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ON MY MIND

One idea that I had "on my mind" last year was that many significant people in the Brotherhood would have at least one idea in their minds waiting to leap into print. So we commenced the feature, "On My Mind". We began inviting people to write it. At the moment 12 of the 40 people invited have responded. 4 others submitted some excellent material for publication which we featured under the heading of "On My Mind" because in fact that is what it was. 28 others did not respond. This contribution to "On My Mind" is because we have reached the "bottom of the barrel".

MAKING SURE IT WAS NOT VICTORIAN

The "A.C." is sometimes accused of being "too Victorian" in spite of its Western Australian editor and Tasmanian Sub-editor. So we made sure that "On My Mind" did not offend in this way. Of the 40 invited 6 were Victorians. There were 13 Queenslanders, 8 Western Australians, 7 from New South Wales, 4 South Australians, 1 Tasmanian and 1 from the A.C.T. Of the 34 non-Victorians, 9 responded.

AVOIDING "MALE CHAUVINISM"

We were most anxious to include women writers. Perhaps our "male chauvinism" is showing, in that we only invited 12 women out of the total of 40. Of the 12 only 5 responded.

We were determined not to "favour the clergy". Apart from the women we invited 9 laymen and 9 ministers. 4 ministers responded and 1 layman.

Not included in the figures for lay people and ministers are 10 full time Brotherhood leaders. Of the 10 invited 5 responded.

30% NOT TOO BAD

Perhaps 30% of responses is not too bad. But one wonders why more did not want to bare their minds in public. Surely our policy-making leaders want every forum they can get. And how could ministers pass up an audience of at least 10,000? And one can only wonder how women can keep silent . . . in print! The biggest surprise is the 1 out of 9 laymen. Perhaps this is not a "man's world" after all.

One reason for non-response could have been that we asked for the job to be done within 14 days. We thought that if it was "on the mind" it would not take long to get it off the mind and onto paper. We suspect though that the quick passing of two weeks gave some of our invitees the opportunity to put out of their minds the idea of letting us read what was on their minds.

THE FUTURE

We are continuing with "On My Mind". We believe that it is important to give thinking and informed people the opportunity to express themselves in more than the 150 words available in "Open Forum". (EDITOR).

MORE ABOUT THE SECTS AND CULTS

Chris Ambrose has announced his intention of using "Ambrosia" from time to time to give facts about sects and cults.

This brought a letter to our desk from Adrian Van Leen, P.O. Box 6, North Perth, 6006. He informs us that he and some people who are refugees from some of the cults, plus some other interested people, have formed an organization called Concerned Christians Growth Ministries (C.C.G.M.). The aim of C.C.G.M. is to help people disillusioned by the cults and to rehabilitate them into the church. C.C.G.M. is also building an extensive library in order to research the

cults so that greater help can be given to confused and bewildered people. They are also putting out for general distribution some small duplicated pamphlets concerning some of the cults. The first two outline the significant teachings of Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses in relation to the Scriptures and the Christian faith.

C.C.G.M. also published a regular bulletin entitled "Take a Closer Look." The subscription is a donation. Ministers and others could well write to Adrian and C.C.G.M. asking to be added to his mailing list. Adrian is Minister of our North Perth church.

National Day of Prayer

ANZAC DAY
FRIDAY, APRIL 25

We call the people of Australia to a National Day of Prayer on Anzac Day, and to devote part of the day to prayer in homes, churches, places of worship, commemorative services and elsewhere.

We see Anzac Day as the appropriate occasion to think about Australia.

We believe that current world and national events have created an urgent need for Australia to show national unity of purpose and wise and responsible leadership at every level.

We urge our fellow-Australians to turn their thoughts in prayer to the major issues that confront our nation.

Let us pray for the spiritual and moral health of Australia and for the strengthening of our commitment to decency, justice and compassion.

Let us pray for a just and lasting peace between all nations and throughout the world, so that each nation may live in tranquillity and integrity without threat or fear.

Let us pray for an honourable and peaceful solution to the serious events in Afghanistan, Iran, Cambodia and elsewhere.

Let us pray for God's guidance concerning the future of the Olympic Games as well as all the sporting, cultural and other events in which nation meets nation in friendly understanding.

Let us pray for the brave men and women of principle throughout the world and particularly the dissidents such as Professor Andrie Sakharov, as they make their non-violent witness for human rights.

Let us pray for wisdom and foresight concerning the economic and social problems of poverty, unemployment and inflation which beset our nation.

Let us pray for the families, the youth and particularly the children of our nation that they may grow up in health and peace with a sure sense of civic responsibility.

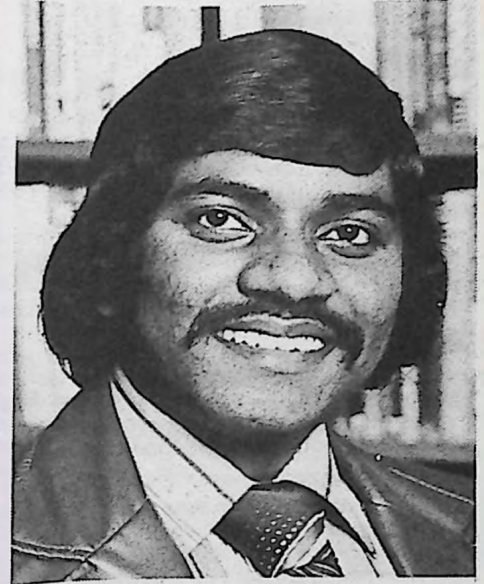
Let us pray for the spiritual and moral needs of the members of our Federal and State Parliaments and all our judicial, business, media, union and academic leaders; may God's guidance be with them in all their deliberations and deeds.

Archbishop Sir Marcus Loane (Anglican Archbishop of Sydney), Cardinal Sir James Freeman (Catholic Archbishop of Sydney), Rev. Winston O'Reilly, O.B.E. (Moderator, Uniting Church in Australia), The Right Rev. Campbell Egan (Moderator, Presbyterian Church, N.S.W.), His Eminence Stylianos (Primate of Greek Orthodox Church), Commissioner Leo Ward (Territorial Commander Salvation Army), Rev. Keith Nagel (President, Lutheran Church, N.S.W. Dist.), Mr Kevin Crawford (President, Churches of Christ), Rabbi Raymond Apple (Senior Minister, The Great Synagogue, Sydney), Mr Fred Church, O.B.E. (President General Baptist Union of Australia).

"If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

ANOTHER WAHGMODE FOR C.O.B.



When veteran missionary Hariba Wahgmode came to Australia as a youth to study at the College of the Bible every one wondered how it would work out. That it worked out very well is common knowledge, and we pay tribute to the Secretary of the Indian Conference of Churches of Christ for his long and faithful service.

Now his son has entered the College. His name is Nitish for special occasions, but normally he is called Raju. Already he has entered actively into his studies. Before coming to Australia he had a year's experience in an Indian college where theology is taught in English.

He is attending the Frankston church with his brother Sunni and Sunni's wife Frances. He will be visiting some churches with the Indian Venture teams.

COMPASSION

In my congregation is an elderly Anglo-Indian couple who have a daughter who is teaching in Melbourne. Every year for the past seven years the daughter has travelled to India to spend her holidays with her parents. Every year the separation plus the cultural shock of India's poverty and her parents' increasing weakness create great emotional strain for them all.

During 1979 the daughter made application for the parents to join her in Australia. The father, blind and bed-ridden was over 90. The Australian Government gave five reasons why they were not prepared to accept them. Obviously the shock and personal upheaval of such a move would be considerable. However, one item which really stunned me was this: "The compassionate aspects do not appear to be exceptional". What else could "compassionate" mean?

On January 19, 1980 the father died. Fortunately the daughter was present for the death and funeral, but she has now returned to Australia. Will the Australian

Government favourably review the application for the widow's visa so she can join her daughter? Perhaps the compassionate aspects do not appear exceptional!

— Barry Jenkins

● Vic.

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN DISTRICTS RALLY

Under pleasant weather, the Annual Conference Rally of the Central and Northern District Churches of Christ was held at Lake Eppalock with 179 attending from 10 associate churches.

The President Mr Henderson, Boort welcomed all especially the guest speakers, Bill Gaunson and Miss Phyl Davis from North Balwyn. The song leader, Keith Lacy, Bendigo, gave a rousing start. Castlemaine Men's Choir preceded the children's dialogue by Peter Haylock, Castlemaine. Mr and Mrs Hall Wedderburn, led Teenage Tantrums, a segment for youth.

Women's session with Mrs Henderson, Boort, presiding welcomed Miss Davis as speaker down by the lakeside. In beautiful weather Mr Gaunson led the men's meeting. Mesdames White and Clarke, Echuca, presented a duo.

Glen Waverley Glenairs gave a 30 minute musical. "I am Here".

Ron Westmore, Kyabram, was welcomed as the incoming President. An item by the Castlemaine Choir was followed by the Roll Call and a testimony. Bill Gaunson conducted the Induction service of the Incoming Officers and gave the final Address. Items were given by Miss V. Wilson, and P. Collier, Oakleigh.

Alice Broad

GARDINER (C. G. Taylor). S.S. and Girls' Club have new members . . . Afternoon C.W.F. has theme, "The Home Beautiful" . . . C.Y.F. held barbecue then attended church . . . Church held meeting to plan outreach in the community . . . Recent guest speakers were W. Saunders, V. Longthorp, L. J. Dewberry, Rev. W. Girvan, C. Ambrose, K. Skillicorn and O. Clarke . . . Church held missionary display.

QUEENSLAND: YOUTH ALIVE!

Alan Male (Director, Department of Youth and Christian Education)

Life Assurance/Fund Raising Scheme Success.

In 1969 a life assurance scheme called Club '79, was commenced. Through a nationally known company, young people, a decade ago, began paying a weekly premium of \$1 a week. These have matured at \$635 per person (For the statistically minded \$1 per week for 10 years is \$520 — interest and bonuses \$635).

Half of a church building at "Camp Cal" is paid for because of this decade of decision and regular commitment. The Caloundra church will use the building for worship and youth activities and the Youth and Christian Education Department will use it for study groups and Marriage Enrichment Seminars.

A modern day version of \$2.00 (the computer disdainfully rejects a mere \$1.00 nowadays) per week. In 10 years, we'll give \$635 to participants and receive \$635 for Departmental progress in the 90's.

Proposal Schedule or information are available from the Director, 428 Ann Street, Brisbane, 4000.

Calypso Court

As a Department, we believe that the "chips are down" and the silicon chips will provide many opportunities for leisure. (N.B. others — known as pessimists — spell opportunities p-r-o-b-l-e-m-s). With shorter working weeks, the "Department in Action" has provided family holiday units at the "Camp Cal", Dickey Beach, Caloundra site.

Investors of \$1,000 can enjoy time-sharing privileges or bookings made through the Department.

There is a variety of holiday times available e.g. 2 weeks a year for 7 years Christmas/New Year period; 2 weeks a year for 10 years other school holiday times; 3 weeks a year for 15 years; 9 weeks a year for 5 years "off" peak. The latter admirably suits retirees and interstate visitors.

Full time workers make their impact on the Sunshine State.

Frank Beale, former New Hebrides and pioneer New Guinea missionary is in the Division of Christian Education promoting teacher training, small groups seminars and Church enrichment programmes.

Cheryl Hoskins, Kenmore certificated, is Youth Activities Organiser and helps youth groups and conducts rallies, swim carnivals and sports days and camping activities for youth.

Kath Male, as Officer Administrator, uses her considered skills in the numerous tasks of an expanding Department's office.

Director, A. C. Male, is Honorary Director of the Department and uses his expertise in planning, programming in all areas of the life of the Department and tapping into community resources and needs.

Stepping into the '80's

Walking boldly into the '80's we plan:-

1. Key Decision makers conference at Departmental sites. Friday night arrival, all day Saturday, back to the local church for services immediately after breakfast. We are conscious of the demands made by Departments that can infringe upon local commitments.

2. Enhancing our effectiveness in 4 broad areas.

1. Administration.
2. Camping.
3. Christian Education.
4. Youth Activities.

We walk forward confidently into the future knowing that our companion is The Man from Galilee. The Christ of the Cross, The Saviour of the World!

A PERFECT SOLUTION

Ron Kallmier

Director New South Wales
Department of Christian
Education

Walking through the streets of our cities we notice the loneliness and frustration of so many people. The lines on the faces of older people are the "biographies" of the trials of living. The great Australian ideal of "making it on your own" is for most an impossible dream. Disintegration of family life is so common that it is almost a norm of Australian society. Any person working with those affected by this fragmentation must feel the hurt that is deep within so many in this country.

I believe as Christians we have the perfect solution for a fragmented, alienated society. It can be found in the community of faith, living life as Jesus intended it to be lived . . . lived as it was in the early church.

We lose so much when our church life gives us few opportunities to experience and express our oneness, our community in Christ. Christians, whose only corporate experience of faith is the "pew-by-pew" hour of worship Sunday morning, must develop a distorted view of what God desires for His people together. I believe that Jesus' decision to choose 12 who could "be with him" (Mark 3:14) affirms the importance of the sharing of life's experiences. In the learning, the do-

ing, the travelling, the caring, the praying, the ministering Jesus and the disciples became one. Through this the disciples adequately prepared for what lay ahead.

CAMPING

During a number of years of Christian camping the value of sharing more of our lives together has been proven often. Christian camping provides the scope to experience a wide range of life's experiences together in a positive, spiritual climate. This includes such enjoyable times as sharing in fun, relaxation, meals, learning and so on. It also means wrestling with problems, disagreements, personal hurts, plus God's call to grow more like his Son. Camping is a positive environment for scriptural teaching to be examined, discussed and applied in the context of real life. Sometimes the impact of these camping programs is so strong that campers don't want to return to everyday life — they have discovered something vital that they don't find "back there". Is it genuine community?

Even allowing for the somewhat artificial situation of the Christian camp it surely can provide Christians in the local

church with a useful model for the kind of Christian life experiences that are supportive and nurturing.

I believe the quality of life we share together in Jesus can be one of the most powerful stimulants for evangelism and Christian growth. If our traditional learning methods can be blended with a deeper sense of commitment and care for each other as Christians, we can attract the lonely, the desperate, the needy and bring them to "new birth", to wholeness and to maturity within the family of Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that as others observe what is happening in our local church they will be drawn to the Lord through warmth and vitality of the life we share and express.



YEAR OF THE FAMILY?

— George Warren

Perhaps 1980 should be known as International Year of the Family, following on 1979 Year of the Child. Children, after all, come in families and without regard for that environment in which a child develops, much of our work with children is negated. Families are also the basic building blocks of the community and failure to build families into the Community of Faith, will result in failure to build that community itself.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Therefore in Victoria and Tasmania our churches are concerned about children, but they are also concerned about the families in which those children develop. George Warren, a field director with the Department of Mission, Education and Development provides training programmes for Sunday school teachers and club leaders which help them to be more effective in their work with children, but training which also encourages them to build bridges to families and involve families in the life of the church.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Recently our Children's Ministry Committee added "Family" to its title. It was felt that this was more in keeping with the job it is doing. The committee is planning a Family and Children's Ministry Seminar to be held in July. There will also be country seminars with similar input. "Grow," a resource folder produced by the Family and Children's Ministry Committee, provides ideas for children's and family programmes. It is now into its fifth edition. The production of Family Worship Services is yet another activity of this valuable committee.

FAMILY WORSHIP

Julie Reid, now a minister in the Regional Board (Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Brunswick) has made a great contribution to our churches in the area of family worship. Many churches throughout Victoria and Tasmania have taken up her challenge and are experimenting with various models of family worship. George Warren continues this work and is keen to be involved with churches in the search for worship services in which children belong and have their part to play but which is also stimulating and meaningful for adults.

FAMILY CAMPING

Family camping has become very popular in our churches and various models of family camping are being tried. The family camp at Banksia Peninsula was booked to capacity last January and will be repeated in January 1981. We aim to provide resources to offer even better family camping experiences.

BEYOND THE FAMILY TO GOD'S FAMILY

Families, of course, come in all shapes and forms — some with single parents, some with no children and some with adolescents who are seeking to establish their own identity separate from their family. There are people who have little or no contact with families at all. Our churches are seeking to come to grips with the needs of all of these and endeavour to help them re-establish their places in God's Family.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jeff Deuble, a field director with the Department of Mission, Education and Development, is working with the Youth Ministry Committee to provide camping, leadership training and social and inspirational opportunities for young people.

Youth Leadership Training Seminars will be held once again at Hall's Gap in June and Monbulk in July.

SINGLES

Some of our churches are working hard to provide meaningful experiences for single people. It is rewarding to see these people overcoming their loneliness and finding a niche in God's Family.

SMALL GROUPS

A way of helping people to find a place of support and encouragement in God's family is through small group meetings. In November the Department of Mission, Education and Development will be sponsoring a one-day Small Group Leadership Training Seminar run by John Mallison. Many churches have already expressed interest in this.

MINISTRY TO ALL PEOPLE

This movement from children to families and beyond the family to God's family summarises our commitment to minister to all kinds of people bring them into the Community of Faith. The two field staff members, George Warren and Jeff Deuble, are working hard to assist our churches in making the most of these ideals.



DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY OF FAITH

G. Rose

(Director Department of Christian Education)

In South Australia, community of faith, teaching and making disciples are linked in a way which gives support, training and encouragement at the local level. Consultation services are provided to help churches in children's ministry, youth ministry, intergenerational activities and leadership training. Central activities include leadership training, state youth camps, fellowship, study events and provision of resources (curriculum, library, audio visuals).

GROWING AS A TEACHER is an 8 session training program designed in South Australia by the Department to meet the special needs of teachers in Churches of Christ Bible Schools. Designed to be conducted by the Superintendent in the local setting, topics can be selected to meet the specific needs of that group of teachers. Where outside help is required, the children's ministry team is able to provide experienced help.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE WORKER — specialising in 1980 in Children's Ministry. Each year 60 young people contribute \$60 each to support a young person chosen for his/her special talents for ministry to the church. In 1980 Dawn Benjamin has been selected to visit churches and do special work in children's ministry. Dawn, a New Zealander, is a trained kindergarten teacher. In 1979 she completed the course at the Institute for Church Youth Leadership Training.



CONSULTATION IN YOUTH WORK — the YOUTH Ministry team, which is responsible for the state wide youth program, meets with the youth leaders from Churches. In 1980, special regional consultations have been set up to bring youth leaders together for mutual sharing and support.

THE INTERGENERATIONAL * * SMILE * * — a magazine which is written and produced by the Children's Ministry team and contains a packet of ideas about programs, ideas, theory, resources and news of what is working at the local level in inter-generational and children's ministry.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: BIRRIBI — the Institute for Church Youth Leadership Training commenced in 1979. Four full time participants lived in and got 'on the job' leadership training in local Churches and state departments. In 1980 the course was opened to part timers. Subjects which will be covered this year include:

- Youth Work
- Bible Studies
- Personal and Spiritual Growth
- Helping Skills

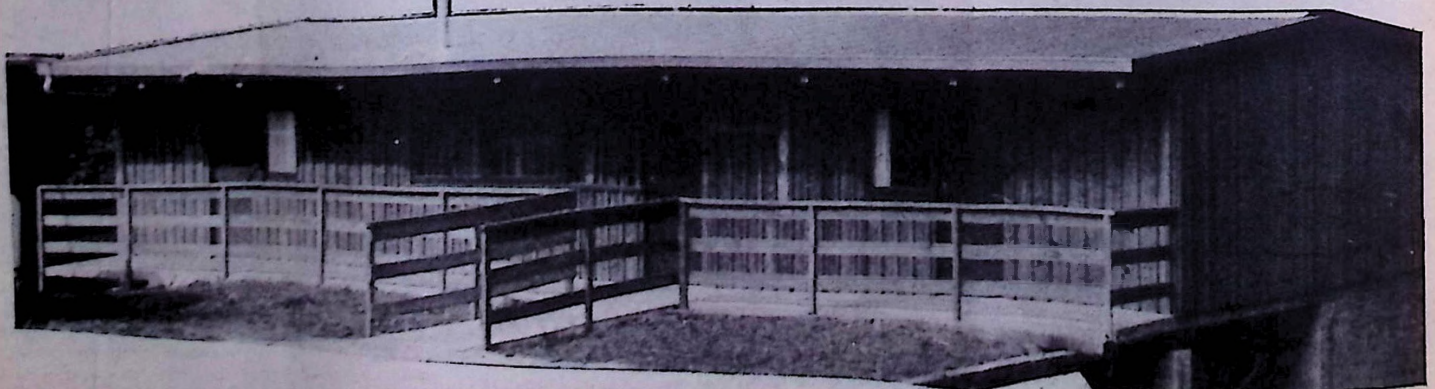
These courses conducted by experienced instructors are open to young people and adults.

STATE YOUTH CAMPS — the aim of the camping program is to provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth, community, commitment, training and the development of leadership skills. In addition to extensive and very popular camps for children, junior hi's, senior youth, young and older adults, there is an extensive program in adventure camping — canoeing, hiking, bush walking, caving and spear fishing.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES include the musical offerings of the South Australian Churches of Christ Youth Choir, our Tennis and Basketball Associations as well as netball teams competing in the Uniting Church Association. For adults there are Marriage Enrichment programs, women's camping and special functions for Christian Men's Societies.

HELP FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS — the D.C.E. in South Australia has made available to the Churches skilled Parent Effectiveness Training instructors. These conduct eight 3 hourly sessions in local Churches to help parents develop more effective methods of bringing up their children.

The Church is the Community of Faith for Christians. It is a visible human community with the divine task of nurturing God's people in their faith so that they might grow in Christ and witness to the world that God's intention is to draw all people into his community of which Christ is the head.



Keith D. Horne wing of the Longwood campsite. Keith Horne is currently Federal Board of Christian Education Chairman.

THE FEDERAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Serving the Australian Churches

in

Children's Ministry
National Youth Programming

Family Ministries
Christian Education Resources

1979 Major projects were:—

Sharing in India: A program of mission and development education.

Let the Children Participate: A study of the place of children within Churches of Christ.

NEW CHURCH SCHOOL POSES PROBLEMS THROUGH SUCCESS

Dalkeith Road church in Nedlands closed their Sunday school down at the end of 1978 as numbers had dwindled to 20 and decided to commence a "Church School" on Wednesday afternoons in February 1979, which would combine a club-style program with the Christian education of the Sunday school.

The leaders co-ordinated by Dot Bennett, were completely surprised when their numbers rose to 90 within a couple of weeks. The church, currently under the leadership of a part-time ministry, was unprepared for the influx of new contacts and so a cry for help went out to the Youth and Christian Education Committee. As a result the Dalkeith Road minister, Alan Morris and secretary, Wal Bennett and the Youth and Christian Education director, Kevin Caulton planned a strategy where the church would pay the Youth and Christian Education Committee for some of the director's time so that a program could be mounted to build closer links between the church and the new contact families.

Over a period of four months Kevin Caulton visited the Church School occasionally and planned three Family Services which were conducted on Sunday nights in August, September and December. The services were planned to be informal giving opportunity for involvement of all ages and for church families and contacts to get to know each other. Some of the Joint Board's "Growing Together" material was used, along with other activities.

The response indicated that there is potential to develop the contact that exists with the new families in the future if imagination and planning are used effectively.

It is interesting to note that by the end of the year average attendance had reached 100 at the Wednesday Church School.



The Adventure Camp held in the Stirling Ranges, 350 kms south west of Perth, continues to be a popular activity for high school boys each September. The camp, which has now been conducted for over ten years, provides opportunity for bushwalking, bushcraft, nature study and outdoor survival. Single day, two day and three day overnight hikes take part in small groups across the most rugged country of the southern half of the State.

The Stirlings Camp provides experiences of both spiritual and social growth as the physical challenges are met.

GROWTH IN W.A. CHILDREN'S CAMPS

By Kevin Caulton

(Director Western Australian Youth & Christian Education Committee)

There has been a dramatic rise in camping programs for primary aged children in Western Australia over the last two years. In 1978 the Youth and Christian Education Committee conducted one children's camp during the May school holidays at which there were 40 campers. This year it is planned to hold 5 holiday activities with an expected attendance in excess of 230 children.

The sudden change in the camping program came about as a result of co-operation with Christian Welfare's Lone Fathers' Home Support Scheme. The committee was approached to run more holiday activities for school children whose working fathers were faced with problems during the school break. It was decided to provide residential camping for all children including children from the churches and not just disadvantaged children. This provided a challenge for the committee to provide the extra leadership and children from the churches. There was no great difficulty finding children to go to the camps.

This year there will be three camps in May for different age groups, one in September for the whole primary age group and a Day Care program in the second week of the May holidays, hopefully with the assistance of some elderly citizens. In responding to the cry for help from Christian Welfare the Youth and Christian Education Committee has been able to provide extra camping programs for children from our churches.

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.

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

To the Editor,

Noel Newton (A.C. 2/2/80) states that Paul would have none of the teaching that the baptism of the Spirit is a separate experience following conversion. I believe that Paul experienced this very thing! His dramatic conversion was followed three days later by his infilling with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9: 17).

Other examples of a separate experience are: Acts 2:4, Acts 8: 14-17 and Acts 19: 1-6. Even our Lord's mother, although the Holy Spirit had previously come upon her, waited with other believers in Jerusalem to be endowed with power from on high (Acts 1: 14). How much more then, do we need this experience today?

Praise the Lord that many can testify to this reality. Let us forget some of our long-held traditions and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us the truths in God's Word. Mark 7: 13 states "Making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition . . ." Churches of Christ, don't let this Holy Spirit Revival pass us by.

— Mrs Marlene Treloar (Bordertown, S.A.)

INSTANT BAPTISM

To the Editor

I do not know if S. Godfrey is being facetious ("A.C." 2-2-80).

There are many scriptural references for immediate baptism; Acts 2: 41; 8: 34; 10: 44-48. These scriptures are just as valid as 1 Cor. 14: 18; 1 Cor. 14: 39; John 20: 22; Acts. 1:5. If we literally accept one scripture, we must accept all.

— K. Borthwick (N.S.W.)

PUSSY-FOOTING LEADERSHIP?

To the Editor,

The past month on Open Forum of the past months seems to establish one fact not to the credit of leaders of the Brotherhood of Churches of Christ. One wanders at leaders who will not lead, College Principals who will not set forth Bible principles and Pastors who shirk their responsibilities, failing to protest against "new truths" as propounded by a militant minority. I wish they would stop pussy-footing with the people who present unbiblical material as pure gospel. Whom should we favour; Christ and his teachings or men with the fantasies?

Page 13 has presented many truths but spoils the plea of Churches of Christ by a "tolerance" which is akin to "standing for nothing so many could fall for anything."

Charismatics and others today are more concerned to convert Christians and others to their thinking at any cost. Perusal of the magazines put out show the 'I' predominance and the Lord Jesus Christ hardly gets a passing mention. Please let our learned leaders lead, so Christ may be the 'alpha and omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

— Mac Large (Harlaxton, Qld.)

"BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT"

To the Editor,

Re Noel Newton's "On My Mind" . . . "Baptism of the Spirit" ("A.C." 2-2-80). There is a variety of experiences of the Spirit in the N.T., for God is dealing with individuals. Acts 6:2-4 establishes the qualifications of God's workers, "known to be full of the Holy Spirit". But in Acts 19 the believers had not even heard about him, and neither have many others. John

14:16 says that the Spirit will teach, counsel and guide into all truth. Let the churches be prepared to listen to the Holy Spirit, then God's Kingdom will come (1 John 2:26-28).

Shirley Handcock, (Benalla, Vic.)

"DOES GOD HAVE FAVOURITES?"

To the Editor,

In reply to the question "Does God have favourites?" No, I do not believe so. I believe the wonderful love of God extends to every one to the same degree, and even in our affliction we can find it if we look hard enough. My message to the lady is to hold on fast to her faith and allow the Lord to strengthen her even more. He must have a special purpose in mind for her that only He knows. I pray that she will be a valuable witness to those around her. Acts 14:22.

— MRS E. T. (Vic.)

We have broken our rule, not to print letters unless accompanied with the name of the writer, on this occasion because Mrs E. T. is expressing concern for the person whose pain prompted the original question. We do not propose to break it again. — Ed.

DOES GOD HAVE FAVOURITES?

To the Editor,

Did I. J. Chiveil (A.C. 1/3/80) want an answer to his question "Does God have favourites?" or did he just want to make a point?

As an experienced minister John Chiveil must know that "God does have favourites" e.g. He saves some and loses others, He gives some nations war and others peace, He gives some food and others starve and so we could go on and on proving nothing . . .

I do not claim to have a "gift of healing." Confronted often by sick people who earnestly want me to pray for them with more than the perfunctory bedside prayer for health with no expectation of fulfillment, I actually see God answer many of these prayers. In such circumstances I can only say that I personally have an extreme lack of faith.

I'M A WOWSER

To the Editor,

I've discovered that I'm a wowser. My earlier picture of a wowser was of a dismal faced, blue nosed, holy Joe, pointing an umbrella of scorn at people having a bit of innocent fun. But the other day I read in a magazine the original meaning of the word wowser. Apparently it was coined by a group of Christian social reformers nearly a hundred years ago. The aim of their society was expressed in the sentence — We Only Want Social Evils Removed — the initials of which are wowser. So they were called wowsers. The particular social evil they had in mind was the abuse of alcohol. This is probably why people today who want alcohol reforms are scornfully called wowsers.

So I'm a wowser. But I want all sorts of social evils to be removed, not only alcohol and drug abuse. I want the social evils of unemployment, colour and class distinction, exploitation of the disadvantaged, pollution, poverty, permissiveness, and neglect of the handicapped, removed for a start. And I can think of a lot of others. It strikes me that all Christians should be wowsers and proud of it.

So I'm a wowser.

Hoping you are the sama,

TERTIUS

It is a hard thing to be confronted by extremely sick people and to be helpless especially when others around them are being helped. Faith can only come from God not people.

— Colin D. Crago, Tamworth, N.S.W.

CALLING ALL MINISTERS

To the Editor,

I am a minister in the small church in a small village in Minnesota. I am interested in corresponding with a minister in Australia.

My address is Box 161, Freeborn, MN 56032, U.S.A.
Warren Rhoder.

HEALING MINISTRY

To the Editor,

As certain persons have set forth testimonies of healing under the ministry of Colin Crago of Tamworth I would like to add this experience.

For 30 years my wife has had congenital osteoarthritis in her back and of late years in her hands and arms. In recent years her hands deteriorated and to alleviate the pain she had continual recourse to the doctor. I have seen her at times in tears with the pain.

Three years ago she went out front at the end of a service at Tamworth to be prayed for. She found herself on the floor overwhelmed by a warm glow from the Lord and was kept there for some time. On rising to her feet all pain had gone and with it the long standing arthritic condition. Three years have elapsed — no arthritis! No pain! No need for medication! Praise the Lord for His gracious and complete healing!

What effect do your readers imagine that miracle has had on my faith and my outlook on the charismatic movement? Never in my 56 years of Church of Christ membership has anything like that happened so dramatically in my experience of God.

— C. G. Love, Tamworth, N.S.W.

TERTIUS' FAMILY

To the Editor,

The UN has a logo representing 1981 as the International Year for Disabled Persons. It's design symbolises two people holding hands in solidarity and supportive equality.

A recent visiting speaker told us that there are very few crutches in India. People walk on their

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

OPEN FORUM

hands, push themselves around on miniature carts, and hack away at tree limbs to make wooden legs. Then he showed a picture of a little used mission farm. What a magnificent site for a limb factory where amputees could be brought from the cities to work together making their appliances whilst breathing the glory of the surrounds.

Well, how about that — Christly investors? In such an environment how could the evangelists miss out? But then, would they be needed? The very thought makes my brassy hide glow?

— Primus

Primus is Hank Aaben of W.A. who wrote offering some "fiery stuff" over the name of Primus. We invited him to send it along provided it was Christian. He has had his turn, and future letters will need to be over his own name. Tertius is the only writer with the permanent privilege of a "nom-de-plume". — (Ed.)

ALAN AUSTIN IN TROUBLE

To the Editor,

Along with (apparently) most readers, I deplore the Australian Christian being used as a political forum. Alan Austin again enters the arena with his article on taxation. Could the fact that this is an election year have some bearing? Let him therefore demonstrate his "even-handedness" (I would have liked to be able to use the word impartiality) with comments on e.g. the left wing domination of the alternative government or, perhaps, his thoughts on the alternative government's "whiteanting" of any attempts the government makes to register disapproval of the invasion of Afghanistan. Rather, may he use his column and his talents to inspire Christians to "trust in the Lord" regardless of politics, governments or bureaucracies.

— Max Murray (Ballarat, Vic.).

(If ever the "alternative government" becomes the government we are sure that Alan Austin will bring the spotlight of Christian principles upon it and its activities. The actions and attitudes of any government should be the concern of Christian citizens. No government has a monopoly or either virtue or vice. — Ed.)

DOES GOD HAVE FAVORITES

To the Editor,

In reply to Dr G. Hall, if God has favorites I would have to ask myself where do I stand? There are so many lovely Christians in the world I would be afraid God would put me at the very bottom of his list. The God I love and worship would not put me down like that. Jesus loved all his disciples equally, even Judas. I do sympathise with the sufferer of M.S. I came very close to being in the same position but because God has spared me that, and I am able to walk about, it does not mean he favours me. It just means that he wants to use me in other ways. He has other work for me to do according to his purposes and he alone knows what he has in store. Love him more and fear and doubt will depart. 1 John 4:18.

— R. Tagg (Chelsea, Vic.).

LATEST ON THE SKILLICORN

To the Editor,

It is with a heavy heart that Ruth and I inform you that our hopes of serving in Bangladesh in the near future have abated.

Editorial

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jesus Christ sent the church to teach in order to baptise people into Christ, and committed it to go on teaching them after baptism (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus was a teacher and there are 31 references in the gospels to his teaching ministry. As the Body of Christ we are necessarily involved in a teaching ministry.

THE CURRICULUM

Teaching is imparting a body of knowledge, facts or truths. For Christians that body of knowledge is found in the Scriptures and teaching the Scriptures involves three things.

1. Teaching the content of the Scriptures.
2. Teaching the skills that enable the understanding and interpretation of the Scriptures.
3. Teaching the skills that enable the discovery of the meaning of the Scriptures in the contemporary scene.

NOT VERY WELL TAUGHT!

If this is what the church is committed to teach, it will be readily seen that most of us are not very well taught. Simple tests in Scripture content, interpretation and application leave most Christians floundering. It has been suggested that if Communists knew the writings of Marx and Lenin as well as most Christians know the Scriptures, Communism would still be confined to the lounge rooms of the more eccentric intelligentsia.

OUR RECORD

A child from a church family spends 200 hours of his life in Sunday School. He spends that much time studying maths in six months. Unless there is consistent teaching of the Scriptures in his home as well he is likely to be biblically illiterate.

Christian adults think that they are being sufficiently taught as they listen to sermons. A simple test an hour after a sermon would indicate that preaching is

not a good teaching-learning situation. While there is presentation of facts in preaching, preaching is an integral part of worship, and as such uses the facts for inspiration, encouragement and experience. The only one who learns much from preaching is the preacher himself in his long hours or preparation.

WHAT TO DO?

If the church is to fulfil its divine teaching mission and teach its own people so that they in turn can teach others, there needs to be something of a revolution in our attitude to teaching.

Nothing less than a two year course of say three hours a week can make a person really aware of biblical content, how to interpret it and how to apply it. Such a course would lay the foundation for a continuing lifetime of study. Schools for Christians, cell groups, and workshops in local churches could be the mechanics for such courses. Every minister who has done his work well in our Colleges is equipped to teach such groups and would be excited to be asked to do so. Departments of Christian Education have the resources to make such programs alive and interesting.

IS THAT ALL?

Christian teaching of course is not only presenting facts.

It is encouraging growth in an atmosphere where the facts are becoming alive in people.

It is encouraging an ever increasing creative relationship with the God who is at the basis of the facts.

While facts are taught, what the facts are about is caught from the Spirit.

This simply means that the church's teaching program in groups and families implies that groups and families are open to the indwelling Christ who is the fact of both the teaching and the experience.

As you may know, The Leprosy Mission had hopes of seconding me to the HEED project but our International General Secretary has reported on his recent visit to HEED:

"The Kamalganj (HEED) project in Bangladesh has the potential for a good programme but still needs development . . . the control project has not yet got off to a real start."

In view of this, The Leprosy Mission does not think that the HEED project has developed sufficiently to warrant a full-time administrator.

Ruth and I shall remain as Leprosy Mission candidates for any other suitable overseas posting that may eventuate but at this time, we shall not be going to Bangladesh.

As our departure for Bangladesh has been reported in "The Australian Christian," I would be most grateful if you would find space in your columns to clarify our position.

— Keith Skillicorn

FAULTY PRINTING

The Joint Board of Christian Education has received reports that some copies of the blue *Kerygma Resource Book* for the 33-part *Kerygma Bible course* are poorly bound.

As a result of negotiations with the printer, the Joint Board is able to offer immediate free replacement of faulty copies, and refund of postage where necessary, subject to the return of the complete faulty copy to the place of purchase or direct to The Joint Board of Christian Education, Fifth Floor, 177 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000.

When returning a faulty copy, please insert a separate note giving name and address for replacement copy to be sent.

The sparse population of South Australia is spread around the waterways of a large State. Distances are made greater by the incursion of its two gulfs and the broadening Murray River and the unique Currong. For many years four District Conferences and one District Circuit have been a part of the life of Churches of Christ in S.A.

CIRCUITS AND CONFERENCES

The Riverland Circuit is a closely knit one whose churches meet quarterly and bear common responsibility for its ministry. Eyre Peninsula District Conference area stretches from Whyalla to Port Lincoln including only four churches which meet each year with members travelling large distances for their Conference. Northern District Conference extends from Kadina out into the Adelaide Plains and North to Port Pirie meeting each March. The South Easter District stretches from the Bordertown churches to Mount Gambier. Their meetings are mid-year. Representatives of the Conference Centre staff are always present at District Conferences and enjoy the fellowship that they give.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE:

The Southern District Conference meets twice each year, both before State Conference time. The week night meeting covers whatever business is to be done as well as an inspirational and study meeting at Strathalbyn. Some 10 days after that meeting there is a Sunday afternoon preaching session and Sunday evening Gospel service that is held in one of the Churches. The President of the Conference which culminated on Sunday March 23, was **Ken A. Collins**. His considerable preparation in developing the theme of Conference was indicated by its well attended meetings.

The Southern Districts Conference theme for 1979/80 was "Prepare to meet your God." At the week-night session **Graham Agnew** of Brooklyn Park addressed himself to the theme "Prepare to

S.A. DISTRICT CONFERENCES



Southern District Conf. Rally (L. to R.) Ken Collins (President), Herb Prime (Strathalbyn), Graham Agnew (Brooklyn Park), Rev. John Cameron (South Coast Uniting), Robin Mitchell (Victor Harbour), Trevor Lawrie (Dulwich — Rose Park United Parish).

meet your God at Work." At the Sunday afternoon session at Victor Harbor, former minister of that congregation, **Trevor Lawrie**, now at Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish, preached on "Prepare to meet your God at Worship."

GOSPEL CLIMAX

The Town Hall at Victor Harbor was taken for the final meeting of the Southern Districts Conference. There were 350 people present. This included the local Uniting Church and the Salvation Army who closed their evening meetings to join the session. A male quartette that had been active 10 years ago when Trevor Lawrie was at Victor Harbor was brought together again to contribute to the evening service as well as the Choir led by **Helen Sinkinson**. **Graham Agnew** was again the preacher and his given theme was "Prepare to meet your God in Eternity." With sensitivity and conviction the preacher presented his theme in the Service of Witness. At the conclusion of the meeting the induction of the incoming President, **Herb Prime**, Minister at Strathalbyn-Milang, was conducted.

— Ed Roffey.

INDIA'S P.M. REQUESTS BIBLE

In March, India's Prime Minister, **Mrs Indira Gandhi**, sent an urgent call to the Bible Society of India in Delhi for a copy of the Bible.

The Secretary of the New Delhi Bible Society Auxiliary, **Eddie Wardha**, immediately took two copies of the Bible, one of the New Hindi Bible and the other a Good News Bible, to the Prime Minister's residence.

Mrs Gandhi personally received Mr Wardha and told him that all her copies of the Bible were distributed among her friends and she needed a copy to quote a section of Scripture.

The Prime Minister gratefully accepted both versions of the Bible but told Mr Wardha she really wanted the King James Version. Within 15 minutes Mr Wardha had a copy of the King James Version for Mrs Gandhi.

BOOKS TO READ

THE PRAYER OF THE KINGDOM

by V. C. Pfitzner (Lutheran Publishing House) 80c

A book of devotions in the Lord's Prayer written as a companion booklet to the Australian Bible studies, built around the theme "Your Kingdom Come".

Meditations prepared with Australians in mind. This book contains devotional readings for 47 days as well as additional worship resources. The book is very readable and brings fresh insights to the Lord's Prayer and leaves the reader with a positive attitude of faith, trust, praise and commitment.

Whilst single copies are 80 cents, 70 cents will buy 25-99 copies and for 100 or more copies, the price is 60 cents each.

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, Carlingbah, 2229; United Church Bookroom, 15 Mathers Lane, Hobart, 7000.



GEORGE RENSHAW

TASMANIAN STATE CONFERENCE — ULVERSTONE

The 84th Convention of Churches of Christ was held at Ulverstone on March 15-16. Max Wilson presided over the meetings and will be president for the coming year.

MINISTRY CHANGES

Changes in the Tasmanian scene were noted. **George Powell** joined **John Morrow** in the ministry team at Hobart. **Jim Hohnke** accepted ministry with the Devonport church and **Keith and Ruth Stevens** are sharing in ministry with leaders at Copping. Ulverstone and Launceston churches are providing speakers for Caveside now that **Ellis McCullough** and his wife have gone to Sydney to train as missionaries.

USE OF THE OLD "BETHANY" PROPERTY

The Convention endorsed the recommendation of the Tasmanian Executive regarding the leasing of 20 Lowelly Road to "Colony 47" for a two year term subject

to a satisfactory lease arrangement. "Colony 47", which operates under the auspices of the Uniting Church, is a group of Christians seeking to provide help for people who need security and support in a Christian environment.

A sub-committee is to bring a definite recommendation about the future of the property to the Convention in 1981.

DAY CARE CENTRE

Following the acceptance of its annual report the Bethany Family Care Auxiliary lapsed. A vote of thanks was taken for all who had faithfully served. A motion was passed that the Tasmanian churches maintain their present level of financial support for the Day Care Centre until December 31 to allow the Hobart church time to do a feasibility study into the operation of a Day Care ministry on Hobart's Eastern Shore. The respected title "Bethany" could be applied to the Day Care Centre.

BICHENO CENTRE

Many improvements to the site and amenities were noted and a vote of thanks

for the work of **Harold and Flo Stevens** who are resigning as supervisors was passed.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS ABANDONED

Constitutional amendments were passed to allow quarterly meetings to be replaced by two conventions a year. One is to be the Annual Convention and the other is to have less emphasis on business and more on inspiration and fellowship.

Following favourable feedback, it was decided that an Elders, Deacons and Leaders Camp would be held at Bicheno on July 5, 6 and that this year ministers would also be invited to attend.

The evening program included an audio-visual by **Kym Heier** on his experiences as a part of the Indian Sharing Venture and an evangelistic address by **Russell Allison**.

The ladies' Sunday afternoon conference was addressed by **Helen Banks**, the President elect of the Vic.-Tas. Women's Conference. **Lynette Birtwistle** took over as Tas. President of C.W.F. for 1980.

SONBURST FESTIVAL

After 12 months of a lot of planning and praying, the Sonburst Festival was an outstanding success. Less than a year before the festival, a dinner was held to raise the \$5,000 which was needed to organize the event, and this amount was reached and exceeded!

The Sonburst Festival took place at Lake Monger, in Wembley, and was held over the weekend, February 15-17. The program consisted of a Coffee House on Friday night (250 attended) a six hour concert on the Saturday night (1000 attended) and a Twilight Service on the Sunday night. (250 attended).

Adelaide musician, **Rod Boucher**, was brought across for the festival, as well as **John Scotland**, who came from Sydney to comper the concert. In preparation for the festival, the Wembley Church of Christ conducted the biggest advertising campaign that it had ever undertaken in 40 years. Two concerts were held in local high school, and the Floreat Forum shopping centre, four large signs were placed strategically around the district, bumper stickers were distributed, "T" shirts printed, and four truck concerts were held throughout the week before the festival. However the biggest and most successful part of the advertising was to doorknock 3,500 houses in the district, personally inviting them to come along.

Following the festival the church held a week long crusade with evangelist **John Bond**. This was held in a large tent at the lakeside as well. A Men's Breakfast was also held — **John Bond** speaker.

Throughout this week there were a total of 33 decisions, 20 of them being first commitments, and 13 being re-commitments. God has been blessing us greatly at Wembley, and we believe that this is only the beginning of even greater things to come! The young people of the Church were responsible for all the organisation of the Festival.

VICTORIAN TASMANIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1980

Thursday May 1 — Sunday May 4

President — Mr G. J. Foot

C.W.F. President — Mrs D. Gordon

Thursday
May 1

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Melbourne Pharmacy College
381 Royal Parade, Parkville
10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

COMBINED
PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION
Pharmacy College
7.30 p.m.

Friday
May 2

BUSINESS SESSION
Pharmacy College
7.30 p.m.

Saturday
May 3

BUSINESS SESSIONS
Pharmacy College
10.00 a.m., 2.15 p.m., 7.30 p.m.

Sunday
May 4

COMBINED EVANGELISTIC RALLY
6.50 p.m. Melbourne Town Hall
Preacher — E. C. Keating, B.A.
Music — Salvation Army Songsters

ALL MEMBERS OF ALL CHURCHES ARE URGED TO ATTEND ALL SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE

HAPPENINGS

A formal invitation from the Australian government to visit Australia has been extended to Pope John Paul II by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Phillip Lynch, during a private audience with the Pope on February 9.

Thomas J. Youngblood Jr., minister of the Central Christian Church in San Antonio, Texas, has begun a two-year term as moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Author of "The Hiding Place" Corrie ten Boom, 87, is recovering from two recent strokes.

This year's Olivier Beguin Memorial Lecturer for the Bible Society will be Dr Leon Morris. He is a scholar, author, lecturer and Principal of Ridley College, Melbourne from 1966 to 1979.

Thailand 80 — the consultation on World Evangelisation being staged by the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation in June this year — will bring together some 650 Christian leaders from all over the world. Key speakers will include African Gottfried Osei-Mensah, Britisher Tom Houston, Indian John Richard and Argentinian evangelist Luis Palau. Billy Graham will give the closing message.

Scripture Union in Victoria will be holding a centenary Thanksgiving Service on June 1 at St Paul's Cathedral at 3 p.m. The preacher on this occasion will be Dr Stuart Barton Babbage.

False minutes of committee meetings of five British Christian organisations including the Evangelical Alliance and Youth for Christ have been

circulating. These appear to have been forged to link these groups with supporting illegal deprogramming of cult members by kidnapping them to break the cult's influence.

In the New Year's Honours List Cliff Richards was awarded an O.B.E.

A conference titled "The Church at Mission in the 1980's" is being sponsored by the A.C.C. to coincide with the W.C.C. conference on Mission and Evangelism. This conference for Australian and New Zealand people is being held in Melbourne May 14 - 18.

Operation Mobilisation's two ships Logos and Doulos have run into fuel problems. Oil companies have placed them at the bottoms of their lists, preferring to hold fuel for "big, long-term customers".

CROYDON CHURCH HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

Mrs Joan Thoday was received into the Croydon church last year following her baptism.

Although she is in her late seventies and recently widowed, she has made a real contribution to the life of the church.

Over the years she had been very involved in Dog Shows and was an experienced judge. This was a talent that she wanted to use so she suggested that the church hold a Dog Show.

At first the church was a little apprehensive for we had no experience in the conduct of anything of this nature but the enthusiasm of Mrs Thoday prevailed.

Arrangements for the show were made through the Kennel Control Council who provided six judges. Special trophies were donated by top people in the "dog world" and exhibitors travelled from as far away as Maryborough.

It was decided to conduct a number of stalls in conjunction with the Dog Show. As six show rings had to be provided, it was fortunate that we had the use of an adjoining property (on which we plan to erect a Christian Retirement Village).

Novelty sections were provided to cater for children's pets and this resulted in a great variety of entries.

The day was notable for its fellowship and spirit of co-operation. The visitors enthused over the surroundings and co-operated fully with our request that no liquor be brought on to the premises.

We are grateful to all those who participated and helped to make this venture a success.

The church has been brought to the notice of a lot of people as a result and over \$1,000 was taken on the day.

— A. Rackemann

INNER SPRINGS

STAND IN THY LOT



Said one mother speaking of her lively young son, "You will have trouble keeping him in one place for very long". I could understand the little fellow's problem. I rather suspect that God often has much the same trouble with His children. So many times we long to be where we are not, doing something other than what we are doing. We could be much better Christians if we lived in more congenial surroundings. Or so we think! But a loving Father never places His children in a particular place or circumstance without a purpose.

He allowed Joseph to be disposed of by his brothers and there followed a story of humiliation, disgrace and imprisonment. Moses must flee for his life and spend forty years in obscurity tending sheep. And the words of the unhappy Psalmist, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove, for then would I fly away," seem especially written for those struggling within the confines of an unhappy marriage and those living and working in frustrating circumstances.

But Jesus does not lift us out of our circumstances in order to be Christian, He asks that we be Christian in the midst of our circumstances.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire thou shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

And He never does.

Long as my life shall last,
Teach me Thy way!
Where'er my lot be cast
Teach me Thy way!

Until the race is run,
Until the journey's done,
Until the crown is won
Teach me Thy way!

Dear Lord remind us that "a mighty fortress is our God" — not a hiding place where we can escape to an easy life, but rather an arsenal of courage and strength. Amen.

Isaiah 43:1-4

Florence Rosier

GOVERNMENT AGAINST SUPPRESSION OF DRUG ADVERTISING

The Senate Standing Committee on Drugs has recommended a total ban on all cigarette and liquor advertising. As alcohol causes more deaths in Australia than all of the other drugs combined, and is the most widely used drug, and as cigarette smoking causes more deaths than heroin does, one would expect that the Government would accept the recommendation and act upon it swiftly.

DAME MARGARET'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We were surprised when the Honorable Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, a Christian and a wife and mother, and honoured by the Queen for community service, announced that the Government would not accept the recommendation. As the matter was not debated in the House we must presume that this is a cabinet decision. We suspect that it was not discussed in the party room where no doubt it would have been strongly debated, especially by members of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship.

SOME GOVERNMENT ACTION

While refusing to ban alcohol and tobacco advertising, the Government is taking some action. It is to discuss with tobacco firms the timing of a new health warning on cigarette packs where the tar and nicotine content will be printed, enabling smokers to choose between a slow death and a more rapid one. The Government will also fund research into the growing of less harmful types of tobacco leaf. There is no suggestion of warnings on alcohol containers or research into growing less harmful types of grapes, barley and hops!

SELF-REGULATION OF LIQUOR ADVERTISING

Dame Margaret suggested that a total ban on advertising alcohol was not really necessary as the liquor industry has adopted a voluntary code of advertising. It may have done. But apart from TV children's programs there does not seem to be much diminution of it. As well as that there is the enormous gratuitous advertising of alcohol in films and plays and serials and variety shows and documentaries where the excessive use of alcohol is dressed up as gracious or exciting living, or as a reasonable escape from life's problems and pressures.

A PATHETIC RESPONSE

The Government response to its Senate Committees extensive research and its advice is really pathetic. 1. They have decided on the "small print" advice on

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cigarette packs concerning tar and nicotine content. 2. They have decided that there will be no suppression of alcohol advertising because the liquor barons have been good boys and made their own regulations. 3. They have agreed to declare that tobacco smoking is harmful. (They must have just found out about "smoker's cough"!)

VESTED INTERESTS

Why has the Government been so weak about this recommendation? One can only assume that Cabinet does not want to offend powerful vested interests with their active lobbies. There are the big advertising agencies who make most of their wealth out of alcohol advertising. As well as that there are the media giants who also stand to lose if alcohol and tobacco advertising are restricted.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Senator Guilfoyle has given the reasons for not proceeding with the recommendation. "A major aspect of the drug problem is that any regulatory restraints which Commonwealth or State Governments impose on the production and use of alcohol, tobacco or other legally used drugs will have significant effects on primary industry, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers," she said.

To push Dame Margaret's argument just a little bit further is to say that regulations should be lifted from the import and distribution of heroin because of the bad effects that such regulations have on the "growers" and "pushers" and consumers, and the "Mr Bigs" and their "godfathers".

INTEGRITY UNQUESTIONED . . . BUT!

One does not question the integrity of Dame Margaret, but it does seem that she is naive. If alcohol and tobacco advertising were banned from today there would only be a very slow diminution of their use. Both are deeply entrenched in our way of life. Producers, manufacturers, industrialists and retailers would have plenty of time to diversify. If there are problems the Government could well spend money on assisting such diversification. If it is good enough to spend millions to defend ourselves from hypothetical external enemies, surely we can spend a bit on defence against a very real internal enemy . . . drug abuse, in this case alcohol and tobacco.

WHAT TO DO?

What can we do about it all? We can say, "What can one person do against such big odds?" "Or we can all write to Dame Margaret and members of parliament and candidates on both sides, especially to those associated with marginal seats, urging them to work for an immediate ban on alcohol and tobacco advertising. And once having taken such action we can get others to join us. Every vote is precious, especially to M.P.'s. in marginal seats. And governments rise or fall according to what happens in swinging electorates.

OBITUARY

JACOBS Mrs Elle Pearl.

(4.3.80) Mrs Jacobs first began to attend Churches of Christ as an infant with her parents, Mr and Mrs Goodall, at Hindmarsh. In 1910 she married Ernest Jacobs and they moved to Mt. Compass. She with her husband were among those who began the Mt. Compass Church. The farm was conducted as an open house, and many a person enjoyed the hospitality of the Jacobs' home. She died at the age of 97. Following a slight stroke over 6 years ago she became bedridden, and was nursed at her daughter, Betty's house, at Hackham, S.A. Always Mrs Jacobs could speak about her faith in God, always before going to sleep at night she prayed. Following her husband's death, she really found great love and satisfaction in having her grandchildren and great grandchildren around her. A great tribute to her life, her love and devotion was expressed by the large number in attendance at the Mt. Compass church for her funeral services. Following that service the cortege proceeded to the Mt. Compass cemetery. To her children, Edith, Noel, Betty, their spouses and in-laws, to grandchildren and great grandchildren we offer our sympathy.

PARKER, Allan (Tom) Hope. (26.2.80) The Noarlunga Centre (formerly Christies Beach) Church was saddened at the sudden death of Tom Parker. Everyone knew him affectionately as Tom. He had made a name for himself in early years as a pastrycook, conducting business at Maylands and Victor Harbour S.A. He and his wife had the privileged distinction of being foundation members for two Churches of Christ, those being Victor Harbour and the church then known as Christies Beach. Tom and Mrs Parker moved into the Christies Beach area 30 years ago. He held the office of treasurer, and deacon and for many years was the doorkeeper, welcoming people into the church and handing out the hymn books. He was a regular attender at both services as his health permitted him. He loved God, and throughout his life was willing to serve him where and when he could. His funeral was conducted at Centennial Park Crematorium, where a large gathering paid their last respects. He was 83 years of age. He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. — M.M.

BROOKLYN PARK (Graham Agnew). Poster hangs in foyer illustrating 1980 theme "Because Jesus cares . . . WE CARE" . . . 50 registered for first series of Discovery Groups. Electives are studies in

John's Gospel (with Harold Norris), Know what you Believe and Caravanning and Camping . . . Stewardship push saw weekly pledges of \$570 . . . Leigh Hatcher, news editor of Radio 5DN, spoke at Men's Dinner . . . Guest speakers and artists included gospel rock group "Kindekrist," John Williams, Charles Dow, Helen Austin and "Freed" . . . 24 hour prayer vigil conducted . . . Five of the seven junior tennis teams reached the grand finals . . . S.A.M.M.Y. group (young marrieds and singles) attended Robert Coleman concert at Maughan church . . . New Good News pulpit Bible donated . . . "Service of Shadows" held on the eve of Maundy Thursday . . . Record 10 netball teams registered for winter season.

BLACKWOOD (L. Cooke, T. Giles). 40 involved in Lenten studies with other churches in community . . . Church lunch after morning service preceded annual meeting. Dawn Chivell new board member . . . B.S. picnic held at Heathfield . . . Easter play "The Victory" presented by young people and choir.

NOARLUNGA (M. Munyard, F. Hunting). Growth groups, studying Acts, have commenced in homes . . . Prayer ministry session at church each Wed. evening . . . Three half-hourly prayer and praise sessions held beginning at 6.30 a.m. Fridays . . . Three baptised . . . Friendship Centre held fortnightly with 78 mostly non-Christians from local community . . . 16 families camped at Wilmington during Easter.

HENLEY BEACH (Don Sonsee). On March 30 B.S. presented Easter message. Project work displayed in the foyer . . . New Boys' Brigade company was commissioned as the 6th Adelaide Co. by the State President, Greg Ratcliffe. Robert Dodd is the captain . . . Girls Brigade held church parade under leadership of Mrs Jackie Standish.

BALAKLAVA (Jeff May). Noel and Raylene Hawke, missionaries with M.A.F. in N.G., spoke recently . . . Peter McPharlin now N.D. Conf. Pres . . . Basket tea, sing-song and sharing concluded well attended Lenten studies . . . Board held Monday Conference to plan years growth . . . Action groups formed to implement changes involving whole congregation.

MARGARET ST., TOOWOOMBA (Bruce Armstrong). Lt. Margaret Roberts, Commissioner of Darling Downs Division of Girls' Brigade, commissioned Bruce Armstrong as Chaplain to Girls' and Boys' Brigade. Presentations made to Kay Little and Elizabeth Roberts of Queen's Award (highest International award) and to Belinda Roberts of Pioneer Pin, (Highest National Award) . . . 15 begun Bethel studies . . . 175 attended church picnic . . . 100% attendance at Sunday lunch-time planning session held for Elders, Deacons and their wives.

FOOTSCRAY (A. Withers). 16 of Youth Fellowship spent day at Wycliffe at Kangaroo Grounds making mud bricks. They also attended Happening 80 at Belgrave Heights . . . Team ministry of A. Withers and Ross Bourdon, student, working well . . . Mrs Ramsey has entered Emmaus Guest Home.

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nsw

WAGGA WAGGA (W. Taylor, T. Grant). 92 members plus 13 teachers involved in two year Bethel Bible study course . . . Three teams entered in town basketball roster . . . Gideons have been active in distribution of youth testaments at district schools . . . 13 attended N.E. Vic. and Riverina District Conference at Shepparton.

EPPING (P. Cameron, R. Whan) New minister Bob Whan and his family settling in well. He is leading the church in a series of sermons, combined with group study topics, on Philipians and now 1 John . . . At recent Sunday evening service church sang to an orchestra made up of members from our own and other Epping churches . . . Girls' Club reformed and proving popular.

MURWILLUMBAH (W. Phillips). Planning and Revaluation Sunday held to begin 1980. 90% of congregation now actively involved in activities . . . C.W.F. following new format studying "The Fragrance of Beauty" by Joyce Sandorf . . . 80 attended family camp at Evans Head. Studies led by Randall Edwards from Kenmore College . . . Two teenagers baptised.

PENDLE HILL (R. J. Bassett). Ron Bassett began ministry at beginning of March . . . At annual meeting some of the younger men elected as Deacons . . . Induction service held on March 29, with Charles Cole presiding and Kevin Crawford and Ron Bartholomew speakers . . . Dedication of deacons and auxilliary leaders held . . . State Conf. Pres. visited during March.

THORNLEIGH D. W. Mansell). Paul Cameron of the Epping church will commence a ministry in 1981 . . . D. Mansell conducted first evening family service for 1980. 188 present. During service seven were baptised by Ron Batholomew.

wod

CARNARVON. Outreach meeting to women held with approximately 70 ladies attending. Two local nursing sisters spoke . . . Missionaries from Ingada Village made a special display in the hall to emphasise the Aborigines Missions Annual Offering featuring photos and children's artwork . . . Northern Districts churches met for a camp school at Geraldton. Speaker was Leroy Randall of Scarborough . . . New venture in R.I. in schools begun and majority of children at both primary schools attend. After school clubs also held.

WEMBLEY CHURCH farewelled minister Des and Lyn Croot and family at after-church fellowship. Representatives of auxilliaries spoke. They will commence a ministry at Applecross . . . C.E. choir held tea with church prior to presentation during gospel service . . . Discoverers' Club (children 7-12) membership reached 60 . . . Des Croot and Glen Smyth

represented W.A. at National Evangelism Strategy Conference.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (J. W. Somerville). Over March long-weekend, 80 shared in camp at Baptist camp site Serpentine. J. Somerville led studies on "Parables of the Kingdom". Hancock family helped children prepare dramas for presentation. Sunday communion service led by Vincent family. Four members of Focolare also gave talk.

RINGWOOD (S. and K. Ludgater). Over 80 people attended Family Camp at Hindhope Caravan Park, Rosebud . . . Mrs Faye Lawn ends leadership of Good Companions after 12 years . . . Combined boys' and girls' club formed . . . Rev. David McKechnie, Chaplain, Norwood

H.S. speaker . . . Small groups began year with a retreat at Belgrave Heights . . . Land purchased for tennis courts.

CHELTENHAM (A. White, S. Wilson, M. Humphries, D. Smith). Malcolm Humphries moving to serve at Frankston . . . Church choir conducted by Fay Ferris sang Peterson's Easter Song cantata . . . Rev. Norman Renshaw and Dr Edwin Berg conducted seminars on "Investment for Living" . . . Church picnic held at Jell's Park . . . Tennis team captained by Jim Lawry won Section 1 final for first time. Three other teams made finals . . . TV station for Retirement Village featuring Beth and Mal Humphries reported in Melbourne Herald . . . C.Y.F. collected \$220 for Red Cross.

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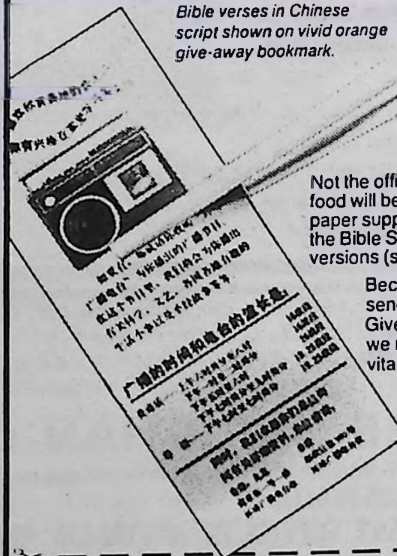
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CHAMBERS (CARR) Helen and John of Colac welcome with love Adam Robert. Brother for Fiona and Sonia. Born Baxter House, Geelong on 18.3.80. Both well.

FERGUSON Robert and Dianne are thankful to God for the safe arrival of Micheal John. Born 19.3.80.

HOLT (nee Kickbusch) Ron and Lorna give thanks to God for the birth of their first child, their daughter, Geraldine Margaret, on 28th February 1980, Royal Women's Hospital, Brisbane. Address Brisbane Boys' College Chaplain's House, 51 Kensington Tce., Toowong 4066.

THOMPSON (WALSHE), Lindley and Graeme give thanks to God for the birth of a daughter, Claire Renee, on February 17 at Devonport, Tas.

ENGAGEMENT

WINKLER-TOMLINSON Lois Winkler (Caulfield St., Vic.) and George Tomlinson (Lawson, N.S.W.) have happily announced their engagement.

RUBY WEDDING

HASKELL-CRELLIN. Flora and Arthur Haskell are celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary on the 27th April, 1980. They were married at the North Williamstown Church of Christ, Vic., by the late Jas E. Thomas. Our congratulations Mum and Dad. We thank God for such loving and caring parents. Love from Lois and Ian, Bev and Ian, Ken and Shirley, Lyn and Rod and families. At home, 21 White Street, Williamstown, Sunday, 27th April, 2-5 p.m.

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- Michael Andrews, Ringwood, Vic.
- Shelley Glover, Leanne Robertson, Mrs Betty Ashman, Mr and Mrs Ken Webb, Acacia Ridge, Qld.
- Jenni Burns, Judy Thomson, Murwillumbah, NSW
- Pam Garrett, Susan Garrett, Sally Garrett, Thornleigh, NSW
- Sandra Waters, Footscray, Vic.
- Alistair Kenny, Hamilton, Vic.
- Jennifer Brumby, Blackwood, S.A.
- Bill Paddick, Kalgoorlie, W.A.
- Irene Allen, Bruce Small, Kalamunda, W.A.

MARRIAGES

- Sue McHugh to Anton Gray, Lorraine Melville to Neville Johnstone, Vicki Passmore to Allan Doorley, Beverley Wanless to Keith Cox, Frances McDonald to Dale Anderson, Christine Cowell to Kevin Limbert, Marilyn Moore to Dr Peter Leeuwenburg, Acacia Ridge, Qld.
- Tanya Leman to Kevin Uren, Wembley, W.A.
- Kerry Wallis to Graeme Cooke, Footscray, Vic.
- Vera Elder to Neville Mirtschin, Hamilton, Vic.
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- Dania Strudwick to Mark Broadbent, Henley Beach, S.A.
- Vicki Millar to Ian A. Wilson, Burwood, N.S.W.
- Shirlee Bagby to Arthur Everding, East Ipswich, Qld.

DEATHS

- Mrs Vera Levitt, Port Lincoln, S.A.
- Mrs B. L. Edwards, Maylands, S.A.
- Doris Evelyn Jensen, Barolin Street, Bundaberg, Qld.
- Bert Baker, Ringwood, Vic.
- Mrs Mary Watkins, Gardiner, Vic.
- Miss Dorothy Hall, Chatswood, N.S.W.
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- 2. A.C.T.S./SM TOURS VISIT CHINA 1980 TOURS** — 1. Departing July 5th — 22 days — Hong Kong (4 nights); China (17 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Sian, Peking, Changsha, Kweilin. Group limited to 24 members — Leader Mr Tom Paterson — former Director Road Transport in the Commonwealth Department of Transport. Price: from Sydney \$2485. 2. Departing 23rd October — 22 days — Hong Kong (3 nights); China (16 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Chengchow, Peking; and Manila (2 nights). Group limited to 24 members. Price: from Sydney \$2417.
- 3. GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN** — Departing August 1st, we spend 30 days touring in Britain — Devon/Cornwall, Wales, England and Scotland with visits to the Isle of Skye, Iona, Edinburgh Military Tattoo, with a 4 day stop-over in Kuala Lumpur/Singapore on the return journey. Leader: Rt Rev G. A. McC. (Pat) Wood. Price from Melbourne or Sydney \$3629.
- 4. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR** — departing on August 5th we spend 11 days in Israel, 9 days in Greece including a 3 day cruise, and 6 days in Rome/Pompeii/Sorrento. Our Leader is Mr John Pocock of the Christian Missionary Alliance in Canberra, and the tour price is \$2825 from Melbourne or Sydney.
- 5. VISIT ALICE SPRINGS & THE RED CENTRE** — Leaving on 17th September by air to Alice Springs with liberal local sightseeing before returning by coach via Victory Downs, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Flinders Ranges, Broken Hill, Mildura and Narrandera. An alternative is to travel to Alice on one of the final journeys of the Ghan.

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- 6. U.S.A./CANADA TOUR** — We leave by Pan Am on September 5th with Tom Paterson for Honolulu, then on to Canada, through the Rockies, to Salt Lake City and Yellowstone National Park, to Toronto and Niagara, then Montreal, New York, Washington, New Orleans, Phoenix, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Disneyland etc. This 37 day tour is good value at \$3349 from Melbourne.
- 7. BEST OF TASMANIA TOUR** — This popular tour leaves on 5th October and we spend 11 days touring Tasmania visiting the most interesting places. All meals (except one lunch in Hobart) are included. Price: from Melbourne \$679.
- 8. SOUTH EAST ASIA TOUR** — This tour is a little unusual. We leave on October 6th and spend 2 nights in Singapore, 5 nights in Burma, 10 nights in Thailand, 4 nights in Nepal and 4 nights in Hong Kong. There is liberal sightseeing and adequate free time, with an optional flight over Mount Everest. Our Leader is Mr George Glazier, President of the N.S.W. Branch of the Pocket Testament League, and the price is \$1990 from Melbourne or Sydney and \$2014 from Brisbane or Adelaide.
- 9. WEST AUSTRALIA AT WILDFLOWER TIME** — Our 18 day tour leaves on 20th October and all travel is by coach apart from 2 nights crossing the Nullarbor by train one way. This is one of our most popular tours and the prices are — from Melbourne 1st rail \$1111 (2nd rail \$1070); Adelaide \$984 (943); Sydney \$1143 (1077); Brisbane \$1253 (\$1187). Concession for Pensioners available.
- 10. NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING** — During October we will repeat our popular 18 day tour of both islands of New Zealand, with an optional extension to the Bay of Islands. Prices are from Melbourne \$926; Sydney \$901; Brisbane \$921.
- 11. OBERAMMERGAU 1980** — We have some vacancies on tours departing in May, June, and August. Send for details.

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OLD

MA MA CREEK. Two young ladies made decisions and were baptised by F. Winter . . . Ministers who have taken morning services have been F. Winter, R. Holt, H. Lowe, J. Hart, G. Charles, M. Muller, F. Beale, J. Freeball and A. King . . . Ron Ostenbrook (student minister) and wife Denise organising interesting nights for young people . . . 10 C.W.F. ladies visited Harlaxton for 30th anniversary.

BAROLIN STREET, BUNDABERG (B. M. Nowitzke). Family group home

opened with Tony and Joyce Payne as house parents . . . Conf. Pres. Norman Watson addressed church . . . Ladies' Bible study group formed and meeting weekly . . . 24 hour prayer meeting held weekly for coming mission . . . Annual meeting elected deacons and regional committee for running of F.G.H.

TOWNSVILLE (R. Wall). Norm Watson Conf. Pres. chaired annual meeting . . . John Timms, State Evangelist, spent five days in visitation and preached at both services . . . Girls' Club, a new activity, under leadership of Ann Mitchell . . . Youth group led by R. Cobine and J. Spriggs requested special Bible study . . . B.S. (I. Watson Supt.) considering new style program . . . Two baptised in Ross River.

ACACIA RIDGE (V. G. Boettcher). Delegation supported the South-side Rally of EXPLO 80 at Mt Gravatt Teachers' College Auditorium . . . Inaugural Quarterly Combined Family tea and rally held at Kingswood Park, Arthur A. Clarke, preacher . . . Southern Suburbs "Deeper Life". Service at Sunnybank with John Timms . . . Weekly combined seminar meetings with Kingswood Park and Sunnybank led by Frank Beale training for S.S. and youth leaders . . . Increased attendances in Girls' and Boys' Brigades . . . Five new families . . . Special service held to dedicate recent Chapel improvements and gifts of furniture . . . Monthly Youth Services conducted by Youth Leadership and two students from Kenmore, Zane Miller and Julie Smith . . . Church Fellowship Teas held each month.

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SO

PROSPECT (R. H. Sercombe). Harvest Festival contributions sent to St George's Home ... Visiting speakers while minister on holidays were C. Pederick (Bible Society), B. Brown (Aboriginal Outreach) ... Lunch time prayer time for March channelled to Home Missions 4 km Church project ... Girls Club commenced for 1980 on Saturday afternoons ... Family nights held on one Saturday night a month ... Camera Club preparing slides to exchange with other churches who would be interested ... Fellowship group meeting in church every Tuesday evening ... Mrs M. Battersby, Pres. Women's Conf., spoke at C.W.F. ... G. Sharpe and group of helpers visited Adelaide Hospital to take patients to Chapel service ... Mrs G. Dinsdale has moved to the Illoura Home.

MAYLANDS (N. S. Moore). Increased attendance marked start of third year of Friendship Centre ... Gifts from Harvest Thanksgiving sent to Norseman Mission and St George's Rest Home ... Members joined in ecumenical home study groups ... Gerald Rose spoke at recent morning service and at luncheon that followed ... Mrs Marie Wehr told of work amongst Aborigines prior to Annual Offering ... Churches from Croydon, Prospect, Kensington Park and Dulwich joined for 4km. rally. Personalities taking part were Rex Chamberlain (worship leader), Peter Johnson (song leader), Petrea Johnson (soloist) and "His" (folk gospel singers). 200 present ... Church regrets the death of Mrs B. L. Edwards.

PORT LINCOLN (John Brear). Program of church restructured into three ministry areas — men, women and youth, each incorporating a four-fold program of equipping, fellowship, outreach and service. Purpose of restructure was to eliminate the meetings for meetings sake concept and to provide opportunities for all to be ministered to and to minister on behalf of the body.

MARION (E.P.C. Hollard). Harvest Festival goods delivered for bush fire relief ... At A.B.M. G. Duffy and S. Page elected elders ... Majorie Nelson (Jackson) speaker at family dinner ... Number of members in hospital ... 15 home units on land next to church opened by Conf. Pres. Barry Grear ... Minister giving series of special Lenten studies at close of morning service ... Young married couple and a woman made decisions ... 50 new members since last June.

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VIC

NUNAWADING (E. C. Keating, P. B. Burnham, C. H. J. Wright) First Sunday Evening Gateway Rally featured "Living Light" had over 250 attending ... Neil McMillan, an Arts graduate majoring in psychology and a Probation Officer, assisting ministry team with specialised counselling ... Church paper renamed "Focus" ... C.W.E.F. held sausage sizzle and a male fashion parade ... "Hil-litars" group formed for middle-aged singles ... Springfield Road C.W.F. held gem demonstration ... S.S. picnic held at Boronia Lodge ... Ted Keating led Bible studies at Evangelism Conference ... Bus fund established ... Julie Bates and Lowanna Singers special guests at evening services ... C.Y.F. commenced coffee club called "Grinder" ... Calisthenics recommenced with Betty Fuller as new teacher ... Roslyn West accepted as an International Christian Exchange Student and will be overseas for 12 months.

OCEAN GROVE (L. F. Barker) After meeting in home of Les and Jean Poole for the past three years the church is now holding services in the Ocean Grove United Church. Gesture of friendship greatly appreciated ... Following annual meeting officers board expanded to six ... Sid Symes appointed president of the Inter-church Council ... Procession of the cross to be held on Good Friday ... Church participated in Inter-church study program.

MARYBOROUGH (K. Haythorpe). Teachers' Dedication service conducted by Elder Roy Walker ... Gordon Weiss elected as deacon ... Tribute paid to Frank Drake who resigned from board after 50 years as Elder at Stawell and

Maryborough ... Miss Bryant meeting with church again after months in hospital ... Combined evening service once a month with Salvation Army ... Ladies Aid and Mission Band now combined.

DONCASTER (K. Horne, K. Farmer, W. Tabbernee). Average attendance in excess of 300 ... Small group program has involved almost 100 in study and prayer fellowship ... Steve Ashley, C.O.B. student, led presentation ... George Farrington, of "Open House", guest speaker ... Y.A.F. held reunion barbecue ... Keith Farmer to go to U.S. in April for six weeks' study ... Church establishing a Tele-link service for shut-ins and aged people within the church and community. City Council co-operating in this project.

BERWICK (D. McLeod, N. Bunch). Musical ministry includes adult, teenage and children's choirs. New hymn and chorus book introduced ... "Kingdom Kids" club established as a segment of family service ... Graeme and Jill Burgess, John Marshall and Faye Williams, Sugar and Salt, recent singers ... Three baptisms ... Evangelism department working with a number of new folk ... Mal Austin involved in photographic ministry ... Community day held ... Intermediate youth planning service working holiday to Perth at Christmas ... Teenagers Club for senior citizens held outing to Gumbuya Park ... Six house groups as well as Tuesday, Thursday discussion groups and Thursday breakfast group.

ORMOND (G. Stibbe). Minister and wife celebrated silver wedding at surprise party ... B.S. picnic held at Ferny Creek ... \$820 paid to C.O.C.O.A. for Kampuchea refugees ... E.W.F. held cake stall for funds for drop-in centre ... Y.P. participated in Red Cross door-

knock ... Board of management and leaders planning for future ... \$300 received for self-care units ... Working bee held at church ... Several older members confined to home ill ... Growth group studying Second coming of Christ ... Tapestry of the Lord's Supper presented to church and hung on baptistry wall.

SWAN HILL (J. A. Caporn). New hall complex completed. Opening on 70th anniversary on Queen's Birthday weekend ... C.W.F. street stall raised \$650 ... Five attended C.W.F. camp at Halls Gap ... Young married women welcomed into fellowship ... Committee formed to co-ordinate children's activities.

KYNETON (Rob Corrie). R. Corrie commenced in February ... Picnic held at Lauriston Reservoir ... Three decisions recently and a young lady and a married man were baptised ... Discovery Group meets each Tuesday.

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Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

THE CHRISTIAN AND LEGAL LOOPHOLES

We were recently sent a letter asking "The Australian Christian" to answer a series of questions about the attitudes of a Christian to the use of practices that are legal or that use loopholes in the law to "avoid obligations to the country".

This question is a very difficult one to answer as there is very little material on this area of personal ethics in the Bible and it would appear to be a question of each individual's personal standard that is determined by his relationship with God.

One passage that has some bearing on the question is the response of Jesus to the question put to him about the payment of taxes (Luke 20: 19-26). The thrust of the answer was that the Christian should give to God the things that belong to God and to governments then should be given the things that are rightfully theirs. Now comes the crunch. Our first allegiance as a Christian is to God. He should come first in our lives to the exclusion of our own self. However, we find this difficult to live out in our lives.

In this passage and in other passages such as Romans 13: 1-7, 1 Peter 2: 13f, the Christian is urged to submit to the current government as this is seen as set up with authority by God. Let's remember that these governments were not benevolent dictatorships but in some cases actively opposed to the church. Our problems arise when the state begins to demand allegiances and actions that we as Christians could only give to God and not to the state. This is the situation that faced the writer of Revelation and he argued that the Christian in this

case would have to make a stand against the state. The questions asked of us do not envisage this state of affairs and so I will not deal with this whole question any further.

To look a little closer at this question, we will primarily look at our obligations as citizens over the question of taxation as this is the area that is most obvious in the questioners mind. Any answer that I am giving is my own opinion and the principles are ones that I would apply to areas other than taxation.

As a citizen of Australia, I am obliged to fill in an income tax return. In filling out this return, I am allowed deductions from my income relating to my money spent to earn the income on which I have to pay tax. The area of conflict does not lie in the area of these legitimate deductions but in the question of tax avoidance or tax evasion. Tax avoidance is the reduction of a person's amount of tax by legal means and is a legitimate action for a Christian. The question that I ask is how far the Christian should actively seek to find schemes that lessen his or her taxation payments. Tax evasion is the use or practice to not pay tax in a way that is outside of the allowable practices as defined by legislation and the courts and is thus an area that no Christian should be involved in.

I believe that we as Christians should bear an equitable amount of the taxation burden as there are many uses of the taxation revenue that the government uses that we as Christians must support. Although many of the social needs met by the government may well be better met by other people or groups such as the church, the community now expects the government to meet these needs.

THE LAST WORD

Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever-fresh and radiant possibility.

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By struggles of two opposite desires;
The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,
And the more noble instinct that aspires.

★ ★ ★

The big speech was over and the program chairman of the civic club handed the speaker a check.

"No, no," he said. "I wouldn't think of accepting payment. I was happy to speak to you. Please contribute my honorarium to some worthy cause."

"Would you mind if we put it in our special fund?" asked the program chairman.

"Of course not," said the speaker. "What's the fund for?"

"To help us get better speakers next year."

★ ★ ★

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Foreman: "Yes, sir. That's the only kind we ever put up."

★ ★ ★

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