you send us reinforcements, we're going to advance'. Such was the message passed in a game of whispers where each person passes on what he hears. 'Will you send us three and fourpence we're going to a dance' was the message received at the end.

We've been praying for reinforcements to our work in P.N.G. Sometimes it has seemed that the 'three and fourpence' (and we've needed that too) has arrived and we've wondered about the 'reinforcements'. Our national brethren as well as missionary staff and I know many of you have joined in prayer concerning this urgent need.

It is with great thankfulness to God that we see His provision of much needed new workers. **Ralph and Barbara Bennett** and **Richard and Tina Lala** with young **Priscilla** have arrived and are being orientated to P.N.G. We look forward to having **Harold Finger** and **David and Robyn Harmer** with us over the next few months.

Thank you for your prayers in these things and for the support that enables our work to continue.

FACING UP TO AFFLUENCE

Dr John Christian is serving at the **Ashwood Memorial Hospital at Dhond**. Recently he gave an address to the **Christian Medical Association of India**. The main theme was the need for Christians to care for the total person and that only a right relationship with God can give us health in its totality.

He also stated that the continuing ministry of our Lord needed "the recovery of sight to the affluent and contented, who in their affluence and smugness are blind to the sufferings of their fellow beings."

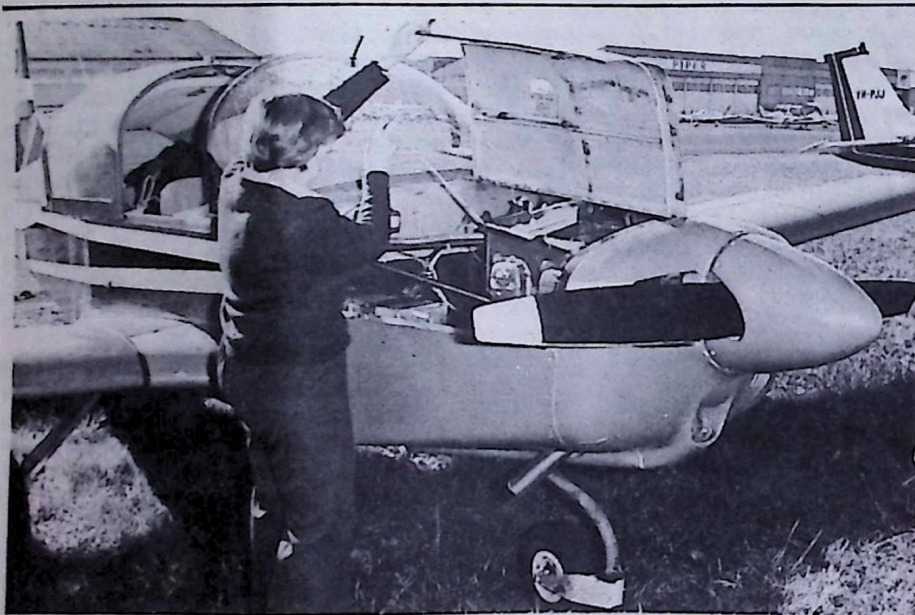
Does the recovery of sight apply to the Australian as well as the Indian situation? Do you see people with the compassionate eyes of Christ?

As for affluence, we certainly are the affluent. **Dr John Stott** commenting on life-style says, "Every Christian should be content with the necessities of life (1 Tim. 6: 6-8) but every Christian make his own conscientious decision before God where he draws the line between necessities and luxuries." The suggestion was then made that we give away anything we haven't used in the past year.

Yet whatever we might do we are still the affluent by Third World standards. Sometimes we may even feel guilty about it. A far more positive approach would be to see affluence as an opportunity. It provides the ability to take action through our money. It makes it possible to share the good news of Christ's salvation in countries overseas.

Blind? We need never remain so. Affluent? We are! Yet that affluence provides us unprecedented opportunities. Let's grasp them.

— **Ramon Williams**.



June Perry checking "Queenie's" engine.

BOOKS TAKE TO THE AIR

Bookmobiles are not new, but in Sydney is a lady who takes books to country areas, by plane.

June Perry went out West, in 1976, by plane and to her surprise found that the few books she had taken along with her, sold as fast as the proverbial "hot cakes".

Her endeavours have now taken shape in the form of her own work known and registered as "Bookaire". Taking supplies from the Bible Society and Scripture Book Centres, she sets up her wares in church or community halls, as well as country shows.

Although she has no financial backing, she does have the assistance of **Audrey Williams** who helps whenever possible, both in Sydney as well as in the country.

Mainly the customers are Christians, but others come along out of curiosity. With no particular program or schedule in mind, the Bookaire takes to the air when funds permit, and when the ladies "feel it's the right time".

Thought is now being given to being on

hand in areas when the flying doctor service makes a regular call.

Her plane is a single engine, four seater, low wing American Traveller, named "Queenie", with the registration **VH-ETQ**. Its range is 225 minutes, or 300 miles without re-fueling. **Miss Perry** has had her pilots licence for 14 years and in 1978 gained her commercial licence, which allows her to fly for "profit or reward".

Her usual cargo is 15 cartons with over \$3,000 worth of supplies. Advance notice enables the local clergy to mention proposed visits, as well as school teachers and local shop owners. Even hospitals in lonely, out of the way, areas mention her visits to patients.

She would be interested to hear from anyone who would care to join her in prayer support. She can be contacted at: **Miss June Perry**, 59 Union Street, **Kogarah, N.S.W. 2217**. Phone (02) 587 4515.

BOOKS TO READ

SEE HOW THEY GROW

Edited by Alan Walker (Fount)

The primary aim of this book is to challenge congregations to become growing churches. The method employed is that of examples. Twelve churches are used as examples that growth can take place. The genius of this book lies in its cosmopolitan approach; the churches include an open church in East Germany, a village church in Ghana, a house church in Mexico, a serving church in Asia as well as several "western" churches. No one can debunk the challenge to growth with the comment "Americanism".

Each of the examples shows the filling of particular needs where the church finds itself. I see that as one of the common denominators. The other is obviously dynamic leadership. Here I believe Alan Walker has missed the point in his summary on page 8. His summary of how churches grow presents a picture of a super program including every facet of Christian service and worship. It is a total picture of some of everything the 12 churches do. No one congregation can hope to achieve that. Each congregation can meet needs under the direction of strong leadership and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This book shows that church growth is not just an American fad.

— L.v.L.

JESUS AND THE PHARISEES THE FIRST EASTER

Edited by Rene Berthier (Hodder & Stoughton)

These are two of a set of large paperback comic presentations of the gospel story. These are well illustrated in colour and trace the life of Christ in a chronological way. The series is called the Hodder & Stoughton Bible Albums and the stories are based on the New International Version. Each book contains at the back the passages from the Gospels that inspired the events depicted in the cartoons. These are excellent presentations best suited for children aged from 10 to 15. The language used is good but it could have been made more understandable to children in one or two places.

AND NOW IT FLOWS, RELEASE OF LEARNING

Presented by Phil Slattery \$5.95

As Christians we have accepted that the Christian life is a process of learning and growing. This book is about life as a learning process for a group of women who met together in a sympathetic environment over a period of 18 months to share life's experiences — joys, anguish and wonderment. By sharing in this way, a creative process was put in motion and the result is a significant contribution to the world of grass-roots community education and proof that so much of our learning takes place outside formalised schooling. It was released to coincide with the International Community Education Conference in Melbourne last August. There is much with which to identify in these writings but also a feeling of despair in some which to the Christian of the relevance of the gospel for life today.

— Roslyn Reed

SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW

by Jamison, Thwaites and Gamble (Butterworths) \$12.00

Ministers are among those involved in various aspects of Social Work and often a guide is needed to help with those problems that become involved with the Law. Often a better understanding of the way that the law works would help in the assistance of people who have become involved.

"Social Work and the Law" has been written in the Australian context and is a useful book to give a guide to the understanding of the law in its various applications. The names of the chapters are perhaps the best way to outline the contents of the book: Recognising Legal Problems, the Legal System, The Law Uninvited, Criminal Problems, Civil Problems, Families, Death and Inheritance, Special Groups, Consumers,

Tenants, Employees, Associations, Social Workers and the Law.

While the book is not written from a "christian" standpoint, it is the best outline of the interaction with the Law that Ministers involved in pastoral problems are likely to face. The contents of this book ought to be the subject of practical discussion in our theological colleges and ministers in the field could also find it useful. Its greatest drawback is its price \$12.00. At this price it is certainly overpriced.

THE RAINBOW OR THE THUNDER

Don. E. Stewart

By Phyllis Thompson (Hodder & Stoughton) \$3.05

The story and background of the massacre of nine Elim Pentecostal missionaries and their four children. A well told story of real people, with real weaknesses but a true faith in Christ. Most readers of newspapers will recall this terrible event in Rhodesia and the reading of this book helps to explain the difficulties of the current peace talks.

A timely reminder that Church martyrs are not something of the past but very much a current reality. (20 other Christian missionaries had been massacred in Rhodesia in the two years leading up to these events). Phyllis Thompson writes in her usual excellent style and as usual is not noticed throughout by the reader.

John Urquhart.

THE TOWER OF GEBURAH

by John White (I.V.P.)

This is called a children's fantasy. The hub of the story is of three children who are called into the kingdom of Anthropos to help save the rightful king from the forces of evil. This is a book suited for older children and adults who enjoy fantasy books. Written by a Christian professor of Psychiatry who was a worker among tertiary students in Latin America it is influenced by the writing of C. S. Lewis and J. J. R. Tolkien. This is a good book with obvious parallels to the Christian faith but is not up to the same standard as the writers mentioned above.

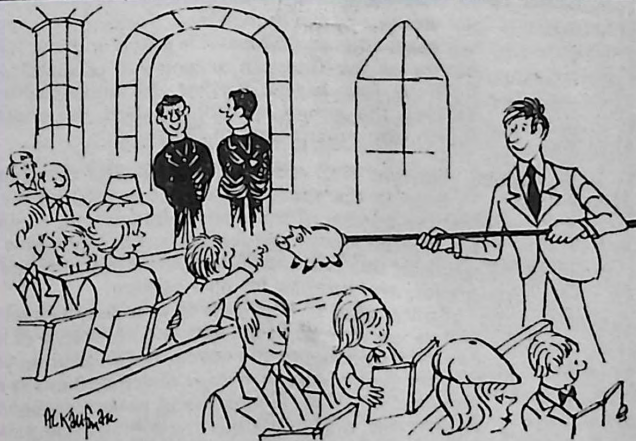
TAKING SIDES

by David Field (I.V.P.) \$1.60

This book has been available for about four years. This is an examination of the Christian approach to some of the big moral problems that we have to face today. The author feels that on some of the current issues that the Bible has little directly to say. In fact in some of these situations there appears to be a conflict between two Biblical principles.

There is an initial discussion on what the Bible says. The issues discussed in the following chapters included abortion, divorce, work and race and colour. The book has some very interesting insights and is recommended.

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.



"It certainly has helped with the children's contributions."

HAPPENINGS

The Chairman of the Victorian Council of Churches for 1980 is Fr. Stelios Menis. Fr. Menis is the Greek Orthodox priest of the Richmond parish.

One of the four official Australian delegates to the W.C.C. Conference on Mission and Evangelism is Mrs Joan Fewster from the Flinders Park and Torrensville Churches of Christ in South Australia. Joan is the Chairman of the S.A. Children's Work Committee and is involved in small group evangelism and is ministering to the two churches alongside her husband Geoff.

The Victorian Council of Churches and the Melbourne Jewish community are staging a Holocaust Exhibition. The exhibition will open on May 1 and be open for two weeks and will feature photographs, archive material, etc., from this tragic event.

Seven out of every 100 adults over 18 bought a Bible in Britain last year according to the Bible Society. 48 per cent were purchased in secular bookshops and

19 per cent in religious bookshops. The New English Bible was purchased by 37 per cent of the people and the King James Version by 16 per cent.

Three patriarchs from Eastern and Orthodox churches will attend the Conference on Mission in Melbourne in May. This is the first time a significant number of Orthodox Christians have participated in the mission and evangelism activities of the W.C.C.

The new Victorian secretary of World Christian Action is Rev. Alan Hardie a Uniting Church Minister. World Christian Action is best known for the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Up until February \$264,357 had been raised by the Christmas Bowl as compared to \$198,225 in the previous year. Of the total \$50,000 was given specifically for Kampuchea relief.

A recent computer study shows "overwhelmingly" that the Book of Mormon was not written by Joseph Smith of Solomon Spalding but the work of many authors.

DIARY

NATIONAL
April
4 Good Friday
May
11 Mother's Day
15-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
May
9 Christian Welfare Centre Street Appeal

NEW SOUTH WALES
April
4-7 D.C.E. Easter Camps

QUEENSLAND
April
3-7 Half-yearly Conference — Rockhampton
3-7 Easter Camps
18-20 Women's Camp

VICTORIA
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
May
1-4 Annual Conference
5-8 Ministers' Seminar

FIRST ANNIVERSARY AND NEW MINISTRY FOR S. TAMWORTH

The church was formed because of the decision of some members of the Tamworth Church of Christ to leave due to the charismatic issue. By the beginning of 1979 it had grown to 25, so meetings were held in a local Scout hall. Ian Schneider also began a student ministry. During the year the people of the Tamworth church, "as an act of love", vacated the manse and church building for the new church. Ian Schneider was called to full time ministry in 1980, being strongly recommended by both the College and Home Missions. He began in late January of this year.

Today, the church is growing with new families moving in and people being won for the Lord.

— Ross Wakely



Ian Schneider and Kevin Crawford after induction service.

25 Years Ago

In the Easter issue 25 years ago, there was a guest editorial by R. J. McCracken from New York on "The Immortal Hope".

That there is a life beyond death is one of the most universal convictions of the human race. Sociologists report that it is more widespread even than belief in a God or gods. It is at the heart and centre of the Christian religion and is sustained and supported there by four beliefs; the first, the imperishableness of love; the second, the nature of man; the third, the character of God; the fourth, the resurrection of Christ.

J. E. Brooke, Balwyn, Vic., wrote on "The Crucified Still Speaks".

Even in the appalling pain and anguish of his crucifixion, bearing the burden of the world's redemption, Jesus still maintained his characteristic self-forgetfulness, could give his mind to the needs of this one and that, could lift his heart and voice for them in prayer, and arrange for their welfare.

So the Lord of Love says to us today, discouraged and distressed as we may be in the faith and adventure of love, "Lift up your hearts. Go on loving one another, go on pouring your Christian love into the world. And in all the simple faithfulness of life's homily affections, in every kindness and patient forbearance and willing forgiveness, you will know the comfort and strength of my ever-living, all-pervading love."

RALLIES ON WORLD CONFERENCE THEMES

Melbourne Christians will have an opportunity to follow-up their study programmes in May when four regional rallies will consider the sub-themes of the W.C.C. Conference. Located for easy access these gatherings will be addressed by W.C.C. delegates. In each case local Councils of Churches have accepted responsibility for these events.

May 19 ESSENDON "Good News to the Poor." May 20 CAMBERWELL "The Kingdom of God and Human Struggles", May 21 MOORABBIN "The Church witnesses to the Kingdom" May 23 MALVERN "The Crucified Christ Challenges Human Power." The programmes are being co-ordinated by the V.C.C. Commission on Local Ecumenism.

The ship's chart showed that we would pass the Mediterranean volcanic island of Stromboli at 3 a.m. So 3 a.m. found me dressing-gowned and alone on the freshly swabbed promenade deck to see the marvelous sight of exploding red hot lava, leaping into the sky and flooding down the mountain side into the sea. But all I saw was thick fog and all that I heard was the mournful sound of the ship's foghorn. I returned to my bunk disappointed.

I really wanted to keep that appointment with Stromboli because it was associated with a dramatic change in my life.

A CRISIS OF FAITH

As a young man I was having a crisis of faith. I was very fond of Jesus, but I thought that God was rough, harsh, capricious and vindictive. I had every sympathy with the cynic who said, "God the father fetches us a clout on the side of the head and Jesus the son gives us balm for the wound."

Then one day I discovered that God is like Jesus. Jesus was in effect "God-in-a-man". I saw new meaning in the Bible phrases, "I and the Father Are one", and "in him dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily". It dawned on me that Jesus was a living, walking picture of God, and that all he did and said was showing us something about God.

But I still had the problem of the cross. In fact I had two problems. How could a God who is like Jesus send some one like Jesus to the cross? And did Jesus reveal the Father during his life and stop revealing him when he went to the cross?

GOD IN CHRIST . . . ON THE CROSS

Then I read of a traveller who had better luck than I did and saw Stromboli erupting by night. As he watched in awe he was aware that the cascades of glowing lava that lit sea and sky were but a small part of the great molten mass at the heart of the earth. He wrote that he thought then of the cross. It dawned on him that the cross revealed but a small part of what is going on in the great heart of God all the time.

From his vivid work pictures I could see the volcanic scene. But more, I suddenly saw God in a new light, the light of the cross. For "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" . . . on the cross. The cross was the cross of God.

My life was changed as I came to grips with a God

who loves and cares that much. With a God who suffers all the suffering of hurt people. With a God who never stops giving himself in love even when his love is greeted with indifference.

THE CROSS MEANS MANY THINGS

After all the intervening years I know that the cross means many other things. That it is a mystery whereby a just God is able to receive, as though they had not sinned, people who richly deserve to be punished (justification). That Christ died so that I do not have to (substitution). But above all the cross shows me right into the loving, suffering, forgiving heart of God.

This does not mean that he is a soft and easy sort of God. His love is the sort that makes enormous demands on me . . . for my sake! He will not let me be satisfied with less than my potential and he will not let me substitute any ersatz substitutes for life. And the fact of his pain in a suffering world of people will not let me remain indifferent either to his pain or theirs.

WHAT ABOUT THE RESURRECTION?

So I had solved the problem of God revealing himself in Jesus Christ, even on the cross. But I was still left with another problem . . . what was the resurrection revealing about God? This one was not hard. Jesus bursting out of the grave on resurrection morning is the picture of a God who is already conquering death.

Never has so much been written about death as is being written today. Ours is becoming a generation obsessed with death and dying. Yet God is conquering death by giving us deathless life. The message of the Bible is that at the End "there will be no death". But the resurrection tells us that he makes it possible for us to "pass from death unto life" now. And for those who believe "there is no death" here or hereafter.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER DAY

On Good Friday we will take a long, long look into the heart of God and come alive again with his love. On Easter Day our minds will be blown by the thought of the continuing triumph of God over death and pain and sorrow for those who believe, now and at the end of each life, and at the End.

OBITUARY

GLUYAS, Mrs Leila Mary (4.3.1980) The church at Northcote suffered the loss of an outstanding member when Mrs Leila Gluyas died. Mrs Gluyas was born at Hawthorn in May, 1903. At the age of 13 she made her decision for Christ and was baptised at Northcote. In 1929 she married Albert Gluyas who predeceased her in 1945 leaving her with four young children to care for. These are Dorothy (Mrs F. Chambers of Canada), Margaret (Mrs C. Gray), John and Kevin. Mrs Gluyas is also survived by a sister, Miss Winnie Collings, a resident of Fred Combridge House at Northcote. Mrs Gluyas was a dedicated Christian and a keen worker in the Bible School, Christian Endeavour, C.W.F. activities and was also box secretary for the Leprosy Mission. Her sterling Christian character and her loving disposition endeared her to all. In her work as a newsagent she would not permit any publication to be displayed which might possibly harm or offend the morals of any person. Mrs Gluyas was generous in her support of the church's work and she will be sadly missed by the Northcote church. The chapel was filled for the funeral service which was conducted by the writer assisted by W. T. Atkin and attended by many former ministers and Brotherhood representatives. She had arranged her own funeral service weeks prior to her death and the service testified to the reality of her faith.

— T.V.W.

WANZARI Mrs Sitabai (India)

(21.1.1980). Sitabai Wanzari first came to work for the Australian Churches of Christ mission as a cook at the Boys' Home at Shrigonda in early 1919. She was a widow with two small sons. She herself had been an orphan brought up in the American Marathi Mission in Ahmednagar and regarded the lady missionary of those days as her nearest friend or relative. She became matron of the Girls' Home when it moved to Shrigonda in about 1922. She always worked with Miss Cameron and they became close friends. Miss Cameron retired in October 1954 and Sitabai about two years later. In 1958 Sitabai returned to help for a few years and then went to live with her son in Bombay. On his death in 1964 she returned to live with me, and we had almost 16 years of lovely Christian fellowship. She was a devout and faithful Christian woman. In her caring for orphaned babies and girls she showed her quiet witness to Jesus Christ. God loved her and she loved Him. He called her in her sleep on January 21, 1980 definitely to receive the "Well done good and faithful servant." We presume she was about 88 years of age.

— Edna Vawser

MELTON (J. Midgley) Leprosy Mission showed audio-visual. Linda Munday appointed box secretary for church and community . . . C.W.F. catered for minister's daughter's wedding . . . C.W.F. participated in World Day of Prayer at Uniting Church . . . Minister spoke at combined churches' Lenten Bible studies . . . Geoffrey Sloan, Victorian chaplain to the hearing impaired, challenged fellowship.

VICTORIAN CHRISTIAN THEATRE GROUP

— Creative Outreach

Imagine — the good news of Jesus Christ being presented on the stage by a group of Christians totally committed to God and the use of their talents for Him. The seed took a long time to germinate, over two years in fact. September of 1979 saw the seed emerge as a healthy plant in the form of the Victorian Christian Theatre Group.

SEASON ONE: Three one-act plays will be staged over nine nights in April-May this year. Over 60 people will be involved in the production while, hopefully, more than 2000 will be in the audiences.

For some who see the plays it will be just a night at the theatre, but there is more to it than that. Each of the plays, while not being 'heavy', presents a message that can be understood by people from all walks of life. The message is as found in the life of Jesus. Actually, the aim of the group is: "To present the Christian message (answers to today's problems as found in the life and works of Jesus Christ) in a way that stimulates and entertains."

The group has developed in many areas other than just Theatre Presentations. Play-readings and acting classes are regular features of the program along with social activities. The use of Puppet Theatre as an evangelistic tool is being developed and the group hopes to stage a number of presentations at the Royal Children's Hospital later this year. Melbourne Christian Radio is preparing for test transmissions later this year and the Victorian Christian Theatre Group will be producing a number of plays and messages for broadcast. Two other areas that are currently being developed by the group are: Writing and Film Production. Tuition is planned for those interested in writing, while those interested in film are sharing ideas and knowledge in preparation for their first production. An area of real challenge that the group hopes to move into is that of Street Theatre.

The first season will be held at the Kew High School Community Theatre from April 17-19 and at the Maribyrnong High School Theatre from May 1-3.

The plays being presented during this season are "The Wall", "Will the real Jesus Christ please stand up?" and "Chipper". Ticket prices range for the various evenings and there are family tickets available as well as group concessions for more than 20 people. Details are available from Rosemary Bishop (03) 398 3845.

DAWSON STREET, BALLARAT (G. L. Chapman). Graeme Chapman took part in open air Begonia Festival church service at Botanical Gardens . . . Church family camp at Log Cabin Lodge well attended . . . Esther Gamble home on furlough from Leprosy Mission showed slides at service . . . Senior members taken to gardens to view begonias . . . 120 meeting each week in 13 Growth Groups and K.Y.B. groups . . . 1980 theme is Bridge Building . . . Church participated in combined communion service in Memorial Theatre . . . Lady baptised . . . Youth room dedicated at dinner in hall.

Victorian Christian Theatre Group, presents for their inaugural season three one-act plays:

**THE WALL;
WILL THE REAL JESUS CHRIST
PLEASE STAND UP?
CHIPPER**

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MAY 1st-3rd: Maribyrnong High School Theatre.

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W.A. YOUTH COMMITTEE CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

During 1980 the Western Australian Youth and Christian Education Committee is celebrating the fact that it has served the brotherhood for 75 years. At the April 1905 Conference in W.A., the State Bible School Union was formed. Over the years there have been several changes in name but the "Bible School Union" was the forerunner of the present "Youth and Christian Education Committee".

On May 3, 1980, at 8 p.m., a special function is being arranged at the Christian Centre for past and present committee members.

Invitations are being sent to all members still resident in W.A., but members are now scattered over all States of Australia and indeed in many different countries of the world.

The 75th Anniversary Committee would sincerely appreciate receiving greetings from past committee members in distant places, and these will be read out on May 3.

**Letters of greeting should be addressed to:-
75th Anniversary Committee,
142-148 Beaufort Street, Perth, 6000.**

Past committee members now living in other states who may be visiting Western Australia in May are invited to attend the gathering on May 3.

tas

CAVESIDE, MOLE CREEK. Mr and Mrs Ellis McCulloch farewelled after one year of full-time ministry. In the previous year Ellis had served part-time. They have gone to Sydney to study with the view of serving as missionaries in Thailand . . . Church helped by speakers from Launceston and Devonport, a Gideon Bible, group and friends from the Uniting Church.

NUBEENA (C. Neville). Youth group held push - a - car - athon from Taranna to Nubeena (14 km) and raised \$280 to help Kim Heier in Sharing Venture in India . . . At S.S. Anniversary a gift was presented to retiring superintendent Bruce Spaulding. Mr and Mrs Kelvin Maxwell appointed as new superintendents . . . Boys' Brigade billy cart derby held at Koonya with teams from Claremont, Bellerive and Glenorchy competing.

HOBART (G. Powell, J. Morrow) Small groups recommenced with 100 attending the eight groups held on various nights . . . House parties enabled George and

Gladys Powell to meet membership informally . . . New groups to cater for high school aged youth at both Howrah and Hobart . . . "Friends of All Nations" has extended its services. For two hours prior to the social side each week several migrants come to be helped in speaking basic English.

LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison) Ministers and local police chaplain conducted funeral service for Const. Brian Gibson . . . Evening services are "Bring your Bibles" series at which families also present a 15 minute segment . . . Senior Y.P. held camp at Bicheno . . . Ruth Younger studying at Flinders Uni. (S.A.) and Anthony Street has entered Point Cook (Vic.).

ELIZABETH (B. Burt, D. Tandy) Following Miss N. Hall's farewell in December, church's college students conducted several services during January . . . Bart Burt inducted by Neil Bright, former Conf. Pres., to undertake a part-time ministry for a year . . . Series of coffee evenings held in various homes to meet Mr and Mrs Burt . . . C.W.F. held "Getting to know you" evening . . . Women's World Day of Prayer meeting for district held in chapel . . . Family Communication Course being held during March and April conducted by Mrs Betty Williams of COPE.

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Saturday April 12 — 7.45 p.m.
Sunday April 13 — 9.15 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

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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

BRISBANE: Gleneagles Singles (07) 379 9122

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

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

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W O A

SOUTH PERTH (K. Denton, L. Cox). Kevin Denton's ministry commenced in February . . . Come Alive Crusade in February resulted in 23 confessions . . . L. Cox conducted meetings in northern wheat belt towns . . . S.S. picnic held . . . Counselling classes being run by ministers . . . Men's Motivational Group fortnightly lunches held . . . Church family camp at Point Peron saw 135 attending . . . Woolwich extension training being led by K. Denton . . . Y.P. continuing outreach at Lancelin . . . Christian Teens Study led by Richard and Linda Berlack . . . Mexican night held at Hyman's . . . P.S.A. conducted by Ron Raymond . . . David Stanford returned from Philippines with Venture for Victory basketballers.

ALBANY (Dan Lundgren). Dan and Judy Lundgren came from snow conditions in U.S.A. to a brown Christmas in Australia . . . Lynda Moore baptised in the ocean at Nannarup . . . Ken Ewers-Verge no longer giving us bread from pulpit but has returned to his trade and

opened a hot bread shop in Albany.

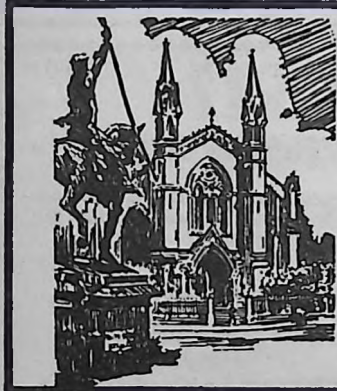
WARWICK (G. B. Carslake). Eleanor Neville selected as a state rep. for Conference on Evangelism in Melbourne . . . Six elders appointed . . . 45 attended informal camp at youth campsite at Busseton . . . Several adults baptised, one from our Over 50's club . . . Phil McWilliams representative on "Northcare" combined churches action group with Graham Chapman as co-ordinator.

ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT (D. Nelson) Membership up from 37 to 78 since commencement of ministry of D. Nelson. Over six weeks morning average of 101, evenings 86. Midweek prayer meeting 37. Average weekly offerings up from \$200 to \$575 . . . Plans to proceed with new building immediately due to overcrowding . . . S.S. to be recommenced after it had lapsed.

PERTH CITY (Robert Taylor). Membership directory keeping scattered membership in contact . . . Slavic church received into membership. They previously conducted their own services . . . At meeting with Chinese church Dr M. Ho explained the value of worshipping in their own language. They entertained whole church in celebrating the Chinese

New Year . . . Questionnaire made clear city church's problems and suggested solutions . . . Visitors have been E. Maxwell — Aborigines work support, Dr Hammer, K. Anderson who screened "Journey to the sky" (life of Sadhu Sunda Singh) at youth tea and a group of Aborigines from Jiggalong, Mt Margaret and Laverton . . . Letter box drop created further interest in Thursday fellowship for lonely people . . . Dr and Mrs Bridge on furlough from Bangladesh.

THE PATCH (T. Frazer) Minister shared experiences of course on pastoral care at Peter McCallum . . . Conf. Pres. and guest soloists participated in anniversary celebration . . . S.S. teachers dedication service held . . . Nine churches represented at Women's World Day of Prayer with Freda Morrison as speaker . . . Albert and Maxine Knapp participated in services on Aborigines' Sunday . . . Annual business meeting held, Vic Berry elected to eldership . . . Two Y.P. groups operating outdoor activities.



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BIRTHS

BROUGH (HEMMINGS) Margaret and Rodger are happy to announce the arrival of Elisabeth Anne on December 24, 1979.

NICHOLLS (HOVEY) Barbara and Alan announce with pleasure the birth of a son, Christopher Stanley on March 10 at St Andrew's Hospital. Brother for Veronica and Simon.

ENGAGEMENTS

HOLLOW — MURDOCH Mr and Mrs N. F. Hollow of Murrumbidgee, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter, Coralynn Jayne to Colin, youngest son of Mrs V. Murdoch, of East St. Kilda, and Mr B. W. Murdoch of Brunswick. Best wishes to you both. Both presently studying at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Victoria.

PADEY — MASTERSON Mr and Mrs C. L. Padey have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter Leanne to Ross, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. E. Masterson.

MARRIAGES

MALE — LEEMAN On Saturday, April 12, 1980 at the Open-air Chapel, Camp Cal, Caloundra, the marriage between Linda Male and Peter Leeman will take place. Linda's father, Allan C. Male will officiate.

PYE — PLANT. The marriage of Coralie Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Pye of Hawthorn, and Douglas Edwin, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Plant of Mooropna, will be celebrated at the Richmond (Vic.) Church of Christ on Saturday, April 5, 1980 at 11.30 a.m.

GOLDEN WEDDING

MATHIESON George and Alice, April 19. With gratitude to God, for 50 happy years of service together in ministry in N.Z. and Australia. The blessing of our two sons, George and John, Margaret and grandchildren, Mark, Sue and Sally, who have brought us much joy and happiness. For the love and encouragement of our many friends and the fellowship of the Christian Church. Thanks be to God. Present address 61 Angas Rd., Westbourne Park, SA. 5041.

DEATHS

GLUYAS Leila Mary. On Tuesday, March 4, at Mitcham, Leila Mary loved wife of Albert Edward (dec). Loving mother of Rae, Margaret, John and Kevin. Loving grandmother of Judy and Marion (Canada), Andrew and Duncan, Rosalie, Tracey, Christopher and Dean, Philip and Jennifer. Loving mother-in-law of Fred, Colin, Pat and Jan. "In God's care".

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"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.

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No change

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Three quarter page	\$92	Full page	\$120

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Double certificated nurses are required for the New Hebrides, Papua New Guinea.

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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

SPONSORED RUN

to be attempted by the Chairman of the Board

GREG FOOT

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CONVENTION AVENUE, BELGRAVE HEIGHTS

April 4-7, 1980

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3.00 p.m. and

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Invites YOU TO HEAR

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The position relates to Nursing and Day Care Centre Services only — Administration, Hostel and Domestic Services are the function of a separate staff.

Further details will be posted to bona fide Applicants who should apply in own handwriting no later than April 5 1980 providing details of registration and previous experience.

The names of two referees and the Church Minister will also be required.

R. H. Davey, Secretary
20 Plantation Street,
Mount, Lawley, W.A. 6050.

BICHENO CENTRE, TASMANIA

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

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

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

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MARRIAGES

● Anne Chilcott to Keith Rowe, Warwick, W.A.
● Kate Morais to Geoff Gibbs, Sunshine, Vic.
● Julie Golding to Todd Butler, Victor Harbour, S.A. ● Val Russell to John Moresby, South Perth, W.A. ● Vivienne Lawrence to Jim Debnam, Elizabeth, S.A. ● Leanne Hull to Greg Hogden, Montrose, Vic. ● Irene Currell to Douglas Moyle, Perth City, W.A.

DEATHS

● Arch McCallum, Chelsea, Vic. ● Brian Gibson, Launceston, Tas.
● Daisy Shenton, Perth City, W.A. ● George Stimson, Canley Heights, N.S.W.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BURWOOD: Secretary — B. Jacques, 3 Huxtable St., Mt. Waverley, Vic., 3149. Phone (03) 232 1850.

CARINGBAH: Minister — Brian White, 2 Jacaranda Rd., Caringbah, N.S.W., 2229. Phone (02) 524 8849.

TAMWORTH: Office — 1st Floor, 403 Peel St., Tamworth. Phone (067) 66 5144. Secretary — Mrs. J. E. Love. Phone (067) 65 9463. Minister — C. D. Crago, "Shalom", Back Kootingal Rd., Nemingha, N.S.W., 2340. Phone (067) 67 9180. Meeting — Peel High School Theatre, Gunnedah Rd., Tamworth.

OAKLEIGH: Secretary — Mrs. A. Walpole, 9 Daly St., Oakleigh, Vic., 3166. Phone (03) 543 1226.

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5 p.m. Tea

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Burwood

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nsw

THORNLEIGH (D. W. Mansell). Two Y.P. baptised by R. Bartholomew during gospel service . . . Rick Lewis, Woolwich third year student, commenced service . . . Dr. R. Miller, Conf. Pres., guest speaker . . . Family service conducted by the Neville family.

HAMILTON (W. Flett). Gladys Fraser seriously ill in Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Waratah. Her husband Will Fraser, known to all as "Uncle Will" especially the Y.P. of Newcastle district, has just concluded 53 years of S.S. teaching. Presentations made at recent morning service.

TWEED HEADS, COOLANGATTA (L. Wylie). A.B.M. S. Creek elected Elder . . . Service of Ordination and laying on of hands of the Board took place . . . Two decisions and baptisms . . . Two new activities commenced this year, a Christian Endeavour Society and a junior Youth Club . . . Jim Layton in Chermiside Hospital . . . Church theme for year "Serving the Changeless Christ in the Challenging 80's."

PADSTOW (Ed Holt). Leadership camp held . . . Target for support of living link missionaries met in time for March Gift service . . . Recent elections resulted in Greg Clarke as new elder . . . Ladies' Fellowship now has minister's wife, Jan Holt, as president . . . University student baptised . . . Church sponsoring new work in the Moorebank area. Woolwich student John Spencer leading the group which meets for a family service in a local school.

INVERELL (R. A. Powell); Church annual meeting held after fellowship luncheon. Elders are T. Stone, A. Mackie

and R. Powell . . . C.W.F. has had manse bathroom modernised . . . Y.P. continue with coffee shop program each alternate Friday night. Young person made decision at gospel service . . . Several members journeyed to Tamworth for the induction of Ian Schneider.

CANLEY HEIGHTS (E. Chandler, A. Wilson). Farewell luncheon held for Mr and Mrs Jim Hohnke and family who are now ministering in Devonport, Tas. after a three year ministry . . . Joan Pilkington farewelled at same time to study at W.E.C. in Tas. . . Church now has joint

student ministry between Ed Chandler (fourth year) and Alex Wilson (second year) . . . Slavic Church of Christ using chapel at 9.30 a.m. on Sundays for gospel service . . . S.S. growing following encouraging V.B.S. conducted last year which reached many new families in growing housing estates . . . C.W.F. have commenced Open Door program fortnightly with craft classes followed by basket lunch and devotional session . . . Church saddened by the death of George Stimson who worshipped at Canley all his life . . . Combined gospel service held with Carramar and Fairfield churches.

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SO

SALISBURY EAST. New church building opened and dedicated by Conf. Pres. Barry Gear. 300 attended ... David Marr to conduct short-term, part-time ministry ... All board members re-elected ... Liz Pohl new S.S. superintendent.

ALDGATE VALLEY (James Dow). Family picnic held at Loftia Park to meet and welcome Jim and Kath Dow, the church's first full-time minister in 92 years. Induction service conducted by Conf. Sec. Ed. Roffey. Stan Evans, M.P. gave greeting on behalf of community ... Jim Dow injured back whilst shifting, now recovering ... Recent bushfires endangered homes of 14 members church families and burnt to within 150 m. of church building. Several families suffered considerable losses.

GAWLER (R. L. Oke). Family services at 11 a.m. continuing for 1980 ... Five Y.P. baptised recently ... Harvest Thanksgiving services held and goods taken to St. George's Rest Home ... C.W.F. had R. Fordham from Indo-China Refugee Assoc. at March meeting. Offering of a \$100 and proceeds of trading table given to the work of association ... David Oke youth leader this year ... Visiting speakers T. Morgan, J. Porter, C. Higgins and R. Craig.

VICTOR HARBOUR (R. C. Mitchell). R. Elliott elected as secretary and A. Harwood as treasurer. J. Butler and L. Marshman elders. Robin Mitchell and family accepted invitation to serve another term ... C.Y.F. groups recommenced with numbers almost doubled after visitation ... Combined B.S. graduation and Harvest Thanksgiving attracted many parents and friends. 10 children received Good News Bibles.

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VIC

BORONIA (Harvey Miller). Don Maguire awarded B.E.M. for services to the community . . . New student assistant for 1980 Cynthia Page welcomed . . . Sympathy extended to Olive Goodwin on death of her brother Ian Dent . . . 100 attended family camp at Rosebud . . . Sharing Venture Team to India told of their experiences . . . Lil Myerscough and Betty Brown home following hospitalisation.

SUNSHINE (F. B. Alcorn, E. M. West). Morning services recorded — cassettes available for sale or loan . . . \$500 sent to World Vision Kampuchean appeal . . . Basket lunch after morning service to farewell Bruce and Judith Grayden, W.B.T. . . . Guest speakers at Glengala, Rev. Bruce and Mrs Reddrop spoke of trip to Israel . . . Youth group led gospel service showed audio-visual produced by Peter Iliff . . . Family tea held followed by film "Footsteps in Stone" . . . C.W.A.F. visited Maidstone C.W.F. to hear of work in P.N.G. by Judy Williams . . . Prayer group using study series "Your Kingdom Come" . . . Keith Skillicorn of Leprosy Mission speaker at Glengala . . . Paul and Judy Williams visited Glengala B.S.

CHELSEA (P. Bradley, M. Stevens). Board now meets quarterly, routine business is delegated . . . Newly appointed student ministers were inducted at morning service . . . Church saddened by death of Arch McCallum . . . Explorer Boys participated in combined swim night with seniors runners-up . . . Regular pastoral visitation being provided by elders Keith Holt and Harold Taylor, ministers and deaconesses .

SWANSTON STREET (A. L. Webb, B. Morton). Summer Training Programme conducted throughout the holiday period attracted 50 students . . . Over 400 attended evening service addressed by Daniel Kwong from the underground church in China . . . 30 key Asian stu-

dents returned to their home countries upon the completion of their course in Australia . . . Three medical members of church now working in Thailand among Kampuchean refugees . . . New church roof completed at a cost of \$15,000 . . . Youth group "Chairo" recently formed.

SOUTH YARRA (Peter Nelson) Homecoming guest speakers were C. G. Taylor, M. Conry and minister . . . Girls' Club commenced the year with barbecue on Yarra banks . . . C.W.F. held a slide night with presentation by Mary Dorning.

CHADSTONE (A. B. Clark) Family service held first Sunday in month and evening service held once a month . . . Croydon Y.P. shared recently . . . Five Y.P. attended youth fellowship tea . . . \$85 given to Christmas Bowl appeal . . . Tennis teams in finals . . . Alan Clark shared in C.W.F. program . . . Friendship Club held a knit wits demonstration . . . Girls' Club held a swim night . . . John Schmode attended Explorers' annual breakfast . . . Explorers took part in swimming sports . . . Frank Richards spoke at morning service . . . Ken Barrett, C.O.B. student, permanent driver for community bus.

BENDIGO (M. D. Keatch). Amazing Grace Crusade to be held in Golden Twin Cinema with evangelist Bill Gaunson . . . S. Curkpatrick, student minister, to assist in work of church . . . Sympathy expressed to Mr and Mrs Grainger in their recent bereavement . . . C. and N. D. Conf. Rally held at Eppalock camp site, speakers Bill Gaunson and Miss Davies . . . Paul and Judy Williams from P.N.G. recent visitors . . . C.W.A.F. had bus trip to Wycliffe Bible Translators H.Q. at Kangaroo Ground . . . Mrs Fisher speaker at Women's World Day of Prayer. 150 attended.

HORSHAM (W. Gibney). Chapel renovated at cost of \$11,000. Dedication service led by B. Tucker with 260 present. Member builder G. Mackley handed key to oldest member Mrs E. Marshall who passed it to Elder E. Butler . . . Temple Day offering totalled \$3,386 . . . Anonymous donation of \$250 to S.S. . . .

50 attended family camp at Hall's Gap. W. Gibney led studies.

MONTROSE (L. van Laar). Seventh anniversary of Thursday afternoon school . . . Owing to large increases in attendance enlargement of the hall necessary . . . Evening service held in chapel of Monbulk Fellowship Centre after family tea. Tom Ede spoke . . . Church family camp held at E.S.A. camp at Marysville.

PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (J. Manallack, P. Wells). Nancy Garth chosen to represent Australia at World Convention of Women's Christian Temperance Union in England having won the Australian speech contest for delegates . . . Women's World Day of Prayer held in church . . . C.W.F. hosted Castlemaine ladies. Helen Banks guest speaker . . . Church responsible for services at Northcote Hospital in March.

TRARALGON (Des Symes) Services led by B. Burn and D. Preston while minister on holiday . . . Playgroup advertised by letterbox drop. Introductory morning coffee well attended and four playgroups being formed . . . Working bee held . . . Happy Kingdom recommenced . . . Children visited elderly people's home . . . Minister attended national conference on evangelism . . . Evening of hymn singing held in the Bonnors' home.

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Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM

Over the weekend, I had the pleasure of attending the National Strategy Conference on Evangelism organised by the State Home Mission Departments to look at a strategy for our churches on evangelism for the 1980's. In this column, I would like to comment on the conference and the discussion that will arise from this conference in our Brotherhood.

The one factor that made a real impression on me over the weekend was the overall spirit of our Australian movement. There was the natural "animosity" between the states in a good hearted way, but what was missing was the real antagonism that may have been present in the past. Each person had their own ideas about how we should be moving in our evangelism during this coming decade. However there was a real willingness to listen to each other and to accept our differences and to work in the areas that we are enthused over.

For all present the centrality of the church's task to evangelise the world was apparent. There was the expressed belief that God will work the miracle among our churches and that the sense of enthusiasm will grow and be the main shaping force of our churches during the decade.

The details of the various views will be circulated to the Brotherhood over the next year or more via "The Australian Christian", the Federal Conference, Minister's Seminars and from working groups of the various Home Missions Departments in each state. The delegates not only looked at

the strategy of our evangelism on an Australian-wide basis but also on the individual state level.

Where are we going as a Brotherhood? We looked at the need for us to work together in the areas of publicity on a national level. Whilst full details will come out later following further talks, it was recognised that we should be enabling smaller churches and those without the expertise the chance to see what is already being used and make this material available to be adapted to the local situation. There was a good deal of discussion of a national resource bureau in the media area and I would expect that the Home Missions Directors and the Federal Conference will have this high on their lists of priorities.

The need for a revival in our churches was recognised by all. To bring this about, and at the same time still be involved in the initial steps of evangelism, was the concern of man. The need for us as a people to pray and to grow in our own faith was often mentioned.

All the participants were called to pray for this revival in our churches and in the Brotherhood. Calls to prayer for the whole of our Australian Brotherhood and a means of fully discipling all our members were discussed. Again as with many things, the fact of shortage of time has left these important items to be more fully considered with further action anticipated.

Overall, my impressions were that we as a Brotherhood are on the edge of great things in our mission to ALL Australians. We need to be at prayer though to achieve God's will in this area of our church life.

THE LAST WORD

Greater love has no-one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

HOPE

Easter brings its age-old message to a weary world

When upon the stricken boughs the new leaves are uncurled.

Hope has burst the seal of death and risen, brave and bold,

Rising from the darkness in a cloud of green and gold . . .

Christ, the Resurrected One, has called HOPE from her grave,

Behold, she walks the earth once more to bless, to cheer and save.

— Mrs H. W. Smedley

★ ★ ★

As the three ladies picked up the concert program, each put on a pair of glasses.

"Of course, I really need mine only for close reading," said one.

"I wear mine only when the light is poor," said the second.

The third was honest. "I rarely wear mine," she said, "except when I want to see."

★ ★ ★



"Is God home?"

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