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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 83 No. 7 May 3, 1980

Registered for posting as a newspaper — Category A

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

BETHEL CLASS FOR TOOWOOMBA

A group of 15 have commenced a Bethel Bible Series class at the Margaret St., Toowoomba church. The Bethel series is a two year study of the Bible. This year the class will have 20 sessions devoted to the Old Testament and 20 sessions devoted to the New Testament.

In principle this class should become teachers who will in two years time take

the church members (about 300) through the same course.

The Bethel Series originated in a Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. The Series was brought to Australia about three years ago by Bill Baker of Sydney. There are currently more than 1000 teachers in Australia in training with more than 2000 church members already involved.



Some members of the Toowoomba Bethel Series (l. to r.) Denise Williamson, Daphne Shepherd, Roy Shepherd, Beverley Grenfell, Bruce Armstrong (Minister), John Frieble, Iris Armstrong, David Williamson.

FIRST MINISTRY FOR GISBORNE



Doug Adam and Dare Stevens

Geisborne's first full-time ministry commenced on February 3 with the induction of Dare Stevens by Department of Mission, Education and Development Chairman, Dr Cliff Warmbrunn and Deputy Chairman, Doug Adam. The appointment represents an active co-operation between the local congregation, the Western Region Outreach Committee and the Department. Representatives from each group shared in the service. W.R.O.C. churches plan to assist the new cause with finance.

Meetings initially commenced in homes and then moved to a local hall. During 1979 they were relocated in a renovated hall in New Geisborne. With help from the Properties Corporation a new manse was constructed during 1979 and dedicated following the induction service. Considerable local effort was put into the construction of the manse, which has been designed to accommodate various church meetings and social functions.

Since commencement of the ministry there have been encouraging signs of progress with new families attending and others transferring into membership.

The church aims to serve a wide area surrounding Geisborne including Sunbury, Macedon, Woodend, Riddell and other smaller centres. Information on likely contact families in the area should be sent to D. A. Stevens, Plummer Street, New Geisborne, phone (054) 28 3378.

In April a special congregational planning and goal-setting weekend was spent at Eppalock Camp Site.

LAUNCESTON TO HOBART RUN

On a Quiet Easter Saturday morning Greg Foot set off from Margaret Street, Launceston Church of Christ on his 200 km. sponsored run to Hobart.

The first day's run ended in driving rain and Greg was glad of a hot bath at a friend's house in Campbelltown. The second day started with pushing the campervan to start it. At the first rest spot Greg was joined by running mates Rod Cooper and Noel Mundy. The tail wind of the first day changed to a biting southerly and Greg ran in a woolly hat and gloves — quite a sight! The day's run ended on a stretch of new road not yet opened to the public.

Continued on page 14



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ON MY MIND

THE HAYMAN HYPOTHESIS

Dick Hayman

Dick Hayman is Minister of the Chatswood (N.S.W.) church. Once a civil engineer with the Australian army, he studied at the N.S.W. Bible College at Woolwich, graduating in 1977. He is married with four children. He leaves us to work out the implications of his "hypothesis" something that Brotherhood and local leaders must do urgently. The title of his paper is ours. (Ed.)

"Statistics don't lie!" is one modern catch cry. Perhaps that is true! But statistics don't tell all the truth.

If we started to measure our spiritual condition on the basis of statistical information alone the Church would soon be in trouble! (after all, statistically, Jesus didn't stand a chance — there had been too many Messiahs around Jerusalem during the Roman occupation of Palestine!)

WHY SIXTY?

There is one statistic, however, that has long puzzled me. Why do so many churches of Christ, who have called a man to full-time paid service (minister, paid elder, preacher or whatever you brand him), have about 60 regular communicants? (the number of communicants being a guide to the "activity" of the church). Is it because 60 communicants is:

- All that one man can cope with?
- The "best" size sociologically?
- A "God-given" size?

I suspect not! What is the reason then? Could 60 just happen to be the number of people sufficient to generate an appropriate amount of funds to support one man in the ministry? (a suggested figure would be \$18,000 per annum total church income as a normal minimum). Some statistics are needed:

Number of communicants	Number of churches
0 — 20	2
20 — 40	6
40 — 60	15
60 — 80	9
80 — 100	9
100 — 120	2
120 — 140	1

(A sample taken over recent years in one state for churches with one full time man.)

This is not a detailed statistical analysis, but a quick glance will reveal that 55% of the churches (24/44) lie in the 40 to 80 communicant bracket. (The mean number of communicants in this sample is 62).

THE HAYMAN HYPOTHESIS

A resultant hypothesis comes to mind for testing: "Churches grow or decline for the primary purpose of supporting one person in full-time paid ministry".

I suspect a comparison with other states will reveal a similar pattern. It is not really possible to turn to other church groups for evidence (e.g. Anglicans) because of different structures and methods of financing that do not rely upon congregational autonomy. Any further studies will reveal exceptions to the general application of this hypothesis, but perhaps "the exceptions will prove the rule". After all, why are not the bulk of churches thirty or two hundred strong? These numbers are just as legitimate as 60.

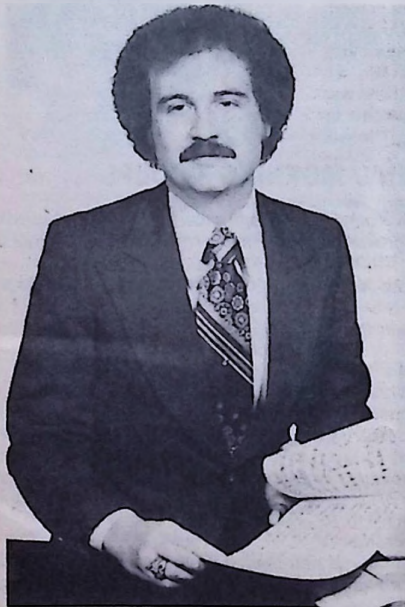
IS SIXTY BIBLICAL?

Is there some mysterious church doctrine or tradition here? If there is, is it biblical? Even if it is, I wonder what really is in the back of our minds when we both call a man to ministry and simultaneously look over the church's finances? I might even be allowed one day to have the hypothesis named after me!

CHURCH PLANNING EFFECTIVE

The ministry of Daryl McLeod and Norval Bunch at the Berwick Regional Church of Christ, Lyall Rd., Berwick (Vic.) look forward to an exciting year.

Norval with his wife Penny and daughter Staci come from a ministry in Texas. His responsibility at Berwick is in the music ministry (he plays organ and piano) and the area of pastoral concern. In music he has already extended the two choirs and music has assumed a much larger significance in the 9-30, 11-00 and 6-45 services. Participation in worship includes choirs, adult, teenage and children as well as quartets, trios and duets. His pastoral concern activities include visitation to the sick, the needy and members of the congregation. Also Norval has an oversight for the six house groups that meet regularly as well as a pastoral role with the Discoverers Youth Group and the Senior Youth Group.

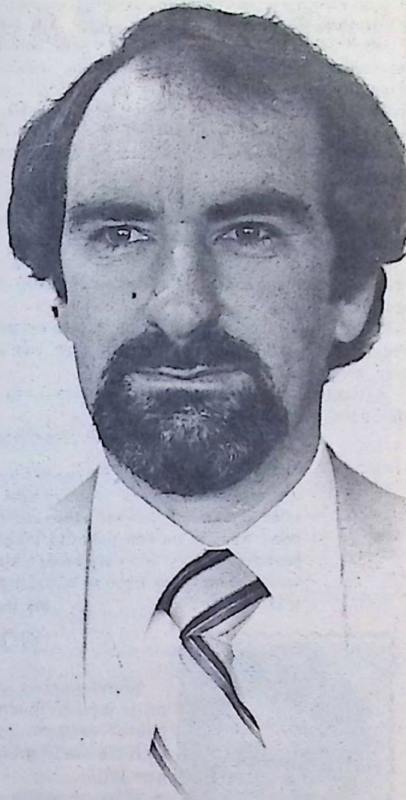


Norval Bunch

Daryl McLeod continues his outreach program as leader of evangelism as well as the normal pastoral duties. During 1980 Daryl will develop a series of visitation teams to cover the whole of the community. Preaching and planning of services is a joint responsibility of both ministers, as is general oversight of the total church program.

Daryl continues to be vitally involved in community counselling and community liaison as well as his strong commitment to youth work. Together with the church board they will continue to develop a total strategy for the preaching of the Gospel throughout the whole community.

As a backup to the Ministers part time voluntary typists allow the church office to be open every morning when one or other of the ministers is available for counselling. Also the office is open Mon-



Daryl McLeod

day, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1.00-3.00 p.m. To further facilitate the release of the ministers for counselling and pastoral care a part time administrator has been involved in handling most "administrivia."

Planning is well underway for Easter when the choir and the singing group "Sugar & Salt" will present a musical presentation "He's Gone".

To facilitate the total outreach program the following departments have been established with a Director responsible for his or her area through a system of committees of men and women selected by the Director. Departments in 1980 are Evangelism, Music, Youth Work, Public Relations, Finance, Catering, Property, Christian Education and Social Concern.

— Max Walker

NEW ADOPTION REGULATIONS

South Australians who apply to adopt children from overseas countries will be expected to be aged between 25 and 47 and married for at least five years.

These requirements are among new regulations under the Adoption of Children Act approved by Executive Council.

It was also announced new regulations which will enable the Principal Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages to provide details of the original birth registration of a child who has been adopted by a parent and/or a spouse of a parent.

The new regulations affecting people wanting to adopt overseas children will apply to applications received from March 27.

They mean:

- ★ applicants will be required to be aged 25 or over and under 47 at the time the application to the Department for Community Welfare is received.
- ★ applicants will need to be married to each other for at least five years, unless they can satisfy the Director General of Community Welfare they have been married three years and lived with each other in a defacto relationship for two years before that, or one of them is 40 or over.
- ★ applicants must be resident in Australia at least three years and must be caring for no more than five children.
- ★ applicants must satisfy the Director General of Community Welfare they have "an adequate understanding of and an interest in, the background of the country of origin of the child to be adopted and undertake to maintain and develop this understanding while the child remains in their care."
- ★ people who have already adopted an overseas child cannot adopt another until they have kept the first child for at least two years.

The regulations are flexible in that the Director General of Community Welfare can waive one or more of the criteria if a child has special needs.

Under some circumstances, it may also be possible for a single applicant to adopt an overseas child.

The criteria may also be waived if there is an increased number of children available for adoption because of a national disaster or civil disturbance in another country.

GHANA CHURCHES UNITE

Ghana's three major Protestant churches — Presbyterian, Methodist and Evangelical Presbyterian — have "unanimously, voluntarily and self-sacrificially" agreed to merge into a united church, to be known as the "Church of Christ in Ghana." The date fixed for the new church's formal inauguration is January 4, 1981.

Under the merger plan, the overall head

of the united church will be a moderator, or chairman, to be chosen at a conference of bishops. The new church will embrace a quarter of the entire population of Ghana, currently estimated to be 10.6 million. The plan calls for pooling all assets and liabilities of the three churches. Negotiations had been under way for the past 20 years.

— Christian Century.

GOD SATISFIED A NEED

God led 6 of us to start a regular weekly Bible Study, Sharing group. So we commenced in May 1978. There are now 32 ladies with an average weekly attendance of 26.

The program consists of morning tea, chorus singing, sharing problems in small groups, and then praying for each other followed by Bible study. God has shown us that we must give ourselves to each other, consequently there is a real bond of love and acceptance as each newcomers joins us. One lady said, when encouraging her sister to attend, "they don't want anything from you, they just love you".

The purpose of the group is to introduce women to Christ, and to show them how God can make them 'Whole' according to Eph. 4:13, which is our adopted guide.

We welcome all ages, but mostly younger women are encouraged to attend.

God has directed the leaders of the 4 groups, and leader of the Children's Ministry to meet on Tuesday mornings for planning and prayer. Many times we have been made aware by changed lives, that God is being glorified.

The group is independent of C.W.F., but without their love, help and encouragement, particularly with our Children's Program, — which is run at the same time as the Bible study, — and their warm acceptance of new members coming into the church, the work of God would be frustrated.

We know more than ever that Jesus Christ is alive and real. It is through ministry of the Bible Study that we have discovered freedom in our lives in many areas, a deeper love for Jesus, and able to give ourselves to others in love. Some of us have been challenged as well to become more involved with C.W.F. Eight women from the group attended the State C.W.F. camp.

This has been an exciting adventure and we are looking forward to 1980 with great anticipation seeing God at work in our midst as we continue to share Jesus.

HEATHER PITTS, Vic.

S.A. CAMPING "COMING OF AGE"

Our 21st Camp at Longwood came soon after the buildings were saved from bushfires by D.C.E. Director Gerald Ross and volunteers. Viewing the once glorious view from the chapel, now scarred, we were thankful our Camp still stands.

Jean Roberts was Camp Leader with other members of D.C.E. Committee arranging music, devotions, entertainment and Joyce Wenham in charge of catering. Modbury (16) led Saturday afternoon games and a.m. exercises.

Ninety-three attended for weekend plus 30 on Saturday.

June St Aubyn led studies on theme "Born to Grow" — in faith, hope and love, presented with variety, clarity, enthusiasm.

Opening night included "getting to know you", missionary focus and devotions in form of dialogue prayers.

Highlight was closing Communion Service led by President Margaret Battersby furthering her year's aim "Make His love your aim".

Attractive multi-coloured program-song-devotional book prepared by Jean Rose.

A. Saunders

GALATIANS 2:20.

"A Pastor was trying to persuade a woman to teach a Sunday school class. She had time and qualifications to do it, but declined again and again saying "I don't want to be tied down to things". Finally the pastor said, "You know we serve a Master who was willing to be nailed down to things; He was nailed to a Cross".

"345 Windows" Luckock



Today's women

TASMANIA

Mrs Harold Street, by special request, at the C.W.F. meeting at Launceston on 12th March gave "More Manse Memories". Mrs Street's recollections were in turn sad, funny and poignant, and gave an insight into generally unknown facets of life in the Manse, especially as experienced in the days before 'all mod. cons.' were in our homes. Mrs Street's talk led into a devotional in which she likened C.W.F. to a string of pearls, with Christ represented by the largest pearl, Executive Officers by the graduated pearls and membership by the other pearls, but all joined together by the cord of love.

P. Harrison, Tes.



WOMEN'S MORNING GROUPS

Jeannette Morris, Groups Leader A.C.I.

Some women feel the need for spiritual growth in relationship with other women in small groups. This may apply to non-church as well as church women.

Bible study groups are varied in their programs in our church to allow for:

- different needs of women,
- different interests,
- changing needs and interests.

The types of programs used are:

- Bible study — discussion.

A Theme is chosen, e.g. Prayer. Bible passages are used as references and related to everyday experiences. Discussion in one group or in smaller groups occupy most of the time. Workshops are also used. This type of Bible study appeals to church women and some non-church women,

- Bible Teaching Programs.

Popular with church and non-church women. Speakers, usually trained teachers, are brought in from outside our church. The studies are set to run for a few weeks at a time.

- Sharing and Caring Groups.

Some women prefer a minimal amount of Bible study and more Caring-Sharing with one another. The leaders chosen are sensitive and sympathetic to the needs of the group. These groups are small, but a close, binding relationship results. Care is taken not to form clichés. These groups appeal mostly to church women.

- Luncheon and Coffee mornings.

a. For a short period before the Luncheon, an everyday topic is discussed. This is then related to Bible teachings.

These Luncheons are very successful in bringing non-church and church women together in friendship. Personal invitations are sent out several weeks prior to the luncheon. The Coffee mornings are more informal. The women who attend these are mostly Sunday School contacts. Discussion revolves basically around Christian education of their children. In this way opportunities for presenting Christ to these women are opened up. These groups are backed up by one-to-one visitations by active church women, building personal relationships.

Small groups of women meet for prayer.

- to uphold the Church and its role in the Community,
- for need and crisis situations.

To build an effective church, women need to present their personal relationships with Jesus Christ, to all women.

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

God in the Mist

The weather was cold, wet and miserable. The scene: a picturesque ski resort outside Innsbruck. The people: three Australians with one burning ambition — to experience the thrill of riding to the top of a mountain in a cable car.

We were huddled together, getting damper and colder by the minute, as we gazed forlornly at the cables disappearing into the grey mist. The mountain itself was nowhere to be seen. But we were determined to be able to say that we had ridden in a cable car. So, with a mixture of excitement and anxiety we moved into the next car. With a jolt we were on our way, swaying silently through the swirling clouds of damp mist. A cold grey world. Isolated in our four wooden walls the creak of the cables was the only sound in the lonely silence. We swung over feet of grey nothingness as we felt ourselves slowly moving upwards.

Then suddenly, with no warning, we broke out of the mist! Our eyes blinked in the brilliance of the sunshine. Our breath was taken away by the sheer beauty of the dazzling white snow against the bright blue of the sky.

That experience provided me with an allegory which is so true of my Christian experience. There are times when I feel the mists closing in on me. There are times when I allow my tensions, feelings of inadequacy, and frustrations to blot out God. Yet the sun was always there beyond that mist and never stopped offering its warmth and light.

Just so, God is always there beyond the mists I create. The warmth and light of His love are always trying to reach through that fog. God is always there, waiting for me to come out of the mist into the brilliant sunshine of His love.

As John Powell says: "The sun only shines, just as God only loves". I pray that you and I will always experience the warmth of that love.

Faith Smith, Vic.

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN



Your correspondent has just written a biting little piece for Mustard Seeds discussing the way we who have occupations and are reasonably well-off tend to get very threatened when the current unemployment crisis is analysed closely.

The general drift of the article (which I decided against submitting) was that little is being done to remedy unemployment because we don't and won't face up to the real causes.

To do so might be to expose our own lifestyles, incomes and security to uncomfortably close scrutiny. And we can't have that.

Rather, the article suggested courteously, we sidestep the real issues by simply blaming the victims. Or, if we don't blame the victims, we blame someone else. I was referring here to the virtually endless stream of excuses and cop-outs we have heard over recent years . . . Young people are workshy . . . the dole's too high . . . the trade unions are to blame . . . or the education system . . . the CES figures are wrong . . . it's the baby boom of the sixties . . . there's not enough new investment . . . it's the students who stayed on at school now leaving . . . it's the dividend bludgers . . . there are too many women in the workforce . . . it's all Whitlam's doing . . . and so on.

The article then observed that really none of these by itself is to blame and, furthermore, that not even all of them together are to blame. Rather, as the evidence now overwhelmingly suggests, we are experiencing a massive structural problem at the heart of our free enterprise system.

Well, who could say fairer than that? I mean, it was relevant. It tied in nicely

with the recent moves requiring unemployed people applying for benefits to fill in a daunting four pages of intimidating interrogation (and risk \$500 or six months for getting it wrong.)

It was well documented. For example, I quoted one chap as saying that "hardly any unemployment schemes contribute to the creation of jobs" and "it is becoming increasingly obvious that ad hoc initiatives are no substitute for systematic economic planning." He has as many M.As, M.Eds and B. Theols as you could possibly wish for (well, at least one of each). He works with a Government-funded youth employment scheme; and he's a committed Baptist layman. So it wasn't just me airing my partisan political views.

And not only was it documented and relevant, but most important of all, it was Biblical!

But here's the problem: not everyone reading it would have seen it that way.

For some extraordinarily elusive reason, social justice, which is just so central to God's revelation to His people in Scripture, is time and time again labelled 'politics' by some professing Christians and therefore deemed improper for Christians to expound upon in public. And not just improper, but positively wrong.

I'm referring here to such matters as land tenure, taxation, social welfare, the morality and trustworthiness of national leaders, and the pre-eminent obligation upon God's people to uphold the rights of the poor and the powerless.

From God's injunctions to Moses to do what is just, through to the Gospels and Epistles we are exhorted to love

God and to work in our society for justice, or righteousness. We are compelled to care in physical terms here and now for those who are underprivileged, alienated, poor and oppressed. And to speak out on their behalf.

"The Lord has told us what is good," says Micah. "What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God."

"Let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream," says Amos.

In fact, so strong is this theme throughout the Old Testament that William Barclay once wrote, "The voice of the prophets is often nothing other than a cry for social justice. The care of the poor is an essential duty laid on the man who wishes to see the world as God meant it to be."

"It is something which has to be done," said Professor Barclay, "not only for the sake of the poor, but also for the sake of God."

Or, as Jeremiah said of a good king, "He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me?" says the Lord."

When Jesus first announced his ministry he did so with the prophecy of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people." The emphasis on his spiritual ministry is inescapable. But so is his emphasis on the material.

Shortly afterwards, Jesus summarized succinctly God's call to his people: "Set your mind on God's kingdom and its justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well."

If anyone can explain why, in the light of the abundance of Scriptural injunction and example, Christian teachers, preachers and writers ought not deal with the apparently taboo subjects mentioned earlier I would appreciate it.

And should anyone desire a copy of the unemployment article alluded to, it has been published by the Baptists and is available, together with other material on unemployment, through "A.C."

JASON'S HOUSE

GREAT SERMON, JASON!
I ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED
YOUR CONDEMNATION OF THE
MILITANT UNIONS, FEMINISTS
AND THE RUSSIANS..!



THANKS CLEM! NEXT
WEEK I'LL BE TALKING
ABOUT URANIUM MINING,
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS
AND MULTINATIONAL
COMPANIES...



HOW DARE
YOU BRING
POLITICS INTO
THE PULPIT!



SIMPLIFY LIFESTYLE AND END INJUSTICE

A strong challenge to Christians in affluent circumstances to simplify their lifestyle and take political action to bring about radical change in the present unjust trade and economic structures is contained in a statement from the first International Consultation on Simple Lifestyle, held late March.

The consultation was sponsored jointly by the Lausanne Theology and Education Group of the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelisation, and the Unit on Ethics and Society of the Theology

Commission of the World Evangelical Fellowship.

The statement is described as representing the strongest call yet by evangelical Christians to take a stand against economic injustice and in support of a redistribution of wealth.

The statement prefaces its call for evangelical involvement in changing international structures with a commitment to responsible stewardship, freedom from "the seduction of riches", a new sense of community among believers, and a personal and corporate lifestyle.

NURSING HOME OPENING

The Governor of Queensland, Sir James Ramsey has announced that he will be officially opening the new 30 bed "Eric Franks Nursing Home" at the Golden Age Retirement Village on the Gold Coast. The opening will take place at 2 p.m. on June 7, 1980.

The Home is named after the late Eric Franks who was involved in the establishment of the Village and was for many years the Chairman of the Gold Coast Regional Social Service Committee.

INSIDE THE WORD

BY GORDON MOYES

No. 213

Luke 10:25-27

HOW TO USE YOUR HOME FOR GOD

1. THEN AND THERE

Who is the least noticed person in the world's most famous story? Preachers praise the Good Samaritan, newspapers report the robberies upon travellers, TV news sessions file interviews with assault victims beside the road, editors castigate lawyers, politicians and legislators who walk by on the other side; but who praises the inn keeper who opened his house, provided hospitality, cared for the injured man and extended credit to the Samaritan after he had gone on his way?

Let's hear it for those who take in strangers and provide hospital for those in need!

Every Christmas we castigate the people who "have no room in the inn". But what of the people who make room?

The Good Samaritan said, "Take care of him," and left a bruised, battered and beaten man at the doorstep. Children frequently rescue starving kittens and bring them home — but it's mother who looks after them! Husbands bring home lonely young men from work, but it's the wife who cooks the meal!

The inn keeper was willing to help a man in need he did not even know, to use his home to help another, to offer credit on trust, to be available when help was needed, and to honour God by providing hospitality.

The Bible abounds in praise for hospitality. Sarah baked cakes for strangers and found messengers of God. Abraham invited them, but Sarah baked. The couple at Schumen built on an extra room to give Elisha hospitality. The wife invited him, but the husband built! Jesus found hospitality in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and used the upper room of John Mark's mother. Peter preached there, but John Mark's mother provided the supper.

The Acts of the Apostles shows that the early church grew through hospitality. The homes of Cornelius, Lydia, the Philippian jailor, Stephanus, Crispus, Gaius, and that of Priscilla and Aquila were foundational to the church's growth.

Lydia "opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying, and after she and the people of her house were baptised she invited us to 'come and stay in my house'." She opened her heart, then her house.

In Corinth, Paul stayed at the house of Titus Jesus next to the synagogue; in Caesarea, Paul stayed in the house of Philip the Evangelist; in Philippi, Paul stayed with the Philippian jailor; in Ephesus, Paul said "I went from house to house . . ."

The early church had prayer meetings, evenings of Christian fellowship, communion services, nights of prayer, worship and instruction, impromptu evangelistic meetings, planned meetings to hear the gospel, meetings of young believers to be taught the faith, and organised teaching of doctrine in the homes of the believers.

The early church was taught to open their homes and practise hospitality. Church leaders (1 Tim. 3:2) "must welcome strangers to their homes . . .". Elders (Titus 1:8) "must be hospitable . . .". Widows (1 Tim. 5:10) "must do good deeds and welcome strangers into their own home . . .". Members (1 Peter 4:9) are to "open your homes to each other without complaining".

Of the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, the least spectacular is the gift of hospitality: "Share your belongings with fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers." (Rom. 12:13).

2. HERE AND NOW

Your home is probably your greatest financial asset — make sure it is your greatest spiritual asset as well.

You may not have the gift for teaching, preaching, singing, administering the church, but you can develop the gift of hospitality. Growing churches always have great hospitality programs where visitors are made welcome, invited home for meals and invited back for midweek sharing programs. One church I have visited has over 6,000 home meetings every week!

Evangelism is most effective in home groups. Standing at the border of mainland China some Chinese Christians told me how the "Little Flock" has been growing in village after village through house meetings. Christians in the West need to learn to open their doors in hospitality to others.

As this study is being typed, my plane is about to touch down in London. During this trip I will go from home to home, sharing in Christian fellowship. There is nothing like it in the world!

At your church this week will be someone who is lonely, a student, a visitor, a country member down in town, an aged widow, a single mum and her children, a widower, the lady whose husband is on an overseas trip, the teenager who has been turned out of his own home, the student who wants a quiet place to study for exams — there are always people who could share your home for a short while.

"Keep on loving one another as Christian brothers. Remember to welcome strangers into your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it." (Heb. 13:2).

PRAVERS FOR "ASIA SUNDAY" MAY 18, 1980

Prayers gathered from this region to stimulate our own praying.

AUSTRALIA:— That our churches, in their life and witness, may be the signs of the Kingdom for which we pray — God's Kingdom of compassion, justice, reconciliation, joy and peace.

BANGLADESH:— That we may be faithful to our Lord's commandment that we love one another, and that we may express our love in concrete ways through ministering to the people of our land.

BURMA:— That our churches may become mature as the national missionary church in our land, and respond wisely and critically to the challenges we face.

HONG KONG:— That Christians in Hong Kong may seize the opportunities to minister to the needs of the poor, the immigrants and the refugees who are all around them, and, in the process, become more aware of their oneness with the people in China and in neighbouring countries.

INDIA:— That during the present moment in our history when people seem to grope without vision, the Lord may grant us the grace and the courage to be bearers of the light that we have seen in Jesus Christ.

INDONESIA:— That as we prepare for the General Assembly of the National

Council of Churches we may be filled with a sense of our unity in Christ and of our call to live the Gospel in and for our nation.

JAPAN:— That we may be saved from the selfish desire to acquire more and more wealth, and led to recognise the dignity of the human person and the beauty of the human communities the Lord has created.

KOREA:— That through the uncertainties of our present situation we may be guided by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice.

LAOS:— That we as a nation may apply ourselves to the task of rebuilding our shattered country, free from outside pressures that seek to keep us in subjection.

MALAYSIA:— That we as a nation may grow in inter-religious tolerance and inter-racial understanding, and that national unity may be fostered.

NEW ZEALAND:— That we may be more concerned with spiritual values than material comfort, more concerned with the poor than the rich, and for God's Kingdom and his Justice before all else.

PAKISTAN:— That as a nation we may not become a pawn in the politics of big powers, and that as a church we may work for peace and national solidarity.

PHILIPPINES:— That we may work for the improvement of the life of our people, the promotion of human rights and the return of normalcy in our country.

SINGAPORE:— That we may share with others the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

SRI LANKA:— That the churches may contribute to the building of a truly righteous society by working for racial harmony; religious tolerance and social justice.

TAIWAN:— That we may hold fast to the faith that the Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

THAILAND:— That as we seek to develop and strengthen structures in order to move and serve as the church of our Lord, we may be ever mindful that our structures must reflect God's Kingdom and promote God's purposes.

VIETNAM:— That we may be enabled to work for peace and the future of our nation in an atmosphere that is not vitiated by suspicion and conflicts.

CONFERENCE ON MISSION AND EVANGELISM FOR MELBOURNE

The first major World Council of Churches conference in Australia will be held at the Melbourne University High School from May 12 to 25 this year.

Over 500 mission and evangelism leaders from Christian churches in 85 countries will gather in Melbourne for the conference, organised by the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. Theme of the conference is "Your Kingdom Come".

The Melbourne conference will be the ninth international missionary conference since the historic 1910 Edinburgh conference, regarded as the starting point of the modern ecumenical movement.

Discussions at the conference will focus on four sub-themes, Good News to the Poor, The Kingdom of God and Human Struggles, The Church's Witness to the Kingdom and The Crucified Christ Challenges Human Power.

Co-ordination of the planning and preparations for the Melbourne conference rests with the Rev. Dr Emilio Castro, the Uruguayan Methodist Director of the WCC Commission on Mission and Evangelism.

Prayer

"My first hope is to hold a conference supported by prayer and enlightened by the vision of the Kingdom" writes Dr Castro in a recent editorial in the WCC journal 'International Review of Mission'.

"We will surely be doing sociological, cultural, economic and political analysis. We hope also to do very serious exegetical work on the Bible. But if all this intellectual effort is not shot through and through with the reality of the Spirit of God, we will have another international gathering of experts but not a meeting of the Church of Jesus Christ" says Dr Castro.

Emilio Castro also hopes the Melbourne conference will help him and many others to discover afresh who is this King whom we worship: "The King who did not hesitate to wash the feet of his disciples, who made his own the fate of the outcast, the poor, the marginal of society; the King who showed us what power means through the powerlessness of the cross."

To pray, 'Your Kingdom Come' is to pray for a new heaven and a new earth. Thus Dr Castro concludes his reflections with the hope that the Melbourne conference "will stimulate Christians to experiment with new ways to witness from within their respective cultures to the kingdom of God that struggles for expression here and now."

Don Smith and Joan Fewster of Churches of Christ are part of the Australian delegation.

(From "In Unity").

BIBLE BREAKTHROUGH IN YUGOSLAVIA

In a remarkable turn of events, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in Yugoslavia has requested the local Bible Society to publish a series of Scripture Selections on the life and work of Jesus Christ.

The concept of producing Scripture Selections in a country which is both Socialist and Orthodox is very unusual. The authorities normally regard this material as religious propaganda and the law often prohibits its production or public distribution. Also, the Orthodox Church does not have a tradition of advocating the private reading of the Bible.

The United Bible Societies plan to have the first printing of 100,000 Selections in Serbian available for Easter. A series of eight or ten Selections will follow within the next five to eight years and the result will be a booklet of great significance for Christians in Yugoslavia.

To underline church continuity the Selections will be illustrated with frescoes and icons from famous medieval Orthodox Church paintings. The Yugoslavian Bible Society Secretary was also able to persuade the Orthodox Bishops to adopt the Bible Society's dynamic translation for the Selections.

OPEN FORUM

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

GOD'S FAVOURITES

To the Editor,

Yes God does have favourites and I believe each one of us during our Christian lives is a favourite him. I do not think it has much to do with the sorrow or joy that is or is not our lot, but rather it is to do with the feeling of the Spirit within us. To experience his presence so strongly that we have only to reach out and touch him or open our eyes to see him, are these then the moments we become his favourites?

To be healed or made whole is not only for those who have some known physical or mental illness, for in all of us is there not at times the need to be made whole? And specific healing is not always an outward visible sign of answer to prayer.

It may be that in joy or sorrow, suffering or gladness will come the moment of knowing his favour, for his favour I believe is in that wonderful moment when he in his glory reaches down to us and we in our wholeness reach up to him.

— Pat Kerr (A.C.T.)

MINISTERS AND MEDIA

To the Editor,

I appreciated the article "Attention all Reverend Ministers" (A.C. 29-3-80) concerning the use of the media.

Unfortunately the church always seems to come across as a "kill joy" in the media rather than the "bearer of glad tidings."

While agreeing with your article, I smiled when I read "It is hard to crack big T.V. & Radio stations and national journals but not impossible".

Our group has been quoted on radio, television and the newspapers over 200 times in 1978 and 1979. This year we have even better coverage. But, it is mighty hard to crack the religious press.

— John Williams (Executive Officer, "People for Alcohol Concern and Education, S.A.)

MINISTERS AND MEDIA

To the Editor,

It was a timely rebuke raised by the Editor ("A.C." 29-3-80) re ministers failing to accept the opportunities that the media present.

One of the reasons why ministers prefer their 100 people on a Sunday morning to 60,000 people during the week is self-preservation. When a minister writes in the local paper he needs a very warm, loving, open, tolerant congregation who will "wear" their minister writing about sacred cows and politics (left or right of his congregation), and using non-literal, satirical, parabolical journalistic language.

Dr ALLEN G. ELLIOTT

We have learnt of the sudden death of Dr A. G. Elliott on Resurrection Day (Sunday April 8) at the Royal Perth Hospital of a massive heart attack. Dr Elliott had travelled to Western Australia on a six week visit and had given an inspiring message at the Christian Centre on Good Friday.

A special commemorative service will be held at the Burwood (N.S.W) Church of Christ on Sunday May 25 at 3.00 p.m.

An obituary will be published in "The Australian Christian" in a later issue.

A soft approach to journalism reduces the minister in the eyes of the public to seeming sloppy, weak, irrelevant Christianity. To get the ear of the public in the media he may have to sacrifice consensus in his own church. Trying to keep his writing sanctified and his congregation free from alarm is a major skill.

— Steve Downie (Box Hill, Vic.)

EVAN ADERMANN AND "MUSTARD SEEDS"

To The Editor,

Alan Austin in 'Mustard Seeds' (The Australian Christian, 29 March, 1980), develops an argument against the Australian Taxation System. That whole thesis is based on the suppression of important facts, generalizations leading to incorrect assumptions, and slanted statistics.

The argument, as Hansard will show, has been advanced by the Opposition in the Parliament and been completely demolished and discredited. Although I can adequately rebut his article and point for point demonstrate the misrepresentation, I do not consider that the pages of 'The Australian Christian' should be the forum for partisan political debate. Mr Austin and his 'cell', who are seeking a response from political leaders, have never to my recollection written to me nor other colleagues, and I find it hard to accept that such an article in 'The Australian Christian' is an honest quest for answers.

However, I take extremely strong exception, not as a Member of Parliament, but as a Christian, to two aspects of his article, and also to 'The Australian Christian' being associated with them.

In his article and his comments on the 'wealthy',

Mr Austin is careful to avoid mention of Excess Profits Taxes and Capitol Gains Taxes. Such taxes promoted by the Opposition are fundamental to and inherent in the philosophical argument of which Mr Austin's theory is part. However, as Mr Austin selectively quotes Scripture, namely Proverbs 22, I can understand his dilemma.

A Capital Gains Tax places a penalty rate of tax on the little bit of interest earned on the savings of widows and pensioners, and doesn't sit comfortably with his quotation, "He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want." His quotation of Scripture to support his thesis is selective, questionable, and ought not go un-noticed by the Editors or the readers.

The other point to which I take serious exception, and I am critical of the 'Australian Christian' in being party to it, is the inference that if we do not espouse his partisan theory, (quote) "are we being really faithful to our Lord's teaching?" That dismays and disgusts me.

Must the 'Australian Christian' be used for partisan political articles, supported by unfair and selective quotations from Scripture, and inferring that if we have a contrary view our faithfulness to the Lord's teaching is in question?

Evon Adermann, M.P., (Nambour, Qld.)

(We have given Mr. Adermann more than the usual space because we have offered equal space for reply to those who believe that material we publish has a political bias. — Ed.)

PYRAMID HILL (C. G. Henderson). Over 100 attended service when six people were baptised . . . Discipleship class led by minister commenced for Y.P. who have recently made their decisions . . . A junior Christian Endeavour has just commenced . . . Baptistry has been renewed.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

EVANGELISM

To the Editor,

Evangelism is the in thing at our church these days. We've lost a lot of families by removal and a lot of our young people have moved away. For the first time for years there are empty seats, and panic has set in. So we are on about evangelism to remedy the situation. Not that we haven't always been in favour of it.

But I've been intrigued by the reasons I've had put up for evangelism. Our Minister is preaching, "The church is always only one generation from extinction." Evangelism is apparently to keep the show on the road. Our treasurer's line on evangelism is that we need a few more families to balance the budget. Our elders' contribution to the discussion is to deplore the empty seats and to recall the days when seats used to be brought into the aisles, and to suggest that the way is to do it and to say it like they did in those days. My in-laws in a struggling inner city church are determined "to keep the doors open" until the Lord either returns, or sends a few transfers-in, or sends a revival. So if there is any evangelism there, it will have to be up to the Lord.

The most frequently expressed reason for evangelism that I've heard round our church lately is that "the Lord commanded us to go and preach the gospel."

I am left wondering if some day some of us will get round to doing a little evangelism because we are very upset because a lot of people in our town are confused about life and death and faith and God, and what existence is about anyway.

— TERTIUS

A PRESIDENT SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY... ON ABORTION

When the President of the Queensland Conference speaks on social, moral or political matters, he can do so with authority. He can know that he is speaking on behalf of about 80% of his constituency. The Queensland Conference's Social Service Department sends out 120 questionnaires on the subject concerned, to a cross section of informed people in the Brotherhood. From the replies (and nearly all do reply) the Department prepares a considered statement. This statement is then discussed by the Conference Executive who then pass the final version for release by the President. Already there have been statements from the President, Norm Watson, on "Drugs and Alcohol" and "Gambling". The one below is on the controversial question of "Abortion", released on April 10, 1980.

Churches of Christ in Queensland believe that human life from the moment of conception is a gift from God and therefore needs to be treated with the utmost respect. We therefore do not believe that abortion should be available on demand; but recognize that when a choice is involved between the life of the mother and that of the unborn child it is right to save the mother's life at the cost of the life of the unborn child.

We consider that in some other extreme cases, such as some cases of rape, abortion may be permissible provided this would not further distress the mother.

Whenever an abortion is contemplated or carried out there should be careful counselling of both the mother and the father where they are married.

We further believe that opinions of the mother and father, where married, should be considered along with the opinion of more than one medical practitioner as to the necessity for abortion.

Also as a Church we recognize our responsibility by counsel and care to share the love of Christ with those who may, in time of distress, for whatever reason, have gone through with an abortion.

DEATH OF FORMER MISSIONARY — NEW HEBRIDES

It is with deep regret that the Overseas Mission Board advises that Pam Palmer from N.Z., former missionary to the New Hebrides, died on March 28 from cancer. Pam was 29.

Pam, with her husband Kevin, served as a missionary teacher at the Ranwadi High School on Pentecost Island from October 1975 until December 1977. Their first child, Joanne, was born in Vila in July 1977. Her passing will be sadly mourned by the students she taught at Ranwadi and by our island brethren. Loving sympathy is extended to Kevin and Joanne.

— R. McL.

Editorial

WHAT SORT OF UNITY?

Each year the Federal Department of Christian Union mounts the "rostrum" of its annual page or two in "The Australian Christian" and reminds us that Churches of Christ are supposed to be in business bringing all Christians to the Unity for which Christ prayed in John 17:20, 21, 23. One of the problems is that their constituency does not seem to have a clear idea about what sort of unity our Lord prayed for.

ORGANIC OR SPIRITUAL?

Those who are very unity minded remind us that when our fathers preached unity they meant organic unity. They dreamed of the disappearance of denominational barriers and the emergence of one visible united church.

Those who are not very unity minded believe that the unity for which Christ prayed was spiritual. They see unity as a loose fellowship of the more evangelically inclined and "spiritually-minded" Christians, who do not wish to see an end to their particular denominations. For them organic unity involves too much danger of compromising essential truth.

BUT WHAT SORT OF UNITY?

The important thing of course is not what we think Jesus prayed for, but what he really did pray for.

The sort of unity that Jesus prayed for was the sort of unity that would make a secular world sit up and take notice and believe (John 17:21, 23). For us the unity for which Christ prayed is that which will encourage 1980 pagans to believe.

Advocates of "spiritual unity" see the prayer being answered in truly united local congregations. There is no doubt that the local churches that are attracting new believers are the ones that are seen and felt to be warm, accepting, loving, family-like congregations. Conversely a church that is inwardly divided, wracked with petty rivalries, or with a history of dissension, seldom wins people to Christ.

STILL THE PROBLEM REMAINS

But while Christ's prayer is being answered in some congregations, unbelievers are still confused about the multiplicity of congregations in a given area, all of which seem to be saying different things. What church does a

seeking pagan approach if he feels the wind of the Spirit stirring within him? The one that "branded" him may not be the most appropriate for his needs. But he will feel an intruder if he approaches another one.

To compound the matter, churches do very little "seeking the lost" because it is infra-dig to find a sheep with someone else's brand on it. And lost sheep have a habit of dodging seeking shepherds by flaunting their brand names — e.g. "I am a Calathumprian! As though that ends the conversation. The amount of Christian unity in most Australian towns, whether of the organic or spiritual kind, is not causing many to believe.

BUT OUR UNITY MUST BE EVIDENT

Whatever unity we believe that Jesus had in mind, it must be evident enough in the community to capture the attention and to win the interest of the community. And it seems to us that this manifestation of unity is more likely to be noticed in the area of evangelism.

We remember being involved in a number of Church and Life Weeks in New Zealand where our speakers presented the good news in factories, on the wharves, during intervals at the pictures, on radio and in the press, in Parliament, at the football and on the streets. All of these "pulpits" were open to us because the churches did it together. Few of them would have been available to single churches. And the unity of the approach certainly attracted "the world".

WHAT DID JESUS REALLY PRAY FOR?

The key to the discovery of the unity that Jesus Christ wills for his church is in John 17:21, 23. He prayed "that they may be one in us" (God and Jesus) and "I in them and thou in me." Unity comes when believers are in that close relationship with Jesus Christ that is described as being "in Christ", and in which Christ dwells in them.

Only that relationship makes a truly spiritual unity possible. But that sort of unity will break down denominational barriers. And as that happens organic unions are likely to take place at all levels. But whether or not they do, that sort of unity will have Christians talking and thinking and working together in such a way, that the world will marvel and believe. For that, Christ prayed.

WELFARE OF "TEST TUBE" CHILDREN

State and Federal Social Welfare Ministers have acted on a South Australian "blueprint" to investigate social issues relating to children conceived by artificial means. South Australia's Minister of Community Welfare, John Burdett said: "The social effects on children conceived in this way, their parents and the donor are uncertain. Equally the law relating to these children is vague.

The decision does not condone the practice of artificial insemination, but I and other Ministers recognise there is a need to consider this important issue.

Children conceived in this way may face a number of social and legal problems as they grow up, including concern about their identity, relationship with their parents and their legal rights.

The working party set up will:

- Report on the social consequences of conception of children by artificial insemination.
 - Recommend legislation to establish the legal status of these children, in particular with regard to maintenance, custody, access and inheritance.
 - Consider whether legislation is required relating to the legalising of artificial insemination for donor and husband, the legal status of the child, the regulation of medical practice relating to artificial insemination and other legalities.
- Each State will consider the working party's report before a final report is considered by Social Welfare Ministers and Attorneys General at a meeting next year.

THANK YOU AUSTRALIA

So frequently your advertisers request help to support some needy overseas aid projects, yet rarely do we, the recipients of that aid acknowledge our thanks. By the time we have negotiated with government departments, building contractors, local village leaders and written up submissions to the aid agencies, it becomes a low priority to write and say "Thank You".

In November, 1978, a flash flood caused by unprecedented cyclonic rain wrought havoc to the villages of the Nilgiri Hills here in South India. EFFICOR (funded by Tear Fund Australia) and COCOA (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid), were two of the agencies which provided substantial help. Sixty-eight houses have been built and this new colony is really attractively built on a sloping hillside above the valley where as many houses were completely lost in the flood.

Each house (one main room with kitchen and entry), costs Rs. 6,000/- (just over \$700 Australian). The original estimate was Rs. 6,600/- each and we had the help of a fine Christian contractor (G. T. S. Pandiaraj), who kept the standard of building up and the price down. Another agency also estimated their

houses would cost Rs. 6,000/- each but their final cost is in the vicinity of Rs. 9,000. The causes are obvious; stone masons demanded Rs. 20/- per day (before the flood Rs. 8/-); the monsoon rains damaged some partly-constructed walls; contractors demanded advances and then failed to deliver the goods . . .

I am writing to say "Thank You" and to assure you that these grants received through COCA and Tear Fund Australia were well spent and the houses are well and truly occupied by very grateful flood victims. Each household will pay Rs. 10/- per month for five years and this contribution will be used to develop the facilities of the village. They now have water, electricity and solid dry homes, but no toilets. A few community toilet blocks would be quite an improvement over the surrounding villagers where there is virtually no sanitation.

We also plan to put two young men from Bible College in to Kukulthorai village for their summer holidays. We have helped them receive new houses; now we want to share the Lord Jesus Christ who has motivated those who have given.

— Barry Jenkins

FESTIVAL OF FAITH

During the 1980 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Thursday, May 15 (Ascension Day) to Sunday, May 25 (Pentecost), Melbourne will be the venue for an exciting and adventurous Festival of Faith.

Organised by the city churches of Melbourne in conjunction with the Australian Council of Churches, the Festival of Faith is a response to the World Council of Churches Conference on Mission and Evangelism which will be held in Melbourne from May 12 to 25.

The Festival will be an opportunity for the Australian churches to celebrate and declare the Christian faith together and to give specific meaning to the conference theme, 'Your Kingdom Come'.

The Festival of Faith Program includes: Daily Lunch-Hour Forums in two locations May 19-23, 1.10 p.m.-1.50 p.m. At St Paul's Cathedral (opposite Flinders St. station) the major themes and issues of Mission and Evangelism will be explored by prominent church leaders from around the world. May 19-23, 1.10 p.m.-1.50 p.m. At the A.M.P. Theatre (535 Bourke St.) the forums will discuss Christians facing social change.

ART EXHIBITION

The valuable and widely acclaimed Christian Conference of Asia Art Collection will be exhibited in the A.N.Z. Bank, corner Queen and Collins Streets. Other religious works from the National Gallery and private collections will also be on show. Daily 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



CHOIR FESTIVAL

The choirs of five city churches will present a festival program at Collins Street Uniting Church on Thursday, May 22 at 8 p.m.

YOUTH EVENTS AND RALLY

12 noon-2 p.m. Daily lunch-hour youth events have been planned for the City Square and central city locations, culminating in a major Youth Rally at the Dallas Brooks Hall on Saturday, May 24 at 7.30 p.m. — music and evangelism to challenge Australian youth today.

DRAMA FESTIVAL

A Drama Festival will be held nightly at 8 p.m. in the Wesley Uniting Church, Lonsdale Street. Bernadone — the life and times of Francis of Assisi . . . A drama with music.

FILM FESTIVAL

A wide selection of films from across Australia and around the world will be screened nightly at the A.M.P. Theatre (535 Bourke St.), Monday 19-Friday 23, at 8 p.m.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Street theatre, youth music concerts and band recitals will be held in central city outdoor locations. The official Festival opening will be held in the City Square, Thursday, May 15, at 12.30 p.m.

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

A major exhibition of the historical records and artifacts of the early Australian church is being arranged, in co-operation with the State Library of Victoria. To be held in the A.M.P. foyer (535 Bourke St.). Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays — May 13-23.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Thursday 15 — At St Patrick's Cathedral. The opening worship for the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity and a major worship event of the World Council Conference — 8 p.m.

Sunday 18 — A Family worship and celebration at the Festival Hall. An opportunity for the public to share, declare and celebrate their Christian faith — 6.40 p.m. pre-service celebration — 7 p.m. worship service.

Monday 19 to Thursday 22 — Four nightly rallies, which will study the sub-themes of the conference, are being held in four suburban locations. Occasions for the public to explore the meaning of the theme 'Your Kingdom Come'.

Sunday 25 — A time of praise, prayer and renewal, organised by the charismatic movement in Melbourne churches at St Patrick's Cathedral — 8 p.m.

THE CHURCH AT MISSION IN THE 1980s

An Australian and new Zealand Conference, at Ridley College (University of Melbourne) from Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18. Australian and overseas people who are unable to attend the World Conference will meet to study in some depth the theme 'Your Kingdom Come'. Some speakers from the World Conference will be key resource people. Registration limited to 120 participants.

Further information: Festival of Faith, 6th Floor, 177 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000. Phone 654 4988; or Victorian Council of Churches, 100 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 3000. Phone 63 2736.

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED
YET FOR
FEDERAL CONFERENCE?
OCTOBER 3-8?**

**ASK YOUR CHURCH
SECRETARY FOR DETAILS**

BOOKS TO READ

MY MAGNIFICENT MACHINE

by William L. Coleman (Bethany Fellowship)

Parents of primary school children (grades 3-6) will welcome this addition to family devotions literature. "52 unusual devotions for families with small children"; the cover effectively caught my attention. The content focusses on our bodies, revealing in all sorts of fascinating information. The facts and figures have been put together in an acceptable form, my third grade daughter devouring the book in a couple of sessions. The chapter titles illustrate the point "Bumps and Boils", "Why do we Laugh?", "Where did the Apple go?", "Sneezing Easy" are some of the 52 informative, God glorifying chapters. Each chapter finishes with an apt Bible verse and simple prayer suggestion. A welcome relief from moralizing modern fables!

— L.v.L.

CIVILIZATIONS OF THE HOLY LAND

by Paul Johnson (Book Club Associates)

This is a book that seeks to pull together the various historical phases of history into a very readable story of the events that have occurred from pre-historic times to that of the Saracen rule up to and following the times of the Crusaders.

The book is amply illustrated with coloured plates, black and white photographs and also some diagrams. Material is introduced from archaeology, ancient literature and from the Bible.

The major part of the book is devoted to the Biblical period sketching the Old Testament history and relating it against the background of the great empires of the time. The story of the intertestamental periods is covered along with the New Testament times.

The development of Christianity within the Bezzantine period is traced, as is also the coming of Islam and the Crusades that followed with some development of the Saracen rule. There are a few brief sketches that lead to the present time, but these are not very valuable.

This is the kind of book that would help the general reader to obtain a valuable overview of the movement of history across the Holy Land. It is certainly a valuable book to read before any visit to the lands of the Bible.

Don E. Stewart

THE JOURNEY

by Myrna Grant (Hodder & Stoughton) \$3.50

This is the true story of Rose Warmer, who was born into a nominally Jewish family and who grew up completely self-centred. For some time she dabbled with spiritism but after her father's death she was converted to Christianity. She became a missionary to her fellow Jews in Hungary until 1944 when she was arrested by the Nazis and sent to the concentration camps. At the end of the war she was at Bergen-Belsen and close to death. Although she continued to work as a missionary to the Hebrew people it was many years before she recovered much of her health.

As a Jewish refugee Rose went to Israel to live after the war where she continued to work for Christ.

A book well worthy of a place in most libraries but perhaps too harsh for those who want a soft Christianity without any mention of trials and testing.

— John Urquhart.

THE BONUS YEARS

by John Cansdale (Paternoster Press)

"The Bonus Years" by John Cansdale encourages a positive and practical approach to retirement. Little is left out in his statement concerning areas of life which need consideration as people come near to retirement. Mr Cansdale says that it is greater wisdom to consider these provisions for retirement long before that time. For example everyone should start saving

towards buying a home, as early in life as possible. But the retirement home will be thoughtfully chosen for size, area and convenience.

Other areas of life he covers are good health . . . including essentials for good health, plus caring for our faculties, e.g. eyes . . . Work we will care to do and how that affects the pension, hobbies, voluntary service, friendship and hospitality, money matters, wills and bereavement, death. He treats these subjects in amazing detail.

"The Bonus Years" is well worth reading by old and young. Mr Cansdale's material in his book is based on reliable research and his practical experience. It is practical and realistic and would be a great help to a large number of people.

CHALKDUST: Prayer Meditations for Teacher

by Ekspeth Campbell Murphy (Baker)

"Chalkdust" is a very helpful and sensitively prepared book of prayer meditations for teachers. It speaks out of practical, everyday experiences and people in the teacher's life and deals with them positively to shed light on the way God looks on those experiences and people.

The prayers are organised under three headings — "Prayers for Children" encompassing prayers for all sorts of children in the teacher's experience including the slow learner, the very bright child and the rejected child; "Prayers for Special Times", 'On the Night Before School Starts' through 'After Losing My Temper' to the 'Last Day of School' and 'Prayers for the Teacher' which include prayers for help in listening, for confidence, consistency and others.

Some Americanisms are difficult to understand but as there are only two or three of these the book is not spoiled by them.

Although the book has been prepared for day school teachers, I am sure it would also help Sunday School teachers in developing a loving and caring attitude to their pupils.

— G. Warren

WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

by S. D. Gordon (Baker)

In this book S. D. Gordon shares a plan for world evangelism. This plan involves all Christians in some way from prayer support to financial support through to those prepared to actually go. Not only are foreign missions involved but also the sharing of the Good News in our neighbourhood. The illustrations are dated as the original book was published in 1908.

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



"I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE EITHER."

HAPPENINGS

The opening of the Victorian "Festival of Faith" will be held in City Square on May 15. Heads of Victorian churches will gather for a common affirmation of faith.

80% of the relief effort to the estimated 80,000 Afghan refugees in Baluchistan, Pakistan, is being carried out by the ecumenical Inter-Aid Committee.

A "covenant" relating to next steps in merger negotiations and a commitment to a six-year exploration about possible union of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ was approved at the General Assembly of the Disciples. The vote was decisive, with only a scattering of "nos" in the gathering of some 4,500 voting delegates.

The Presidents of the Protestant churches of East and West Germany were received together last month by the Secretary of State for Religious Affairs of the German Democratic Republic.

This is the first time such a meeting has taken place since the creation of the GDR more than 30 years ago.

Bible reading appears to be on the increase in the Netherlands, but figures show there has been a marked decline in church attendance.

In 1974, only 27% said they read the Bible regularly, while in 1979 the figure has risen to 60%. The figures for church attendance showed the reverse trend. In 1974, 23% said they attended the Netherlands Reformed Church while only 16% indicated attendance in 1979.

Death rates among smokers at all ages are more than twice as great as those of nonsmokers, according to a new study of life insurance customers.

The Lutheran Church Makane Yesus in Ethiopia has increased its membership during the past two years from 100,000 to 500,000 in spite of persecution. This was reported by Ato Emmanuel Abraham, president of the church at its annual Synod meeting.

The "New Right" is using "the electric church" to further its conservative political views, according to a former U.S. senator from New Hampshire.

Thomas J. McIntyre. He cited the "700 Club" and "PTL Club" as examples of religious television shows that he claims offer a platform for right-wing causes. "Instead of preaching God's gospel, they are in the political realm far too much."

According to a newsletter from the Cuban ecumenical council there are over 1,000 Christian churches in Cuba with 800 pastors serving the church.

Controversial ex-Black Panther leader and born-again celebrity Eldridge Cleaver has laid to rest rumours that he had joined the Unification Church of Rev. Sun Myung Moon which began to circulate after Cleaver spent nearly a month last August at a Moonie camp in California. His observations at the camp led him to describe it as "a brainwashing camp" and the Unification Church as a satanic "deception".

The government of Transkei last month declared as illegal within its borders the World Council of Churches and the South Africa Council of Churches. These were 2 of 34 activist organizations, many of them church-related, banned by this black tribal "homeland" under its Public Security Act. Transkei was proclaimed an independent nation by South Africa in 1975, but has

failed to receive recognition by any country outside southern Africa.

According to a UNESCO report the Bible is still the most translated book in the world. In 1975 30 countries produced Bible translations. Second with translations in 29 countries were the works of William Shakespeare. Karl Marx and Dostoyevsky were next with 26 translations each.

The KGB has aimed a decisive blow at Russian Orthodox activists in the Soviet Union. All but a few leaders of the Christian Seminar on Problems of Religious Renaissance have been imprisoned. The seminar, begun five years ago by young Orthodox intellectuals, has been forced to suspend its activities. The latest of its few remaining leaders, Lev Regelson, was arrested after undergoing preliminary interrogation.

China's Catholic National Patriotic Association — regarded as official by the government but deviant by the Vatican — went ahead and consecrated the bishop for Peking whom parishioners elected last July. The post had remained vacant for 15 years. Last month's consecration for Bishop Michael Fu Tieshan was delayed during the months of negotiation with the Vatican, which insists that bishops must be named through its hierarchy.

NATIONAL

May
11 Mother's Day
15-25 World Conference on Mission and Evangelism — Melbourne
15-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18 Asia Sunday
June
1 Christian Union Sunday

QUEENSLAND

May
11-16 Midgets and Juniors Camps
June
1 Youth and Christian Education Dept. Annual Offering
7 Opening of Eric Franks Nursing Home
6-8 Annual State Camp for Missions

NEW SOUTH WALES

June
4-8 State Conference

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

May
9 Christian Welfare Centre Street Appeal

VICTORIA

May
1-4 Annual Conference
5-8 Ministers Seminar
10-25 School Vacation Camps
24-25 Young Adults Camp
31 Explorer Bushcraft Day

LEPROSY MISSION SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SECRETARY

The Leprosy Mission has recently appointed a new Secretary for South Australia. He is Norman Kingston B.A., M.Th., L.Th., Dip. R.E., a Churches of Christ pastor who has ministered in several states.

This change has been brought about by the appointment of David Jackson to the position of Communication Officer in the National Office in Melbourne.

Mr and Mrs Kingston have taken up residence at the Leprosy Mission office, 81 Richmond Rd., Hawthorn, and will be happy to hear from anyone wishing to know more about the work of the Mission.

A new audio-visual has just arrived called "Freedom is What We Bring." It deals with a new area of work in Lesotho in South East Africa, and Mr Kingston is looking for opportunities to share this.

25 Years Ago

The Editorial (C. G. Taylor) dealt with "Making Christian Homes of Houses". "Marriage should be a spiritual partnership in which both parents should hold their responsibilities as a sacred trust from God. Alexander Campbell said, "On the altar of matrimony are woven all the cords of affection, all the ligaments and bonds that cement society. Destroy this institution, and not only the happiness of men, as a social being, but the safety of the whole race would be endangered."

There was a report of Western Australia's 58th Conference sent by the current Chairman of "The Australian Christian" Board A. D. Pyne. Speakers during Conference were J. Bond (Wembley), S. H. Wilson, Roy Dixon (on India), R. Raymond and L. Cooke (Maylands). Conference President was G. A. Ewers with Mrs. J. K. Robinson as Woman's Conference President. During the year there had been 158 baptisms.

Reports included the retirement from the ministry after 35 years of service by D. D. Stewart. D. Wakeley was moving from Loftus Park, N.S.W. to Hurstville, N.S.W. There was a report of an Easter camp at Queensland's new youth centre at Magnetic Island. 51 attended with studies led by D. Paddon of Rockhampton.

THE PLEA THAT MADE US A PEOPLE

Page 13

Old timers among us remember such sell worn phrases as "Preach the plea", "being true to the plea", and "the plea that made us a people". Most modern members of Churches of Christ have probably never hear the work "plea" as it was used then. Yet it was the plea, as we called it, that stated the reason for the existence of Churches of Christ.

WHAT PLEA?

The plea of Churches of Christ as our fathers understood it was a plea to all Christians everywhere to discover together the unity for which Christ prayed by restoring to the contemporary church the life and faith of the New Testament. It was usually put this way, "We plead for Christian unity through the restoration of New Testament Christianity."

Some have wrongly said that Churches of Christ stand for Christian unity and have wondered why we do not fold up quickly and "get with the strength." They forget that we not only stand for Christian unity, but that we also stand for a way of getting a valid unity, by restoring New Testament Christianity.

Others have wrongly said that Churches of Christ stand for the restoration of New Testament Christianity. Christian unity is away down on their list of priorities. Some of them, believing that they have restored the New Testament church, look with a lot of mistrust at other churches, wondering if they are really Christian. To have dialogue with them with a view to unity is out of the question. These people among us do not seem to realise that we are not "restorationists" in the sense that restorationist denominations and sects are. Restoration for us was to be clearly the way in which the churches could find the unity that God wanted for them.

WHAT HISTORY DID TO OUR PLEA

So our fathers round the world had a common plea that held them together in mission to the church of their day. It was to unite Christians everywhere by restoring New Testament Christianity.

However there were two facts of history that our fathers did not anticipate. The first one was that Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Campbell had a daughter. When the time came for her baptism they were disturbed that there seemed to be no New Testament precedent for the wide spread practice of infant baptism. The scriptures only spoke of baptism as the immersion of penitent believers as a witness to that belief and as a commitment to it. From then on our churches were drawn into a position where "baptism as the immersion of penitent believers" and "New Testament Christianity" became almost the same thing. For many our plea was baptism. "Preach the plea" meant preach baptism.

A CENTURY OF ARGUMENT

It was because our fathers were forced into a century of argument and debate about baptism, that baptism

was preached out of proportion to the rest of what New Testament Christianity was on about. And while most denied it, we did in fact come very close to preaching and teaching "baptismal regeneration"

Another thing that the century of controversy about baptism did was to dim our plea for Christian unity. Before the birth of Alexander Campbell's daughter our fathers accepted others as Christians. During the century of debate many came to deny this. They still said "we are Christians only and not the only Christians", but at the same time they said that they could not "announce the salvation" of any of the unimmersed. And there was no point in seeking Christian unity with those whose very Christianity was in doubt, although they sang the hymns of the unimmersed with great gusto.

Only in more recent times have we conceded that all who are "born of the Spirit" are Christians, even if we believe that the baptism of some of them is biblically defective.

WHAT WAS THE OTHER FACT OF HISTORY?

The other fact of history that our fathers did not anticipate is that our plea did not unite the churches. Indeed many historic unions have taken place without us being involved in them. At the same time our American and British churches have divided themselves because they could not agree on what "the plea that made a people" really was. In the United States there are three separate groups claiming to be in the true tradition of the Restoration Movement. In Great Britain there were the "Old Pathers" and the rest, and now there are the uniting churches and the continuing churches.

In Australia we are exercising a lot of Christian grace to go on loving and understanding one another and to go on working together so that we do not import these foreign divisions into the brotherhood.

So here we are in 1980 wondering about our plea and in danger of losing our sense of identity and mission. I want to suggest as a matter of urgency that Churches of Christ become involved in asking themselves two basic questions. What do we mean by Christian unity? And what do we mean by the restoration of New Testament Christianity?

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY RESTORING NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY?

Do we mean using the New Testament to find texts to support our current practices and traditions and to defend ourselves against innovations?

Do we mean that the New Testament is a permanent set of rules about whether or not we have sales of work, go to war, play organs in church, have conferences, let our women preach, take money from outsiders, use unleavened bread for communion, and have no more and no less than seven deacons and all of them married males at that? ● Continued on Page 14

HALF-YEARLY CONVENTION AT ROCKHAMPTON

The half-yearly convention of our Queensland churches, held at Rockhampton over the Easter weekend, was attended by representatives from 15 churches, coming from the Brisbane area, Chinchilla, Maryborough, Eidsvold, Mackay and Rockhampton.

The convention was primarily inspirational but opportunity was taken on the Saturday afternoon in a session entitled "Know your Brotherhood" to hear from representatives of Brotherhood Committees and Departments concerning their respective activities.

A study session was held at the Botanical Gardens on the Saturday morning when consideration was given to the following questions related to "Strategy for the 80's in Evangelism" arising out of a brief report on the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia on Evangelism, held in Melbourne during March —

1. How can we develop leadership at the local church level?
2. How can we best involve and motivate our members?
3. What does it mean to be a member of the church?
4. How can we re-establish the identity of the church and Churches of Christ in the Australian community?
5. How can we best project an acceptable image?
6. How do we best motivate and involve our members?
7. How can we improve the quality of congregational church life?
8. How can we improve the quality of worship in our church life?
9. How can we improve the quality of the full-time ministry in the church life?
10. In an ever increasingly leisure orientated society, how should the church adapt its programmes to meet the needs of the society in which it exists?

11. How far should Conference be involved in local church programming?

Over 60 participated in this workshop, the purpose of the exercise being to gain the congregational feeling in relation to such questions instead of a few leading men of the Brotherhood who are regarded as specialists. 75 suggestions emanated from the discussions of 10 groups.

This year's conference theme — "Jesus is Lord and Coming King" — was adopted as the convention theme. Guest preacher was John Timms; the new appointed State Evangelist.

A sunrise service on the top of Mount Archer was an appropriate start to the Lord's day of resurrection.

A married man publicly rededicated his life to Christ at the close of the Sunday night gospel rally.

Two tapes containing the four addresses by John Timms are available from E. Larsen, Tape Ministry; 29 Wills Street; Coorparoo, 4151 at a cost per tape of \$3 plus postage of 50 cents.

A devotional period was conducted by Ern Paddick of Eidsvold on the Saturday afternoon.

On the Sunday afternoon a visit was paid to the Emu Park Youth Camp where a camp was in session. An enjoyable program presented by the campers provided a "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon".

Guest soloist at the Convention was Mrs J. H. Smith of Ann Street, Brisbane. Organist was Mrs Dorothy Knight of the church at Rockhampton. Mr and Mrs F. Spry, also of Rockhampton, shared in the ministry of song on the Saturday night.

The hospitality provided by members of the church at Rockhampton in their homes was one of the very enriching experiences of the Convention. Catering for the meals on the Saturday was the responsibility of Mrs T. Cummins. Father

LAURNESTON TO HOBART RUN

(From page 1)

The last day started badly with Greg running into Kempton to ring the R.A.C.T. The van wouldn't start! He then thumbed a ride to the finishing point of the previous night. Eventually after stopping and starting both the van and Greg were on their way. On the outskirts of Hobart Greg with his brother Warwick as running mate were filmed by A.B.C.T.V., subsequently being shown on the 7 p.m. news bulletin. On the last 16 km. stretch Hobart church members came out to greet him. Greg and Mark Powell joined him on the last 12 km. A triumphant crowd greeted Greg with streamers at the Collins St. Chapel. Still quite relaxed Greg posed for "The Mercury" photographer.

The money raised by this sponsored run is to go towards the debt incurred by the renovations of the Collins Street Chapel. This building, classified by the National Trust, has now a pleasant and warm atmosphere in which to worship. At this point \$2,341 has been banked and the final total is expected to be \$3421.

John Grace represented the local Ministers' Committee. Song leading was shared by Len Hearnden of Rockhampton and the conference secretary, John Sheriff of Brisbane.

"Thank you" to all who shared in what was a wonderful Convention.

ST. ARNAUD (P. Mathews). Peter Mathews welcomed into part time ministry . . . Prayer and Bible study commenced on a monthly basis . . . Church sharing in fellowship tea and services in homes each six weeks . . . Women's World Day of Prayer held in chapel with 80 present.

THE PLEA THAT MADE US A PEOPLE

(From page 13)

Do we expect to find in the New Testament a blue print for contemporary church government?

Do we expect to find a blue print for worship so that always "after supper" we must "sing a hymn"? (If we are to be that literal we must be consistent and follow the singing by going "out into the Mount of Olives".)

Or is there a dynamic life style, a living faith, and some eternal principles and practices that characterized New Testament Christianity at its best, and thus need restoring into the contemporary church?

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CHRISTIAN UNITY?

Do we mean everybody becoming like us?

Do we mean that we are the New Testament church and thus the one true church and that the way to unity is for everybody to join us?

Do we mean everybody worshipping as we do? (Actually our worship is more of a replica of eighteenth

century reformed worship than of that hinted at in the New Testament.)

Do we mean everybody adopting our congregational polity and independency which is more a product of nineteenth century liberalism than of the New Testament?

Do we mean uniformity or a unity allowing for a wide diversity and liberty in worship, doctrine, practice and ministry?

Do we mean an amorphous spiritual unity or do we mean organic unity? (There is no doubt that our fathers wanted visible organic unity, albeit that in America they envisaged it as a sort of loose democratic confederation, rather after the pattern of the political idealism of the time.)

Do we mean unity only with evangelicals, or with all churches?

Do we mean discovering with other Christians the unity that is in the mind of Christ for his church, and being open to the Holy Spirit to lead us to that unity by studying the scriptures together and worshipping and praying together?

THE CASINO ISSUE

Dr. T. A. Banks

Chairman Social questions committee

I wonder why developers of the Southgate complex (Victoria) have stated that the project will not go ahead if a licence to operate a casino is not granted? An hotel, a convention centre, liquor trading facilities are part of the Southgate complex. Why is a casino so important to the project? Logically, it would seem better to exclude a casino. More money to spend on alcohol, more time to be spent in conferences, less likelihood of bad debts would all seem to be reasons against a casino.

One can only conclude that greed is the driving force. Victoria already offers on and off course betting, Tattersalls, Tattslotto, Bingo, Soccer Pools, innumerable raffles and, of course, Melbourne Cup sweeps. The majority of the potential market for a casino would come from those people already spending money in these other forms of gambling. Somebody else wants a slice of the cake, and that at the expense of the some long-suffering public.

And from previous experience, the public will suffer more. There is evidence that street crime increases where casinos operate. People are mugged for one of two reasons. Either to steal the winnings at the casino, or to make up for losses. In each case the cost to the community through police action and medical services is increased.

Further to this, families suffer. Again, this can happen in two ways. Families can be neglected as one or both parents spend

time in the casino, trying to win the jackpot, or because of lost money, houses are reclaimed and family breakup occurs.

As important as these things may be however, casinos operations seem to be closely related to organised crime operations. There is overseas evidence to link prostitution, pornography and drug peddling with casino operations. There are those people who claim that that has already occurred with the casinos operating in Australia. And it is also claimed that one of the reasons for locating a casino in Melbourne is to enable Melbourne to be developed as the organised crime headquarters for Australia and possibly South-East Asia.

These are big claims and people who are pursuing this line of investigation do so at the risk of their lives. The Commission on Social Justice of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria has made two submissions to the Victoria Government on the casino issue. They amplify and develop those matters mentioned in this article. Copies are available from The Uniting Church Centre, 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

There is pressure developing for casinos in Australia, other than in Melbourne. We all need to be aware of the dangers. Even more, we must be politically active and approach members of parliament to prevent the proliferation of casinos.

I still wonder why there can be no Southgate complex if there is no casino.

MARCH EFFORT

A successful C.W.F. March Effort was held at Blackman Hall, State College Hawthorn on March 25 to aid the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

11 groups entered the variety program ably supported by men from various city churches.

Montrose C.W.F. group were the winners of the evening with Dandenong &

Oakleigh taking second prize and Nunawading third prize.

Miss Cheryl Barker was guest soloist with Mrs Effie Baker pianist.

Guest adjudicators were film & I.K. personalities Miss Evie Hayes and Harold & Marj Plummer from the "Changing Moods".

Musically, we were supported by a group of young men from the instrumental section of the "Changing Moods".



Choir under direction of Mrs. Effie Baker. Instrumental group "The Changing Moods".

COCIAK COLUMN

New Beginnings

There have been some changes in the ministry teams of some COCIAC churches. At the end of last year we said "Farewell" to WALLY GIBNEY, minister of the RICHMOND church and BERNIE DUFF of NORTH FITZROY. This year we welcome JULIE REID (REGIONAL BOARD), JOHN HARMER (NORTH FITZROY) and GRAEME AND BRONWYN ROGERSON (RICHMOND). A sense of joy and enthusiasm has accompanied these new beginnings.

Crisis Centre

A centre has been set up by the ASCOT VALE church to help children who have been thrust into crisis situations. It will provide care and accommodation for short periods of time while parents are in hospital or other various emergencies occur. Some of the church members are on the centre's board of management. JOY BUTLER would like to hear from people who can donate good clean clothing. Phone (03) 370 5502.

Members Join the Team

BRIAN AND CATHY TUNKS and JENNY WEARNE, new members at SOUTH MELBOURNE, join BOB FERGUSON and CLIFF BLOWERS to form a ministry team. BRIAN, CATHY AND JENNY hope to provide emergency accommodation for needy people in the South Melbourne area.

US BAPTIST WINS RELIGION PRIZE

An American Baptist, Dr Ralph Wendell Burhoe, 69, has been awarded the 1980 Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion.

Dr Burhoe, a Chicago scientist and theologian has been editor of the prestigious journal Zygon, which deals with the relationship between science and religion. He is also a member of the Institute of Religion and Science.

In announcing the award the Foundation said that Dr Burhoe "has elaborated a revolutionary hypothesis that finds religion central to the evolutionary emergence of civilised humanity. He has opened up the possibility that evolutionary theory, once considered the arch enemy of religion, now can be interpreted properly to show the inevitable necessity of religion."

Over many years C.W.F. ladies have worked on numerous programmes to raise funds for church and community projects, these have included talent quests, fashion parades, craft displays and a Celebrity Concert etc. The ladies are to be congratulated for the way in which they always rise to the occasion, to support the annual March Effort.

— F. Emmett . . . Convener 1980.

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN UNION

CHRISTIAN UNION SUNDAY JUNE 1



A Call to Action

Confronted with the struggles of the world and the ambiguities of history, we find ourselves in a situation like that of the disciples of Jesus when they had their final conversation with the risen Lord: "O Lord! Will you restore the kingdom to Israel?" We ask: "O Lord! Will you bring peace upon the earth? Will all earthly powers be defeated by the power of your kingdom? How long, oh Lord, shall we see the suffering of the innocent, the inability of humankind to solve the basic problems of justice?"

In our despair, we listen to the words of the risen Christ: "It belongs to God to care about the time and the season of the coming kingdom. It is for you to be my witnesses in the power of the Spirit, beginning in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth!" This is our call to action.

As we pray "Your Kingdom Come" we do so knowing that we commit ourselves to be loyal to the King and to proclaim his name to every creature, everywhere.

— From Introductory material
World Mission and Evangelism Conference
Melbourne May 12-25, 1980.

VICTOR VACA AN ECUMENICAL PERSON

As my conversation with Victor Vaca was ending, the 'phone rang. The 'phone call was from his wife and within a few seconds he said, "I have my friend, Trevor Banks from Australia with me." We had met for the first time about four hours earlier. Victor Vaca is a person with whom it is easy to be friendly.

The title "Friendship Mission" for a social promotion activity seemed most appropriate for a programme which he had developed. He came originally from Ecuador, but the Friendship Mission programme was developed in Paraguay as part of the Disciples of Christ (U.S.A.) Division of Overseas Ministry. Within the scope of the programme a co-operative was set up to give economic and technical assistance in rural work. An education programme was necessary to help people understand the new ideas; and Primary Health Care was also an important aspect of "Friendship Mission".

Unfortunately the government saw this self help programme as politically unacceptable and a number of personnel were imprisoned. Eventually Victor Vaca himself was taken into custody, but was released after two days on the proviso that he left the country within fifteen days and his with Friendship Mission was over.

As a trained sociologist he is now a staff worker on the Christian Medical Commission situated in Geneva. His task is to study ways and means by which primary health care programmes can be self supporting. When I met him he was preparing to visit Papua New Guinea and New Hebrides (plus other places). He sees his role not one of solving problems but helping people solve their own problems.

Why is Victor Vaca doing this work? He sees the gospel of Jesus Christ as being for the man; and so that he can share the fruit of the spirit which God has given to him, he must develop close relationships with other men, just as Jesus was involved with those who were materially and spiritually poor.

Victor Vaca is by nationality an Equadorian, a citizen of the world and a disciple of Jesus Christ. He is also a servant of all mankind, called to take the gospel with him. He is in fact an ecumenical person.

SHALL WE UNITE?

A survey of church union negotiations in the 1970's makes interesting reading for people of Churches of Christ. It is not surprising to note the involvement of churches of our tradition in a number of these discussions. The conviction that God desires the unity of his church is a heritage from our founding fathers.

Some of our 'sister' churches have already joined what Barton Stone described as the "body of Christ at large". We see Churches of Christ (Disciples) participating in The United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodun), the United Church in the Philippines, the Church of North India, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Church of Christ in Zaire and the Church of Christ in Thailand.

In other parts of the world Churches of Christ (Disciples) have been involved in union negotiations in the 1970's. In U.S.A., Disciples of Christ are discussing with the United Church of Christ, as well as being part of the Consultation on Church Union, while in Canada the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Canada are continuing to talk together. In Latin America, Disciples of Christ are part of the Committee for Church Union in Argentina and Paraguay. The story in Great Britain and New Zealand is one of negotiations reaching a certain stage and then having to be reviewed, but in both countries discussions are continuing. In Africa, Churches of Christ had been involved in Union negotiations in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Malawi until political pressures limited the discussions.

Church union is a difficult, frustrating and often painful business, but there were more than thirty negotiating committees operating in the seventies. Despite our small worldwide membership, our influence, where we have been involved in

such negotiations, has been extraordinary; as Churches of Christ (Disciples) we have been part of the struggle to rediscover the Unity of Christ's church.

A UNITING OFFER

Ocean Grove Church of Christ is one of the newest churches in Victoria, having commencing meeting in 1977. It has quickly accepted a role in the Christian community of that seaside resort. The church is active in the Inter-church Council and has shared special services with the local Uniting Church.

Arising out of this co-operation, the Uniting Church approached the small Church of Christ congregation with the offer of the use of the Uniting Church building. From its start the church had met in a large room in the home of Les and Jean Poole. The Church of Christ accepted the offer and now the noticeboard facing the main thoroughfare in Ocean Grove bears the names Uniting Church and Church of Christ.

The Uniting church has been generous in their offer. Provision has been made for weekly communion and storage space provided, and the matter of contribution for use of property has been left with the Church of Christ. In this way, without a big capital investment, this young church is being encouraged in its witness. And the church building witnesses more fully to the gospel of the reconciling Christ.

The Sunday morning programme in this building is as follows:-

9.30 a.m. Uniting Worship and Bible School,

10.30 a.m. Fellowship "cuppa" allowing the two congregations to meet each other,

11.00 a.m. Church of Christ Communion service.

This will continue for twelve months when it will be reviewed. In the meantime these two congregations rejoice in what the Lord is doing among them.

SUCCESS OF NATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE HAILED

After three intensive days of consultation and planning, delegates to the National Evangelism Conference left Monbulk acclaiming the Conference as an outstanding success.

REPRESENTATIVES

Each State and Territory was represented at the conference which was held March 7-10. Representatives were selected by each State to give a balance of men and women, ministers and lay people. All the representatives have an interest or responsibility for evangelism at a local level, state or national level. A feature of the conference was the participation of Federal Department representatives including the "Australian Christian" College of the Bible, Literature, Christian Education, Aborigines and Overseas Missions.

CLIMAX

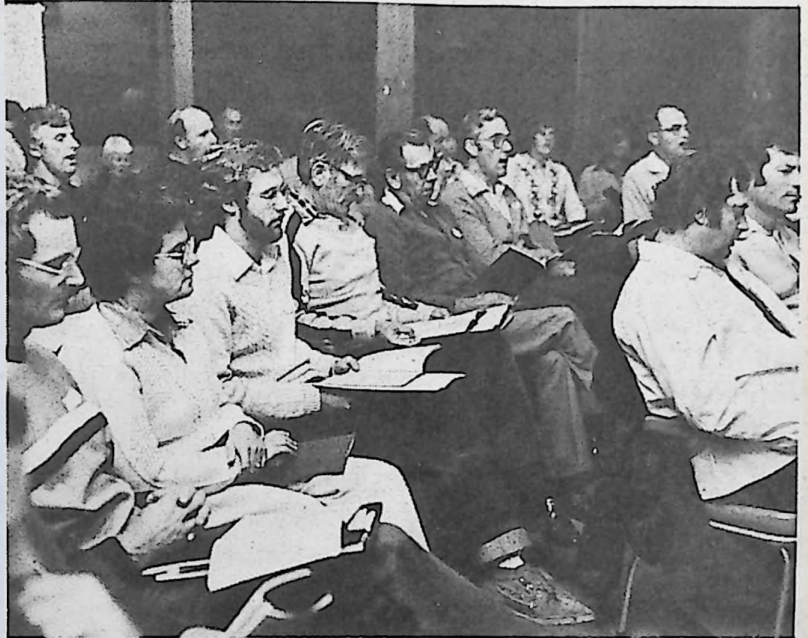
The conference climaxed over a year of planning by State Home Missions Departments. Kevin Crawford, Federal Conference President, was chairman of the conference. The conference got off to an inspirational start as Vic-Tas field director Jeff Deuble, led the representatives in a sharing of their personal interests, plans and hopes for evangelism in the Brotherhood. Ted Keating of Blackburn began each day with a Bible study series. (Notes will be available). The Saturday of conference saw the representatives examining issues in Australian society and grappling with the ways we can make an adequate response to this challenge. Barry McMurtrie in a major address, challenged the representatives to a re-examination of strategies for local church and Brotherhood evangelism in the 80's. Representatives from each State began the process of working through a strategy in evangelism for their State.

WORKSHOPS

On the second day, conference divided into workshops where representatives



Kevin Crawford addresses conference representatives.



Representatives share in a group worship.

shared their ideas. Workshops topics included lay training, family and singles ministry, congregational outreach through missions, personal witnessing, church auxiliaries and groups. Public relations and social awareness issues also received attention.

NATIONAL PLANNING

The third day of the conference was spent in developing strategies at a national level. This was one of the most exciting aspects of the conference which as a whole was characterised by a spirit of unity and commitment to advancing our

work throughout Australia. Ideas listed for consideration and action at a national level included such matters as a call to prayer, nation-wide Bible study, development of a logo, planning for national advertising, a stimulus to evangelism and the church growth emphasis, national and state goal setting and support for Aboriginal evangelism which is in a significant period of development. These and numerous other issues will be receiving attention in the next few months. A full report of conference proceedings and recommendations will be presented at Federal Conference.

TURNING LOSS INTO PROFIT

How they did it at Chatswood, N.S.W.

The Chatswood church looked like being "down the drain" by \$2,000 of its budgeted income at the end of the financial year. As the minister and his family have to eat and as bills and debts have to be paid, it looked as though the shortage would have to be borne by that significant part of all church budgets, "Brotherhood Departments." But that solution was no good to a Brotherhood-minded church like Chatswood.

"LET'S PRAY ABOUT IT"

So they got down to some consistent praying about the matter. Out of this came a Dedication Day on which people were invited to come to the church at convenient times during the day to say a prayer, to make a personal act of dedication and to make a gift towards the \$2,000

deficit. All day people came and went in ones and twos and as families, making their gifts of themselves and their money.

ANSWERED PRAYER

At the end of the day they had \$3,200. They did not give the \$2,000 to the Brotherhood and keep the \$1,200 for themselves. They gave the lot to the Brotherhood. After that weekly offerings increased so much that the budget was exceeded anyhow!

MARYBOROUGH (K. Haythorpe).

Resignation of secretary Gordon Wright received with regret. Aegar Kingma new secretary . . . Joy Club re-commenced. Visiting the elderly is part of program . . . Picnic lunch followed service at which speaker was from Gideons . . . Outreach program planned.

OBITUARY

ANDREWS, Campbell (8.3.80).

Cam died in the Castlemaine Hospital on March 8. Cam was born at Drummond, Vic. 71 years ago. He always enjoyed working out of doors in the country. For several years he worshipped in Castlemaine and the last eight years at Harcourt. Cam will always be remembered for his faithfulness to the gospel and by his friendly handshake to all. His first wife and son predeceased him and he later married Lil Castle and to her and the family we offer our sympathy. A. Mudford (Cam's uncle) conducted the services both at the Harcourt church and the cemetery.

— C. M. R.

LAND AVAILABLE - MADANG CHRISTIAN CENTRE A POSSIBILITY

A dream is coming true.

A Christian centre in Madang is a possibility. From a meeting in a lounge room, the church at Madang moved to a rented work-shop. As many as 200 people crowded in for services of worship. Something more permanent as a place of worship was needed.

In addition to the praying and the dreaming, action was taken. It was discovered that there was one piece of leasehold land which was to be allocated by the government for church buildings and for housing. The Church of Christ in Madang made written application for the land as soon as it was gazetted as being available.

The urgent need for housing was highlighted when Pekene and his family were flooded out of a house which they were renting. Still further, the second of two flats, both of which had been rented in Madang, was no longer available. This meant that the only house available for rent was the one occupied by the business manager.

Then the land control Board in Madang called for the various groups who had applied for the land to send representatives to be interviewed. Pastor Pekene and Mike Wythes represented the Church of Christ at Madang.

After another delay the word came through. The land was granted to the Madang Church of Christ for 99 years at a rental of less than A\$10 each year. There was great rejoicing. But there was a proviso. The church has to erect \$30,000 worth of buildings within the next 12 months.

Already the Field Council is considering the requirements which have to be met. Not only is there the need for two houses and a place of worship, but the whole project will need to be in keeping with the cultural patterns of the Papua New Guinea people.

When the plans are drawn they will need to be approved. Then the best way to build the centre will be decided. In the past, work parties from Australia have done a great job. Whether or not work permits will be granted by the Papua New Guinea government for another voluntary effort will need to be resolved before any action can be taken in this area.

"THE CHRISTIAN"

GOES TO A FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It is aptly named. This Friendship Club specialises in friendship. It is not some slick, packaged friendship, forced or contrived. It is just there. Most of these senior citizens have experienced or are experiencing loneliness. Knowing how it feels and hurts, they move more easily alongside of each other to fill the loneliness gaps. We talked to one woman who attends four such groups. "It makes it easier to take the long lonely nights," she said.

IN THE HAROLD N. WATKINS HALL

The Friendship Club meets in the Harold N. Watkins Hall of the Gardiner Church of Christ. Harold Watkins was its leader for many years. Commenced by Reg Coutts in July 1957 the club has notched up nearly 24 years. Prominent on the wall are the colour pictures of its 21st birthday celebrations. Wal Strongman was its second leader, Today's leader being Arthur Taylor.

EVERY MONDAY

The Friendship Club meets each Monday from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m., including afternoon tea . . . usually with Ingrid Gilmour's scones. Programs are mainly non-participatory. Crafts and games and bowls have been tried without success. The concensus is for light entertainment by visiting groups and community singing. While we were there this varied from "Singing in the Rain" to "How Great Thou Art." They always open and close with a hymn and prayer.

The membership of the club represents all denominations and none. Its oldest attending member is foundation member Mrs Major Foley (94 years) one of the earliest Salvation Army officers in Australia. She still recites "The Inventor's Wife" and "The Touch of the Master's Hand" and plays the cymbals.

NOT SO MANY THERE

Win Minter is the efficient and highly organised secretary cum hostess cum counsellor of the Club. She explained to us that the transport strike on that day had depleted the numbers. We counted over 50 including 5 men. Most of the members are widows.

Ingrid Gilmour is pianist and programme organiser. This includes arranging two bus tours a year. Len Butler of Hartwell Friendship Club was showing travel slides when we arrived. Alan Rowe had been entertaining the week before.

CHRISTMAS

Once a year the whole group work very hard for several weeks to put together a Christmas celebration.

Over the years a number of club members have made commitments and joined the church. Although the club is independent of the church, church and club work along side each other in mutually helpful ways. "The Malvern News Sheet" features the Club from time to time and apart from word of mouth this is the only advertising done.

THE VALUE OF SUCH A CLUB

Club members briefly worship at the beginning and end of each programme and recognise that God is there. A few have joined the church. They celebrate the birth of our Lord. These alone would be good enough reasons for such an activity to be sponsored by the church. But as well as that is its main mission . . . to fill a very lonely gap in the lives of a lot of people. One lady told us that the only people she knows in all the world are the members of the Friendship Club. It is a friendship club indeed. (Ed.)

WAGGA WAGGA ON THE MOVE

The indefatigable Bill Taylor (ministering with Terry Grant at Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.) is back from holidays and launched into orbit. That is Bill. Like Arnold Caldicott, he is always "flat out for the Lord."

Bill and Margaret have just sent to their friends a circular letter complete with hand drawn illustrations telling of a fishing holiday on the "Old Bar Beach" and of happenings at Wagga. Some of it is worth sharing.

NINETY-TWO BIBLE TEACHERS.

Bill received training from the "Bethel Bible Study" organization so that he could be a trainer of teachers. He trained 13. They will now conduct two year group courses for 92 others, and that's some going in any church! The 92 does not include the young people who are shaping up for a program of their own.

LOTS OF OTHER THINGS.

Wagga has a Tuesday morning group which reaches 20 women and 18 children from the church's pastoral care but outreach is done through competitive basketball. 80% of the members use "Daily Bread" family Bible reading notes. And a fourth member has been added to the ministry team of Bill, Margaret and Terry. She is Nai-Lan who is just back from honeymoon with Terry.

HITTING THE HEADLINES.

Wagga church is publicity conscious. The local press has been telling the story of their Easter Camp for 120 in the forestry huts at "Blowering Dam." The local paper also tells of the involvement of the church in the Bethel program. Wagga Wagga is more than an unusual name in collections of "Australiana." It is a place where the local Church of Christ is on the ball. (Ed.)

GROWING IN THE 80's

Stanwell Tops is Growing: To cater for Federal Conference, Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre is also growing with the erection of a new site to be known as Boronia Place to accommodate 40 in ten rooms. Each room has its own shower and toilet facilities. This site will be officially opened at Federal Conference.

National Strategy of Evangelism: Key folk from each State recently met in Melbourne to assist with ideas towards the creation of a Strategy of Outreach for each State and across Australia. It is planned to release this information in conjunction with the Minister's Seminar and Federal Conference.

Special Men's Session — Monday, October 6, 1980. While the women are meeting in their special conference, we

have decided the men shouldn't be left behind and therefore on this day four special sessions have been planned for men—

1. Man at the top.
2. My most important work.
3. Man to Man where you are.
4. Men — It's up to you.

Monday, October 6 is to be featured as Family Day at Federal Conference. It is a public holiday in New South Wales and members in New South Wales will be encouraged to come as a family and special sessions are being provided for women, men and young people.

Another feature of the day will be a great Brotherhood picnic/barbecue in the grounds of Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre.



Stanwell Tops — Boronia Place to be opened at Federal Conference

INDIAN TOUR PARTY

A Tour Party to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the work in India has been planned for November 11 to December 7. Due to steep oil cost rises the tour costs are estimated to be \$3,000.

The party must have a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 persons.

Bookings must be made and the full money paid by June 30. For further information see advertisement in this journal. Then write to the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board, P.O. Box 320, Unley, S.A. 5061.

KNOXFIELD (E. L. Williams). E. L. Williams accepted invitation to continue part-time ministry in 1981 . . . Church has walking, jogging, running group operate each Saturday . . . S.S. conducted nursery rhyme evening . . . Explorer boys completed for first time in outdoor sports.

are less ready for such increased co-operation. It believes that official negotiations for union with the Uniting Church or any other communion would be premature at this stage.

The Commission outlined those areas where there could be problems in consummating a union with other communions. They are baptism, administration and frequency of communion, congregational autonomy, our understanding of the mutual ministry, and a fear of loss of identity.

A VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT

All Brotherhood leaders would find the report (of which we have only been able to give a brief sample) stimulating as they look to the future in their own states. Churches of Christ are living in 1980 and not 1809, and their witness and life will be invalid unless they are relevant now. (EDITOR).

WHERE TO CHURCHES OF CHRIST?

Is This The Shape of the Future?

South Australian Churches of Christ set up a Commission to discover where the Brotherhood is now and where it is likely to go in the future in the areas of Brotherhood Structure, Ministry, Ecumenical Strategies.

The Commission of five people worked for a year and a half, studying 217 comprehensive submissions, and now has reported to the South Australian Conference. The report is attractively presented in booklet form.

Some of the findings are of interest to all of our people and we offer here a sampling of them.

STRUCTURE

The report recommends that the staff structure can be changed with a view to a minimum of "in office" administration and a maximum of "out in the field" assistance to ministers and churches. It recommends a General Administrator in the office to administer the work now being done by all Departments. He would be assisted by necessary clerical staff. Partly in the office, but mainly in the field would be a General Minister to be a pastor to churches and ministers, a resource person for church programs and a general builder up of Brotherhood morale. There would be two field officers working amongst the churches in the areas of Christian education and home mission. There would still be a Conference President, but the suggestion is that he should be selected on the basis of ability to give leadership to the people, and that he be appointed for two years.

MINISTRY

The Commission reported wide spread dissatisfaction amongst ministers and churches with the present system of placement, especially that of Advisory Departments trying to match minister with church on a "one at a time" basis. The Commission recommended

a. that churches, ministers and advisory boards co-operate to prepare by September 1st each year a list of vacancies and available ministers for the end of the following year.

b. that this list be supplied to churches likely to be vacant so that ministers can be called from it.

c. that churches and ministers fill out a comprehensive dossier giving information about themselves for mutual consideration in negotiating a call.

d. that the matter of calls be dealt with expeditiously so that they are all finalised by the middle of the year.

Under this system the function of the Advisory Board would be simply to advise ministers and churches where that advice was sought.

ECUMENICAL LIFE

The Commission noted a lot of healthy inter-church co-operation on local levels. It recommends that such co-operation should be encouraged, but that haste in this direction be balanced with some caution for the sake of those churches which

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN JOURNALIST ISN'T ALL PLAIN SAILING

Young Christian free-lance journalist Alan Austin wanted to break into big business and pull the strings for God. He felt that the power in society was in the hands of a few rich business tycoons,

Austin decided to become a powerful business man and use whatever power he could gain to further the work of Christ.

Before he managed to get off the ground in his multi-national business climb, he discovered that Jesus probably had the chance to become a leading Jewish businessman, but had opted for the role of suffering servant instead.

Austin says from that point on he began to mature and turned his ambitions to teaching and accountancy. His thoughts were being influenced, too, by some radical Christian writers and thinkers at the time: Jack Sparks in the US, Os Guinness and Jim Punton in Britain, and Dr Athol Gill and John Smith in Australia. To be a writer and make people more aware of Western exploitation of the Third World became a driving ambition.

For the last term of 1977 and first two terms of 1978, Alan went into full-time teaching at Kingswood College in Melbourne. He taught English, sociology, and general studies.

Writing wasn't Alan Austin's only

media gift. In 1976 he had started making regular cartoon contributions to The Bulletin. His 'Professor Price' cartoon ran for 18 months in that paper.

Austin was already moving in religious journalism. In August 1977 he was commissioned by Church Scene to produce the cartoon series called 'Ken Kolombus Discovers the World'. In Adelaide he began writing for the Central Times. It was his column in the Central Times, 'Slingshots by David', that brought a great degree of controversy. In a deluge of letters to the editor, Alan was accused of bringing politics into a Christian paper. In reaction to the controversy, Austin wrote: "'Slingshots" encourages people to examine their beliefs about society and the way it is governed, and also to look at the implications of the Gospel.'

At the same time Alan Austin was writing his still popular 'Mustard Seeds' for the Australian Christian, and here too, creating his fair share of letters to the editor.

Christian papers were not frightened off by this criticism. In March 1978 Alan began his column 'Let's See' in the Melbourne Anglican diocesan monthly, See.

'In those days I wasn't sensitive enough to reaction when dealing with party

politics and controversial material', says Austin.

Last year he achieved his ambition by making journalism his sole profession. He added to his list of newspapers the Nation Review and the Baptist Witness. The new column for Victorian Baptists is called 'The Kingdom and its Justice'.

The full-page cartoon series, 'Ken Kolombus Discovers the World', won for Alan Austin the Australian Religious Press Association award for best feature of 1978. Twelve months earlier, he won the humour section of Nation Review's Great Cartoon Comp.

As a journalist working 50% in secular and 50% in Christian media, Alan Austin says he sees his framework as being as well informed as possible about the realities of this world, and at the same time to be as well read as possible in Scripture.

This year Alan has his own radio program on Radio Australia. This program would reach over 200 million people. Entitled "Faith in Action" it is a round-up of religious news and events in Australia and around the world. He has also this year been the regular feature writer for "Nation Review" in the area of national politics and economics.

(From "Australian Religious Press Association Bulletin.")

Agnew for Marion

The church at Marion, in Adelaide, is happy to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Graham Agnew, now at Brooklyn Park will move in in 1981. The Brooklyn Park church shared the concern for Marion, and agreed to release him earlier than his term permitted. This was an act of grace which has compelled the Marion church to undertake a prayer covenant for Brooklyn church that their minister needs will be met speedily.

Since the opening of the complex last June the church has grown with quite some rapidity. Robert Clymer completed his ministry in December, after a time of excellent leadership which, with the work of George Mathelson Jr., which resulted in the formation of Marion church. Eric Hollard came in on a part-time ministry, but since the turn of the year has been full time and will continue until the coming of the Agnews.

During the 10 months in the complex 56

have been added to the church membership, and scarce a Sunday passes without new faces appearing. Programs are now mounting up with Arts and Crafts, pre-School group, sporting activities being part of the program. During March the average at morning worship was 223, and at night 150.

The division of labour program has worked well, with all members becoming part of a Departmental action. Care Partners are concerned for one another as an active Pastoral Concerns Department operates.

The delightful complex of buildings is a source of attraction to others as inter-church gatherings seem to head this way, and the warmth of welcome newcomers receive makes them keep coming back.

Marion church has a remarkable future ahead of it, and the coming of the Agnews is a source of great rejoicing.

— Eric P.C. Hollard

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PAPER

Vic. Boettcher, Immediate Past President of the Queensland Conference (for a second time) is another long distance reader of the "A.C."

He must have read "The Christian" along with his school primer, for he claims 67 years of readership. While at the College of the Bible he read the library copy for nothing! On leaving College 50 years ago he began subscribing.

We gladly offer him a free 51st year subscription. Vic. has served his 50 years of ministry in Queensland. (Ed.)

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CAMBERWELL (R. V. Longthorpe, A. Tanner). Letterdrop completed and valuable contacts made . . . "Your Kingdom Come" study groups meeting . . . Both table tennis teams won pennants which were presented in church . . . Sympathy expressed to Mrs. Joyce Furrer on the death of her husband . . . Mrs. Nancy Allsop admitted to Murrumbena Nursing home . . . Combined picnic held with Gardiner at Scotch College . . . Church board studying plans for a regional church.

RED HILL (A. Pigdon, D. Walladge). At church anniversary Conf. Pres. G. Foot speaker. Luncheon and afternoon service followed where Price family and team

If the cap fits . . .

(A prayer attributed to an elderly nun.)

Lord, You know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but You know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains but help me to endure them with patience . . .

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint — some of them are so hard to live with — but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people . . . and the grace to tell them so.

sang . . . N. Newton (Southport, Qld.) recent speaker . . . Ladies fellowship led recent gospel service . . . Harvest Festival gifts sent to C.O.B. and church homes. Y.P. presented playlet "Cloyd Nine" and E. Terry showed audio-visual . . . On Easter Sunday Rev. Erng, O.M.S. speaker . . . Y.P. held square dance and missions benefit by \$190 . . . Operation World offering of \$84 at Wagmodi — Allsop meeting reviewing Indian trip.

NSW

THORNLEIGH (D. W. Mansell). R. F. Bartholomew conducted Good Friday service. Church barbecue lunch held same day at Galston Park . . . Easter Sunday speakers were D. W. Mansell and Mr Neville . . . Eight Y.P. attended D.C.E. camp at Stanwell Tops for Easter.

WO

MANDURAH (M. Suter). Many visitors over Easter . . . Church joined in witness march after service on Good Friday . . . Alex MacKay from Carnarvon mission home on holidays showed slides . . . Prayer meetings held regularly at Falcon, near Miami . . . Kindergarten increasing . . . C.W.F. donating a Bible monthly to build up stock for schools . . . Several boxes of clothing sent to missions . . . Harvest Festival goods sent to Christian Centre.

NORTHAM (M. Randell). Baptism of three adults Easter Sunday . . . M. Randell commencing teaching of homeletics for Cunderdin and Northam men . . . C.W.C.I. Convention with speaker Elaine Henderson and discussion groups held in afternoon . . . Suggested church program presented to church at a dinner . . . Friendship meetings this year on "A New Creation" (March) and in April "You and Your Health" with Mrs M. Bowen from Health Shop.

MERREDIN, BRUCE ROCK (D. Good). Recent baptisms in both churches . . . Merredin Harvest Festival proceeds went to C.O.C.O.A. . . . Guides and Brownies service held at Merredin . . . Film "Strangers from Galilee" screened at both churches . . . Merredin and Bruce Rock Uniting churches appreciate our ministers pastoral care and oversight whilst they are without a minister. Combined Good Friday and Easter Sunday services held. Also quarterly combined service with Bruce Rock Uniting Church.

VIC

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezandanner). Church voted to continue meeting at 10 a.m. . . . About 70 attended barbecue at home of Graham and Rosemary Bryant in aid of mutual market project . . . Bryant family successful exhibitors at Red Hill show winning five firsts for cooking . . . May Jenkins shared her experiences of a trip to India at luncheon in the garden of Henry and Jess Lee-Archer . . . Rudy and Belle Andreason organised a garage sale and raised \$367. Rudy however severed a finger whilst using a power saw.

WATTLE PARK Y.P. undertook gardening job and donated \$40 to U.A.M., Fitzroy Crossing, where Jim Bunstan is stationed . . . Church Growth Comm.

begun visitation to homes in area . . . Section 2 tennis team won grand final. Tennis club led recent service then shared luncheon . . . C.Y.F. held weekend camp at Taggerty. 20 took part, John and Eira Clapp counsellors . . . Church extends sympathy to Mrs Cole and daughter Helen at the sudden death of Mr Cole . . . "Fish" group led service Palm Sunday. Three Y.P. spoke . . . Baptism held.

NUNAWADING (E. C. Keating, P. B. Burnham, C. H. J. Wright). Planned giving program with Ian Tippet resulted in pledges of \$2,000 . . . C.W.F. came third in March Effort song in costume . . . Community toy library established . . . E. C. Keating conducted studies at Monbulk for Regional Evangelism for C. of C. . . C.W.A.F. visited Mill Valley Ranch . . . Over 100 involved in board v. rest of church cricket match, whilst board wives and daughters played rest of church at netball. C.Y.F. girls challenged boys to a game of netball . . . Second Y.P. Gateway service held with Y.A.F. Singers . . . C.Y.F. held Sunday afternoon bike ride . . . Church family camp held at Creswick Caravan Park with open air services Friday and Sunday mornings and "singalongs" around campfire . . . Average evening attendance up 22% . . . Unhit camp held at Cowes . . . First A.B.M. of Nunawading C. of C. held.

STRATHMORE (Stan Bannon, Jim Spiker). Alan Nicholls Vice-President of local Christian education in schools . . . Yearly business meeting held . . . Alan Rowe compared church cabaret arranged by Skillicorns and Spikers . . . Good Companions recommencing under the leadership of Anthea Spiker and Heather Reaburn . . . Explorers to recommence under the leadership of Alan Thomson and Phillip Hill . . . Mary and Brian Hocking leading After-Church Fellowship . . . Baptismal service held . . . C.W.F. took part in March Effort . . . "Leisure Time" continues to grow.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). 94th anniversary and homecoming held. Guest speaker Reg Hilbrick. Luncheon, entertainment by Yukana Singers and screening of Warragul C. of C. film "Our Church in Our Community" followed . . . Norman Harris admitted to hospital to undergo major operation . . . Arthur Winterton out of hospital . . . C. W. Pedersen received surprise party for 80th birthday.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (P. Pitts, R. Frazer). Robert Frazer welcomed as student minister . . . Seven have begun Bethel teacher training . . . Outdoor Harvest Festival held on farm . . . Tennis club held church parade and trophy presentation . . . Paul and Judy Williams spoke of work in N.G., Bruce Skillicorn of work with A.I.M. . . . Y.P. attended Happening '80, also many rode in Y.F.C. Red Cross bike-a-thon. Gavin Lee presented with gold ingot for highest sponsorship . . . Robyn Petrosanec, Cheryl Seiffert and Heather Pitts teaching R.I. in schools . . . Helen Grueber assisting in visitation. . . . Dedication service held for officers . . . Dr. Barry Edwards spoke of experiences in Philippines with Gideons . . . Y.P. presented selections from Witness on Palm Sunday . . . Baptismal service for six, two further decisions, five rededications . . . Nine senior girls and

leaders Marion Carroll and Cheryl Fletcher camped at Yallambi . . . 24 Y.P. attended Easter camp at Halls Gap . . . 10 women at C.W.F. camp also at Halls Gap . . . Three teams completed in Y.F.C. volleyball tournament.

HORSHAM (W. Gibney). Church board invited over 60s to luncheon and P.S.A. 50 attended . . . Explo '80 film screened . . . "Encounter" groups commenced for all over 16 . . . Harvest Festival held and sale of goods raised \$87 for Bethany Children's Home, Tas. . . . Speakers on Easter Sunday were David Harmer and Bob Tucker . . . New S. S. Supt. J. and L. Kollmorgen . . . R. Baker of Sudan United Mission guest speaker.

PEEL ST., BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham). Following media publicity husband and wife Brian and Heather Parsons witnessed each others baptism. Daughter Christine subsequently baptised and son David (Melbourne Uni) welcomed into fellowship . . . Visits made in past month by Geoff Foot (Conf. Pres.) and Clive Ward (Conf. Sec.).

BORONIA (Harvey Miller). Planned Giving review showed 35% increase in giving . . . At annual meeting Graham Bergmeier elected to board. Noel Cartmel resigned after 16 years service. Ministers term extended by further three years . . . Bible studies commenced on "Your Kingdom Come" . . . Combined churches service held at St. Josephs R. C. church . . . C.W.T. participated in "Song in Costume" . . . Church picnic, barbecue held after recent morning service . . . Ministers office now in church building . . . Song group formed to assist in services . . . Church saddened at the death of Betty Brown.

HARCOURT (Sandra Wilson). Dawn service held at park on Good Friday conducted by combined churches of Harcourt . . . Combined Harvest Festival with Uniting Church held in garden of Mr. and Mrs. Leversha. Produce sent to C.O.B. and Alexander Home for the Aged, Castlemaine . . . Church saddened by the death of Cam Andrews.

BURWOOD (P. Wing Tang, B. Williams). New C.W.F. officers are R. Marley (Pres.) and J. Williams (Sec.) . . . Recent guest speakers have been Russ Ritchie (Abor. Board), Phil Chapman and Leslie Bunston (India Sharing Venture), J. Giles (Bible Soc.) . . . Genesis 1 & 2 youth groups progressing under leadership of ministers . . . Harvest Festival arranged by S.S. Goods forwarded to Christian Guest Home . . . Oakover Choir conducted evening service . . . Church expresses sympathy to George Beard and Betty Knights and Kev Knights in the death of their mothers.

NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn Schaefer). Robyn Schaefer resumes ministry after leave of absence. Husband Hannes and Chris Ambrose shared pulpit . . . Harvest Festival service goods sent to C.O.B. . . . Maundy Thursday service held . . . New board members elected were W. Ellison, R. Chapple, N. Pebbles, Mrs. Chapple and Ann Pebbles . . . Informal family worship service now held at 9.30 a.m. in conjunction with B.S. . . . Mrs Allan's relations shared musical gifts in recent service.



MAKE A RESERVATION

for your

NEXT HOLIDAY NOW

- 1. TOUR TO CAIRNS WITH A.C.T.S./TRANS OTWAY** Leaving from Melbourne on June 21st this 26 day coach tour travels via Sydney and Brisbane to Cairns and return with little duplication of route. The generous sightseeing includes visits to Hayman, Daydream, Green, Magnetic and South Molla Islands and a cruise through Whitsunday. This is a good value tour priced at \$1275 from Melbourne; \$1018 from Sydney; and \$721 from Brisbane.
- 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.

	from MELBOURNE	ADELAIDE	SYDNEY	BRISBANE
By Air to Alice Springs	\$859.00	\$734.00	\$888.00	\$983.00
By Rail to Alice Springs	\$948.00	\$775.00	\$1002.00	\$1110.00
- 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.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH TRAVEL SERVICE

(Director: Rev. W. M. Constable)

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VIC

PARKDALE (B. Waldron). Eight house parties enabled new minister to meet members . . . Officers held weekend retreat . . . Tennis team reached finals . . . Evening services have featured the Changing Moods, Gospel Theatre Productions, special Easter services . . . Prayer program planned for May, June with aim of establishing cell groups.

MILDURA (B. Brown). Church and Christian Education Dept. combined to hold picnic in Kenny Park, Merbein . . . Junior church recommenced at the beginning of March . . . C.W.F. held a cake and produce stall in church grounds during grape harvest raising \$250 for special missionary effort . . . Kaleidoscope invited to present "The Witness" in Catholic Church at Red Cliffs as a part of Easter celebrations. The musical will be repeated in the Mildura Art Centre and again at Loxton.

BRIGHTON. (H. Bischoff). Ministry team H. Bischoff, David Brooker (Student C.O.B.) and Debbie Wright (C.O.B.) . . . Church saddened by loss of Harold Kenner and Mrs Dorothy Howitt each in fellowship for nearly 50 years . . .

W.A.S.P. program (each Tuesday) for Primary School children commenced 4th year. Average attendance 30. Debbie Wright leader . . . Church choir celebrated its 50th consecutive year in November . . . Indexed records covering 120 years of Brighton's history presented to Historical Society for inclusion in Brotherhood Archives . . . Church picnic (Jells Park) . . . Choir presented Easter cantata . . . Faith Smith (former student minister) related experiences of India as member of the Indian Sharing Venture.

NORTH FITZROY (J. Harmer). Members conducted evening services at Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, during March . . . 107th anniversary had A. Haskell (Williamstown) song leader and J. Harmer speaker . . . Presentation made to Les Trotter after 20 years as secretary and treasurer . . . Communion feast held Easter Eve . . . Visitation to contact homes with leaflets with Easter message . . . One commitment to Christ recently.

BENTLEIGH (Chris MacKenzie). C.W.F. held pre-Easter service on the Wednesday. Church service on Good Friday . . . Bruce Skillicorn spoke at evening service about Africa Inland Mission. Bruce will be going to Nairobi, Kenya, the first from Australia in 20 years . . . Mr and Mrs Chris Herbert from O.M.F. recent speakers on work in Indonesia . . . Fellowship tea held.

KEILOR EAST (C. Johnson). 60 attended five house parties to begin new year . . . 41 attended church family camp at Taggerty . . . Minister a Victorian delegate to Fed Conf. on Evangelism at Monbulk, also led Canberra churches family camp at Cooma . . . Seven undertaking leadership training course prior to commencement of growth groups . . . Jeff Cheal presented musical afternoon with Lynette Leach and Margaret Reid . . . 27 Y.P. and leaders attended Youth Happening at Belgrave Heights . . . Faith Smith told of experiences in India.

CHELTENHAM (A. White, S. Wilson, M. Humphries, D. Smith). Graham Hilbig elected chairman of new board, Fred Drummond convener of elders . . . Young Disciples took both morning services, on mountaineering, while C.Y.F. and Reflection choir presented the Warm Fuzzies at an evening service . . . New church life program on worship and membership discussed . . . New name competition being conducted for S.S. alternative . . . Chaplains from schools, hospitals and industry attended what may become an annual event . . . Church taking out advertisements in Moorabbin Standard newspaper featuring life in the church.

PASCOE VALE (Julie Reid). Regular family teas have included feed back from Sharing in India Venture of which the minister was a part, and Prahran singers assisted with a service . . . Bible studies "Thy Kingdom Come" each Wed. night . . . Good Companions led Easter morning service . . . Minister home tutoring migrants . . . Newly formed Minister's Fraternal in P.V. . . . Ladies' group held snowball drive.

YARRAWONGA (K. H. Pitt). Three decisions at recent services . . . Three ladies represented church at Christian Women's Convention at Belgrave . . . Two Y.P. baptised . . . Easter sunrise service by the lake preceded barbecue breakfast . . . Film night sponsored by Y.P. . . . "Searchers" youth group sponsoring four y.p. to go to Explo '80 in May.



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TAS

NUBEENA (Cec Neville). Young Christians sharing group formed . . . Luncheon held for ladies to meet C.W.F. Vic.-Tas. Pres. Mrs Helen Banks . . . 1980 Easter hike held at Saltwater River, 59 participating . . . S.S. contributed to evening service Easter Sunday . . . Five boys added to Boys' Brigade bringing total to 20.

HOBART (George Powell, John Morrow). New cross in Collins St. chapel constructed by Elder Les Moore in position and illuminated for Passover service Easter Thursday. 93 attended . . . Chairman of board, Greg Foot, completed marathon run from Launceston to Hobart over Easter. Sponsorship nearing \$3,000 to aid chapel restoration funds . . . Board planning seminar held over 24 hours at Woodfield Lodge, Dysart to plan on-going program . . . Trisha Watts, recording artist, Sydney, special guest at youth tea, evening Good News Hour and after-church "Singspiration", when in Hobart for production of "No Greater Love" . . . Norm Carter commenced working with I.T.I.M. as Industrial Chaplain . . . Worship workshops held.

LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). C.W.E.F. Easter devotions attended by women from other churches. "The Cousins" provided music . . . Ninety members travelled to Caveside for an afternoon service . . . C.W.E.F. Held Asian Night with Sue and Lee who together with Lee Wah and Soo Kwan gave slide show and served Chinese supper . . . Piper family gave dramatic presentation of Daniel 5 at evening service.

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QLD

ANN STREET (Eric Hart). Eric Hart has been appointed to the ministry at Ann Street... Annual meeting well attended. Reports showed three additions by baptism, seven by transfer with a loss of five by death... Book stall introduced for sale of books and other religious literature together with a lending library... Church supporting chaplain for hospitals to the extent of \$20 per week. Church increasing contributions in support of Pastor Kong and Pastor Bill Buli... C.W.F. under the leadership of Mrs Hilda Northey was able to donate \$1,173 to various causes... Ivan Law and Miss Lyn Roberts appointed leaders of the Youth group... Lew Vincent appointed B.S. Superintendent.

EAST IPSWICH (B. A. Rice, C. O'Dempsey). Church welcomed Kenmore students Mike and Joan Boyd from Berwick, Vic., working with us this year... C.W.F. meeting on theme "All One Body We." Eric Hart speaker. Health luncheon served... Sub-committee of Family Group Home arranged Garden Party opened by Margaret Stewart. \$2750 raised... Girls' Brigade held church parade following a family tea. Guests were musicians Gene and Ruth Jordan from Radio H.C.J.B. ... Boys' Brigade organised a Father and Son Camp.

HERVEY BAY (R. Burton). "In the Spirit of Love" studies held... Young married couple and two sisters baptised... Recently formed Explorers group of 7-12 year olds studying C.E.F. "Knowing Christ" series... Five delegates joined seminar conducted by World Home Bible League at Maryborough to consider film strip and direct mail Bible studies... Services conducted at Burrum Heads, 35 miles north, every first and fifth Sunday... Bob and Sharon Peaker, second year Q.B.I. selected as Head Students for 1980. Bob and Sharon are assisting at Sunnbank.

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AVENELL HEIGHTS (B. C. Francis). 12 decisions, 13 baptisms and seven rededications in first three months of 1980... Seven Bible study groups established in homes... 15 ladies went to C.W.F. camp at Camp Cal... Des Collins guest speaker on Easter Sunday... 12 Y.P. to be involved in Expro '80 in Brisbane... Church saddened by the death of Mrs. Connie Hay... New church commenced in mid-May... Church involved in Change the World School of Prayer... Average attendance at C.W.F. coffee mornings now 35.

KEDRON (David Hamilton). Annual meeting held... 15 attending Albion to participate in small groups leadership seminar... Family camp held with David Hamilton study leader. Square dancing enjoyed... Men's fellowship held open night and screened "He Leadeth Me"... C.W.F. questioned minister and wife... Keith Enchelmaier spoke to E.W.F. They visited a Chinese temple... Monthly study groups for ladies commenced... Ladies visited Uniting Church Chermaside for World Day of Prayer... Beryl Allen improving very slowly.

nsw

CHATSWOOD (D. Hayman). 366 Friendship Centre commenced meeting weekly. Programme includes crafts, talks, films, indoor bowls. Average attendance of 55. Officially opened by Mayor at buffet lunch... Weekly study groups joining together for four week series led by D. Hayman on "Cults and Isms"... S.S. recommenced under the leadership of Lyn Baxter... Teens group meeting Sunday afternoons.

GILGANDRA Easter weekend with Owen and Gladys Wainwright (Home Mission Sec.) included Saturday afternoon in the bush on the farm of Bill and Jenny Dixon. Sports, fishing, sing-a-long and devotion held. Sunday activities included B.S., communion service, lunch in the park, afternoon study and gospel service with singing and dramatisation of "The Empty Tomb". One young lady made decision.

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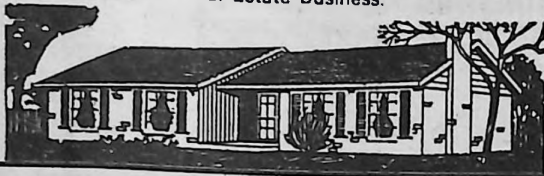
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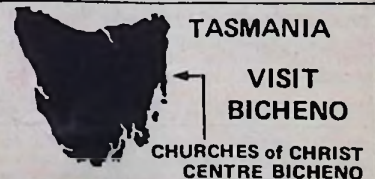
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BIRTHS

DUNSTAN (COLLINS) To Margaret and Neil a beautiful daughter (Sarah Eve), darling sister for Katie, born April 9, lived two days. Many thanks to Dr Morrison, Prof. Beischer, O'Sullivan, Drew, Sisters of Mercy, and Cabrini. In God's rose garden. No condolences please.

ENGAGEMENT

COMER — GROVES It is with much pleasure that the engagement is announced of Glenys, youngest daughter of Mrs Phyllis Comer and the late Mr Ralph Comer of 30 Albion Street, Launceston to Byron, son of Mr and Mrs Ben Groves of Gladstone.

LEE — WATERS. Lorraine and Maurice and Thelma and Vin happily announce the engagement of Robyn and Ian.

MILLER — CROXFORD Sharon and Garry, together with their parents, Heather and Colin Miller (Indonesia) and Margaret and Lindsay Croxford (Glen Waverley) are happy to announce their engagement.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

CLINTON — ROWORTH. The marriage of Janis Clinton and Greg Roworth will take place at Nunawading Church of Christ, 182 Surrey Road, Blackburn on Saturday 17th May at 4.30 p.m.

THOMAS — HAWKES Mrs and Mrs Colin G.V. Thomas of Bundanoon, N.S.W. are happy to announce the coming marriage of their youngest daughter Bronwyn, to Gordon, son of Mr & Mrs Robert J. Hawkes of Ashburton, New Zealand, at the Spreydon Baptist Church, Christchurch, on May 9th, 1980 at 1 p.m.

MARRIAGES

CHAMBERLAIN The marriage of Peter and Marion (formerly Murphy), the daughter of Mr and Mrs Ivan Cameron of Red Cliff, took place at the Doncaster Church of Christ on April 11, 1980.

RUBY WEDDING

CHISLETT (SQUIRES) Gordon and Clarice (Clare) were married at Mildura Church of Christ 15th May, 1940, by the late E. J. Waters. Our loving congratulations Mum and Dad from Glen, Jan, Harry, Wendy, Earle, Sharolyn, Ken, Robyn and 16 grandchildren. Present address "Sunrise Lodge", Box 4, Boundary Bend, Vic. 3599.

HEMER — RICHARDS. The family of John and Jessie are pleased to announce their 40th Wedding anniversary, solemnised at Owen Church of Christ on June 8th, 1940. Open house will be held on ay 18th at 6 Adey Road, Blackwood from 2 pm to 5 p.m. Thank you mum and dad for everything. Love from Janet, Christine, Alison, Donald, Marion and families

DEATHS

ELLIOTT ALLEN G. Suddenly at Perth on April 6. Dearly loved brother of Elma and Gordon Ewers, uncle of Shirley, Ross, Carolie, David and Peter Burton (Queensland), Manan, Colin, Mark and Richard Hall. Treasured memories of one at home with his Lord whom he served so well.

ELLIOTT Allen George. Called suddenly to be with his Lord Easter Sunday April 6 at R.P.H. Perth. Devoted husband of Dorrie, loving father of Franklyn and Deanne, George and Wendy, much loved Grandpa (Papa) of Stephen, David, Lyndell, Brian (Deceased), Geoffrey and Robert. God's faithful ambassador.

GERRAND Minnie Louise. On April 11 at Box Hill Hospital. Loving wife of Keith. Loved mother of Bruce, loved stepmother of Paul (dec.) and John. Loved mother-in-law of Marie, loved stepmother-in-law of Pat and Jan. Loved grandmother of Pat and Jan. Loved grandmother of Christine, Wayne and Peter, Mark and Wendy, Geoffrey, David and Trevor.

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MARRIAGES

● Julia Steel to Geoff Davy, Pyramid Hill, Vic. ● Lindy Colliss to Henry Weber, Yarrowonga, Vic. ● Jeanette Marshman to Wayne Markby, Kim Macdonald to Gary White, Horsham, Vic. ● Karen Jones to Denis Kermond, Peel St., Ballarat, Vic. ● Le-Anne Christensen to Mark Whittred, Julie Broom to Alan O'Rourke, Rieckie Cunningham to Trevor Muchow, Avenell Heights, Qld.

DEATHS

● Harold Kénner, Mrs Dorothy Howitt, Brighton, Vic. ● Ruby Watts, Earlwood, N.S.W. ● Mrs McMahon, Subiaco, W.A. ● Mrs A. W. Billingham, Taree, N.S.W. ● Campbell Andrews, Harcourt, Vic. ● Elizabeth (Betty) Brown, Boronia, Vic. ● Mrs. Constance Ray, Avenell Heights, Qld.

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IN MEMORIUM

BARTLETT, Gordon Stanley. In loving memory of my dear brother who passed away at Walkerville, S. Aust., April 30th 1979. "In heavenly love abiding" (Jean).

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WO

CARNARVON Barry and Bev Yesberg have accepted a call to minister to the Carnarvon church. They are expected to arrive in Carnarvon in mid-May from Brisbane.

KALGOORLIE (L. Gibb). C.W.F. worship featured reading of the Easter story . . . In March Mrs Doreen Smith, Kurrawang Mission, and Mrs Val Gething, District Infant Health Sister, guest speakers at C.W.F. . . Hot food stall at Community Fair raised \$593 towards church furnishing fund . . . "Blessing of the Road" ceremony held on Palm Sunday . . . Good Friday service held . . . H. N. Good from Scripture Teachers' Guild recent speaker . . . Y.P. holding regular coffee shop.

KALAMUNDA Tim Hanna (C.O.B.) accepted call to minister commencing 1981 . . . Eugene Howell interim minister for three months . . . Recent guest speakers Dr Colin and Shirley Smyth (Audio-visual N.H.), Elaine Henderson (W.E.C.). Women hosted Women's Day of Prayer with over 100 present . . . Two adult baptisms . . . Church school and Y.P. groups operating. Two Play Groups also bringing contacts . . . New lectern Bible (R.S.V.) now in use.

SUBIACO (Nigel Merrick). Five decisions, two baptisms, 10 new members recently . . . Dr and Mrs Colin Smyth after three years missionary service in New Hebrides welcomed back at special service . . . Jenny Marshall, serving in New Hebrides, now "Living Link" . . . B.S. recommenced with over 100. Teachers' dedication service conducted . . . New adult Bible discipleship classes begun . . . Three mid-week home cell groups involve 40 . . . 30 attended youth camp at Busselton . . . First "Happy Hour" for 1980 was held with over 100 aged folk . . . Mrs McMahon (92) who died recently will be missed after many years of faithful service.

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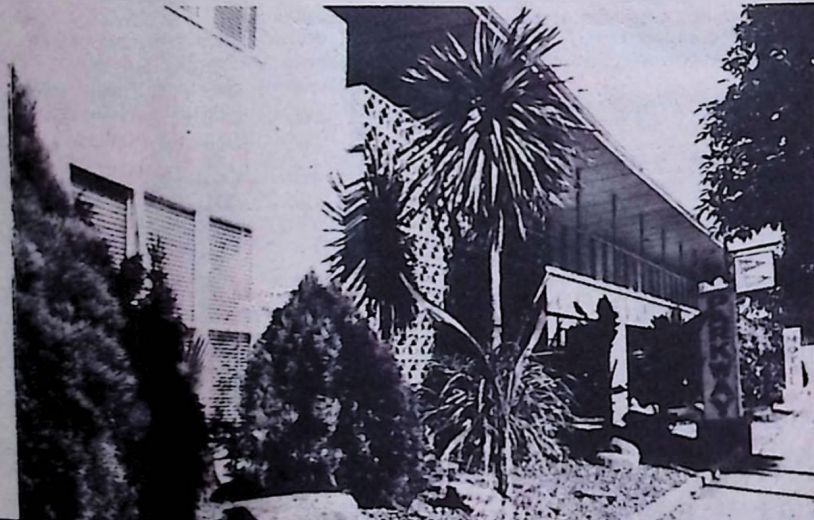
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VIC

BOX HILL (S. Downie). Harvest Festival goods distributed to Nursing Homes ... Speakers at C.W.A.F. and Y.P.C.E. were Julie and Keith Ware ... Senior Christian Fellowship bus trip to Red Hill ... Visiting speakers were Ken Grafham, Ken Wray ... Bruce Skillicorn spoke at Y.P.C.E. ... "Icthus," Helen Skilbeck, G. Wigney, Phyllis Eastwood guest artists ... Primary school R.I. service held ... One decision recently.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R. B. Elbourne). Family dedication service held ... Half Yearly Business meeting followed church family luncheon ... Another day group formed for Bible study and fellowship ... Three camps recently held — Church Fishing group at Eagle Point, C.Y.F. at Banksia, Junior Explorers at Inverloch ... "Montclair Manor" dinner dance raised \$846 ... Open Air worship service in Jell's Park run by Youth 2 followed by barbecue ... Recent speaker was Gordon Stirling ... Minister shared Bible study series with heads of churches at the Archbishop's residence.

HAMILTON (Russell Wesley). Christian radio spots on 3HA commenced by minister ... Special preaching series followed by one baptism and two commitments ... Voice of the Gospel presented service with 60 attending. \$170 presented to sponsor half-hour service to Russia ... C.W.A.F. presented Christian drama ... Coleraine C.W.F. combined with C.W.A.F. for lunch in Botanical Gardens ... Margaret Broad spoke at Women's World Day of Prayer ... Inter-church Bible study led by R. Weasley.

HARTWELL (K. W. Barton). Student minister Mrs Iris Lawson and husband Neil welcomed ... C.W.A.F. conducted Induction service and visited Nursing Home ... C.W.E.F. held commissioning service followed by travelogue on Alaska ... Friendship group visited Ballarat

begonia gardens ... "Sharing in India" team presented account of experiences to Hartwell and Ashburton members ... Keith and Julie Ware on furlough from Fitzroy Crossing recent speakers ... "The Story of the Cross" presented by quartet. on Palm Sunday ... Three evening meditations held in preparation for Easter.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). Annual meeting held. J. Austin resigned as treasurer after many years service. J. Farmer new treasurer ... After more than 30 years as Australian Christian agent Norm Harris has retired ... C.W. Pedersen celebrated his 80th birthday.

MALVERN (P. Nelson, R. Harrison). B. Cartmel elected to Eldership ... Easter marked by 7 a.m. morning devotions and Maundy Thursday service ... Mr Beason and Mrs Willey in hospital ... Miss L. Nel welcomed back from research work in South Africa ... Minister played in Malvern sub-district cricket teams premiership. He raised funds for Prahran Tech. chaplaincy by batting sponsorship ... Tennis club reached grand final but lost.

SWANSTON STREET (A. L. Webb, B. Morton). March saw record communicants with an average of 330 each week (Easter Sunday 370) ... 10 additions during March ... Interest in morning and evening expository preaching series on John and Genesis ... Visiting missionaries have taken special segments in services heightening missionary interest ... Four Y.P. attending EXPO '80 in Brisbane.

THOMSON (M. Rees). Martin Rees welcomed back to student ministry for second year ... J. Smail, LaTrobe Terrace, conducted interim ministry over holidays. He continues to help with weekly prayer meetings preceded by Bethel studies ... Working Bee held on property with assistance from sister churches ... D. Simper and wife celebrated ruby wedding.

BRUNSWICK (Julie Reid). Church faced with small numbers ... Many

members sick with Paul Ketner, Mrs E. Marsh, Mrs D. Lowrey, and Mrs Lanyon all being hospitalised ... Regional ministry team of Keith Milne and Julie Reid assisted by students Ron and Sue Wilson working well ... Student minister of last year Phil Wylie farewelled ... Regional Maundy Thursday service held.

COLAC (Ian Smith). After eight years church recommenced evening services ... Three decisions and one rededication ... 14 Y.P. meet every second Sat. night for club ... Junior club commenced after Easter ... Annual meeting held. Mrs J. Griffiths recently moved from Boronia new secretary.

YORK STREET, BALLARAT (D. Gurney, L. Martin). Combined Ballarat Churches of Christ Begonia Festival service 600 attend ... Outdoor service at Kirks Reservoir ... Dr Pinkerton spoke at C.W.F. ... Mile and Kathy Jelliffe and family home on deputation after three years with M.A.F. in P.N.G. ... Life in Focus seminar held with Dick Inness from ACTS International ... Easter Camp at Hall's Gap under the directorship of David Gurney. Studies on the Holy Spirit.

ECHUCA (Arthur Symes). At annual meeting Ron Westmore elected as Elder ... Sunday attendances increasing. S.S. and youth club growing ... Wednesday afternoon after school activity led by Rosemary Symes started ... Dr Helen Roseveare spoke at recent gospel service ... Weekend Teaching Seminar held April 18-20. Speaker was John Tudor who is involved with education within prisons.

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

CHILDREN OF GOD

This sect is one that came from Christian origins. In 1968 David Berg then a Christian and Missionary Alliance minister began a ministry to hippies in California. These were some of the original "Jesus People" and the start of the group was one of orthodox Christian beliefs. It had very strict rules and behavior was very closely regulated. This is one of the cults that has been accused of "brainwashing" its converts because of the lifestyle that the new follower adopts in the community of fellow believers.

Several years after this sect started David Berg now called Moses David started to issue "Mo" letters. These letters are regarded by Berg and his followers as "God's Word for today" and they have replaced the Bible as the source of inspiration. The Bible is regarded as God's Word for yesterday.

The Children of God were well known at first for their hatred of "the system" and the requirement that converts forsake all (including families, education, jobs and churches). The convert was also encouraged in such a way that he or she gave all of their possessions to the C.O.G.

Apparently in the last two years the Children of God have been renamed "Family of Love". This has followed on some startling changes to their whole outlook. The "Mo" letters first started appearing when David Berg left his wife and lived with his secretary. It would appear that they were designed to justify the situation.

Many of the earlier letters also claimed that David Berg communicated with occult sources. He has claimed that he is a medium for several spirits who send their message through him. He has also claimed to have had sexual relations with the spirits.

In recent years there have been

many splits in the sect and many former leaders have been banished or left of their own accord. The whole tone of the "Mo" letters has been degenerating. Members are currently encouraged to be outreaching to older men who are lonely and relatively affluent by "Flirty Fishing". (Under the Flirty Fishing policy members use sex to win a hearing for the gospel).

Some of the latest C.O.G. revelations include the statement that the Trinity consists of Father, Mother and Son. Homosexuality and oral sodomy are acceptable under certain conditions. Childhood sex is encouraged.

It would appear that the Children of God are not very numerous especially due to purges over the last three years. However they are around in Australia and are offering their literature and their care to lonely people who find acceptance by them.

When you look at the history of a sect like the C.O.G. it is very saddening to see the depths of depravity that the leaders have reached especially as they started as a group with a real Christian missionary fervour. People are attracted to groups like the Children of God because they are offered friendship. They are also offered security in the life of the community. The routine of selling of literature and study sessions leaves little time for them to worry about what will happen to them in the future. The C.O.G. originally had a strong belief in the end of the world in the very near future and that they were the ones called by God to survive the eventual cataclysmic ending.

All of these sort of factors lead people in to the cults. Why is it that they are not attracted to Christ? We as Christians should be showing love and care for the lonely and help and guidance for the "weak".

THE LAST WORD

Hope is one of the principal springs that keep mankind in motion.
— Andrew Fuller

If you were busy being kind, Before you knew it, you would find You'd soon forget to think 'twas true That someone was unkind to you.



"Good morning," said a stranger to a woman who had answered the doorbell. "Would you like to buy some insect powder?"

"No," she snapped, "I have no use for that stuff."

"Good. Then I'll take that room you're advertising."



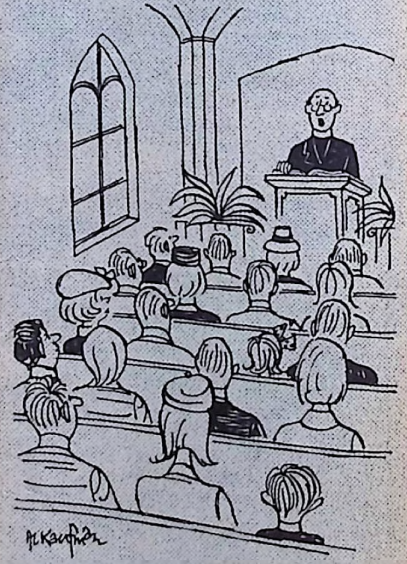
It is only by the cultivation of gentleness, tenderness and consideration for others that old age can become beautiful.



Wives are like fishermen. They brag about the ones that got away and complain about the one they caught.



Character is the growth of years, the result of patient continuance in well-doing.



"As our collection today was quite poor - instead of today's hymn, we will now sing the blues."

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