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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

IN THIS ISSUE

CONFERENCE REPORTS

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THE WRITTEN WORD

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BACK TO SCHOOL

JOHN ROFFEY FOR THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE



In consultation with the State College of the Bible Committees, the Board of Management has called **John Roffey** to the position of lecturer at the College of the Bible, to commence in May 1981.

GRADUATE LEXINGTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

John has just graduated Master of Divinity from the **Lexington Theological Seminary**, formerly the **College of the Bible**, from which the Federal College got its name. He was ordained to the ministry at the **Lexington Central Christian Church**.

John Roffey is the son of **Ed and Gwen**. Ed Roffey is the Secretary of the South Australian Conference.

John graduated B.A. from the Melbourne University in 1970. After working for eight years in the personnel field in the public service and in tertiary institutions John went to the University of Kentucky to complete a Master of Science in Community Counselling. He has continued there with a Ph.D. program in Psychology. He has undertaken a full theological course concurrently with his university work. Before returning to Australia he expects to complete his doctoral work together with the further theological degree S.T.M. He proposes to study for a doctorate in Theology in Melbourne.

BACK TO THE FAITH

Some years ago John moved a long way from the Christian faith into agnosticism. It was in the U.S.A. that he and his wife

Betty realised that things did not really add up without God. John sought and received the forgiveness of God and returned to the church along with Betty. Once again God's call to ministry came loud and clear, as it had done many years before when it was set aside. John sought admission to the ministry course at Lexington and was accepted. He has been student minister at the Central Christian Church, Lexington, the church in which he re-dedicated his life, and in which he has been ordained.

THE FAMILY

John and Betty have two daughters, Melissa and Brooke. Betty is currently completing a Ph.D.

38th FEDERAL CONFERENCE — MINISTERS' SEMINAR

October 1-3, 1980

This Seminar will be held immediately preceding our Federal Conference. It will commence at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, and conclude with lunch on Friday, October 3, 1980.

Following the theme of Federal Conference "Growing in the '80s", an important panel of speakers will feature in the following programme:

WEDNESDAY 1st

7.30 p.m. — "Coping with Ministry Stress", **Dr Bruce Peterson**.

THURSDAY 2nd

9.00-9.30 a.m. — "Keys for Christian Leadership".

9.30-10.30 a.m. — "National Strategy of Evangelism", **Don Smith**.

11.00-12.30 p.m. — "The Marks of a Man of God", **Bishop Jack Dain**.

2.00 p.m. — "Keys for Christian Leadership".

2.30-3.30 p.m. — "Developing Leadership in Your Church", **Barry McMurtrie**.

7.30-9.00 p.m. — "Liberation From the Clock", **Ron Hewitt**.

(Cont. on p.14)



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ON MY MIND

"TOUCHING THE UNTOUCHABLES"

Graham Hyman

Graham Hyman is minister of the Burleigh Heads church in Queensland. He is working in the heart of the famous "Gold Coast". His work brings him into close touch with some of the victims of the modern materialistic society in which things are more important than people. He writes to some of us for whom sometimes rules are more important than people . . . for whom Christ died.

Words like "homosexual", "adulterer", "fornicator", "drug addict" and "alcoholic" conjure up ugly pictures in our minds. The Scriptural teaching is clear — the practices of these people are against the principles of God. Our minds have been conditioned by generations of church teaching that because of these practices these people are depraved, immoral, at best diseased, at worst children of the Devil.

And yet these people often want help. Many have tried to overcome their problem and have failed. They recognize their problem as sin but cannot help themselves. In seeking help they will frequently turn to Christians, to us. What do we say to them?

SPIRITUAL UNTOUCHABLES

I have become increasingly aware of this conflict as I have met these spiritual "untouchables" in my five years on the Gold Coast. I became acutely aware of the problem recently when, after conducting a seminar for grade 12 High School students, I was approached by two young men. They were homosexuals. They didn't want to be. They wanted to know if they could become Christians and remain homosexuals. They had tried — through other churches, psychiatric treatment and sheer will power — to change, but they had not changed. Both had attempted suicide. One was verging on a nervous breakdown.

TRAPPED!

Similar stories could be told of adulterers, people living together, drug addicts and others. They are all trapped. Not wanting to be what they are, unable for various reasons to change.

The church tends to be unwilling to touch these untouchables until they change. They are an embarrassment to us. They make us feel uncomfortable. The church will get a bad reputation. Their sins are overt, ours are covert, therefore they are unacceptable.

It is time we began to treat the disease, not change the symptoms. We must recognise our true Scriptural role. God does not call us to change lives, but to introduce lives to a life — changing force. Surely we are neither the watchdogs nor the policemen of non-Christian society. We are guides who show the hurting where to be healed.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

The time is here for us to concentrate our energies into leading people to a knowledge of Christ, not moral reform. To encourage the hurting into a deep personal relationship with Jesus. To help them see the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives. And then to watch Christ do HIS WORK — the transforming of a life, the changing of a lifestyle, the forgiveness and cleansing of sins.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS "GO BACK TO SCHOOL"

Ministers, like all "professionals", need to keep up to date with new developments in their areas of expertise. The constant demands of pastoral ministry, however, make it difficult for busy Churches of Christ ministers to catch up on new insights in Bible study, theology and practical church work. Consequently **Christian Projects Limited (C.P.L.)**, an associate trust with the **Christian Building Trust of Victoria (C.B.T.)**, invited the **College of the Bible** to administer certain funds for In-Service Training of Ministers throughout Australia.

THE FIRST PROGRAM

The first of these programs was held at Kum Ba Yah Conference Centre, Waterman's Bay (W.A.), on April 14-17, 1980. C.P.L. paid the air fares of the guest lecturers and subsidised the ministers' accommodation. Approximately 35 W.A. ministers attended.

Dr D. G. Hammer, Vice-Principal of **Kenmore Christian College**, presented a series of lectures entitled "The Church and its Mission in the 80's". He shared some of the insights of his recent studies at Fuller Theological Seminary's School of World Mission. He lectured on "God's Plan for Humanity Today", "Biblical Evangelism in the Current Situation", "Problems of Communication" and "The Church in a Multi-cultural Society". During the course of the lectures Dr Hammer drew on his wealth of experience as a minister and a missionary and his personal anecdotes were much appreciated.

The other guest lecturer was **Dr W. Tabbernee** from the College of the Bible. Dr Tabbernee's series was entitled "Pauline Perspectives on Pastoral Issues". A study in 1 Corinthians, covering

the issues of "Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage", "Anxiety", "Women and Ministry" and "The Lord's Supper". He explained Paul's understanding of these topics and showed how the Pauline perspectives could help ministers deal with the same pastoral issues in the twentieth century.

Dr Tabbernee also presented two workshops as part of the In-Service Training Program: the first on "Creative Worship", the second on "Visuals".

Input by local ministers included a thought-provoking seminar by **George Smith** and **Dr Dennis Ladbrook** on "A Christian Understanding of Sexuality". **Des Croot**, President of the 1979-80 W.A. Conference, along with other representatives at the National Conference on Evangelism, reported on the conference. This report stimulated a lively discussion on national, state and local strategies for evangelism.

The W.A. Ministers' In-Service Training Program coincided with the 83rd W.A. Conference of Churches of Christ. Both Dr Hammer and Dr Tabbernee preached at various sessions of the conference.

A special feature was a training night for ministers and local church leaders held at the Brotherhood Centre at which both guest lecturers spoke on different aspects of ministerial and lay leadership. Approximately 100 people attended and joined in a valuable "Talk-back session" which followed.

The next In-Service Training Program sponsored by C.P.L. will be held at Monbulk, Victoria, on July 7-11, 1980, when **Dr Keith Bowes** of the College of the Bible and **Miss Dianne Feeney** of Woolwich Bible College and **Robert Smith** of N.S.W. Social Service Department will be the lecturers.

"AMAZING GRACE" CRUSADE — BENDIGO

For the 10 days leading up to Easter Sunday the Bendigo church conducted an "Amazing Grace" Crusade with **Bill Gaunson** from the North Balwyn church as the Missioner. The Golden Twin Cinema 2, with a seating capacity of 400, was chosen as the venue for the Crusade.

The programme consisted of pre-crusade house coffee meetings, led by **Miss Phyl Davis**, Pastoral Associate of the North Balwyn church; meetings each night; films both Saturdays and Good Friday; and High and Technical school visits.

The meetings were led by **Kerry Wilson**, and **Keith Lacy** was musical Director. The organist was **J. Wilkinson** and the pianist **Phillip Johnson**.

There were 45 first decisions and rededications from the Crusade. Prior to the Crusade 90 committed themselves to prayer. Many shared in prayer cells and in 2-24 hour prayer vigils, as well as in prayer meetings and private times of devotion.

Apart from commitments, the church at Bendigo was greatly strengthened, encouraged and challenged by the messages brought by Mr Gaunson.

We were thrilled with the degree of co-operation received from other churches in both practical ways and in attendances.

Numbers at the meetings ranged from 180 to 400. It was necessary to put up the "house full" sign for the films on Good Friday.

We would express our appreciation to the North Balwyn Board and church for releasing their ministers; to the members of the team; and to all at the Bendigo church who assisted in so many ways.

— Maurice Keatch

NEW GOVERNMENT IN NEW HEBRIDES

Following the November 14 elections, won by the Vanua'aku Party (VP), **Rev. Walter Lini**, President of the VP was elected Chief Minister. The Ministry of the new Government includes an Anglican (Lini), two Presbyterian pastors, two public servants, two teachers and two co-operative officials.

Walter Lini said in his first statement as Chief Minister that the new Government would be directed by principles of unity, equality of opportunity and peace. Noting the differences between islands, local languages, education systems and religions in the New Hebrides, he said the Government would work for all people.

Independence for the New Hebrides is planned for late 1980 and the name for the new nation will be Vanuaatu — 'Our Land'.

— "In Unity".

NEW CZECH TRANSLATION

The first 30,000 copies of the new Czech translation of the Bible have been printed and are now ready for distribution.

The Reverend **Bohumir Sedlisky**, executive secretary of Czech Bible Work in Prague reports that state authorities have given permission for a total run of 120,000 Bibles, with a further 30,000 copies expected during early 1980. Czech Bible Work plans to have the remaining 60,000 off the press during the latter half of next year.

The new Czech translation is the result of 14 years work by a team of scholars from various churches with the final text handed to the state publishing house in 1977.

Celebrations are being held for the 400th anniversary of the publication of the first part of the Kralice Bible which has been the traditional Czech translation.

PERTH PRIEST A.R.P.A. PRESIDENT

The Australian Religious Press Association, which brings together publications and writers from Anglican, Catholic and Protestant denominations around Australia, has a new president. At its annual convention in Sydney, the Rev. **Father Pat Cunningham** was elected president. **Father Cunningham** is the editor of the Catholic Record, the official Diocesan weekly in Perth.

The Rev. Canon **Frank Lowe**, an Anglican priest from Morwell, was elected secretary. **Peter Philp** representing World Vision was elected editor of the Association's magazine.

More than 40 editors and media directors have just concluded their annual conference which was held at Ave Maria Retreat House in Sydney.

ON MY MIND STUDYING FOR THE FINALS

Ray Killmier

Dr E. R. Killmier is one of the great veterans of the faith in Australian Churches of Christ. A graduate of the College of the Bible in 1917, and later of the Melbourne University, he became a pioneer medical missionary in China. He has been a "beloved physician" to thousands and a Christian leader, thinker and preacher. He served as a dynamic President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference in 1970. He is an elder of the Thornbury church and takes his turn at the organ. The title of his paper is ours. (Ed.).

I am getting old. There is an examination coming up. It is Judgement Day. I wonder what the questions will be! Not so much related, I think, to the human culture and theology with which I have lived, as to my love and obedience to Christ. I am studying for this exam; but have not much time to read the advanced books about life. I hope to pass, but have no illusions. God has had problems with me. My grandmother once said to me, "My boy, if you follow your feelings you will go astray." She knew me, bless her! God has had a monotonously constant job of keeping me on the right track.

Nor do I think that the exam will be on the themes of "Mustard Seeds" or any subjective pre-suppositions. I have a cunning idea. That is to concentrate at my trial, on one very reliable and objective study of attitudes and beliefs given us by the Judge himself. For he is also the Advocate! That pleases me because I know him. This study of his is called Christ's Doctrine of Scripture. The way to learn it is to read through the Gospels, noting the number of times, as he journeyed to his Jerusalem death for us, that he said to his disciples, "I go, as it is written of me". And they could check on this from the Scriptures (O.T.). It was objective, from the Father, and not a human invention. There are at least 144 of these statements. Jesus staked his life on their accuracy. So do I. So can you.

SWAN HILL'S NEW ERA

A new era will begin in the life of the Swan Hill church on June 14, with the official opening of a new building complex. The event marks the completion of a 21-year-old vision. What makes it all the more remarkable is that this has been accomplished in what would be regarded as one of the more isolated portions of our Brotherhood. Apart from the close regional work at Woorinen, the nearest sister church is 120 miles away.

On September 11, 1960, a new chapel was dedicated with the vision of completing the project with hall, kitchen and meeting rooms. These had previously been the old chapel that had been built in 1910, and shifted to the present site. The church took steps to complete what it had previously envisaged. The new facilities have a large hall, small meeting rooms, a study, as well as a functional kitchen and indoor toilets. The whole complex has been designed for handicapped people in wheel chairs who are able to move freely throughout.

Since the arrival of the present minister, John Caporn, the activities of the church have expanded to the degree that the church's buildings could not adequately cater for the work. Four years

ago, the church only needed to cater for a Sunday School, but it now has to consider a boys' and girls' club, youth clubs, "Forget-me-not" gatherings for the more elderly, C.W.F., an expanded Sunday School, and a play group. Added to this was the cost of maintenance of the old hall which had become exorbitant. The church decided that now was the time to give it what it needed to operate effectively.

The opening and dedication service have been put together with the 70th Anniversary celebrations. On Sunday afternoon, there will be the official opening and dedication, addressed by D. Smith of the Department of MED, with Alan Emmett of the Properties Corporation, speaking on behalf of the brotherhood. Saturday night "The Changing Moods" will feature in a concert to begin the anniversary celebrations. The special guest on Sunday will be Allan Avery, who was the minister at the church when the chapel was opened.

Swan Hill is advertised in the tourist advertisements as Sun Centre. The plan and vision of the church is to truly make it Son Centre.

— J. Caporn

"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"

MISSIONARY CONVENTION AT SWANSTON ST.

It was with tear-filled eyes and love-filled hearts that the congregation at the Swanston Street Church of Christ spontaneously lifted up their voice in praise to God at the thrilling climax to the Ninth Annual Missionary Convention on April 13.

The attendances were the best ever with an average of 385.

The offerings were the "best ever" with a Love Offering in excess of \$12,000 and a faith promise renewal offering in excess of \$642 per week. The standard and quality of the personal audio-visuals from each of the 14 members of the Swanston Street Missionary Family (seven couples) was the best ever with many exciting items for prayer and praise.

GREAT INSPIRATION

From the pre-convention home cell group meetings on the Thursday evening right through to the final inspirational climax on the Sunday evening, the presence of the Lord was very much in evidence. The main speaker was Dr Alan Cole, the Federal Secretary of the Church Missionary Society. His four messages were "The Messenger of the Gospel", "The Message of the Gospel", "The Need of the Gospel" and "The Scope of the Gospel". On the Sunday morning, Len Newell, Director for the Philippines of Wycliffe Bible Translators, spoke on "The Response of the Gospel" particularly among the Ifugao people of the Philippines — 60 new churches and 6,000 new believers in the past decade. On the Sunday evening, Neil Wescombe, the Australian Director of F.E.B.C., spoke on the cost of missionary service with illustrations from the church in Russia and China. Two young people publicly offered their lives for missionary service.

GENEROUS OFFERINGS

The response to the missionary offerings was gratifying. By faith the target for this year's Love Offering had been set at \$11,000. Nine years ago when the first annual missionary convention was held the target was set at \$450 — \$900 was received. Each year as the target has risen it has been surpassed. This year's target was \$11,000 — \$12,000 was received. There has been a similar growth in the faith promise renewal offering. Nine years ago the target was \$50 a week. This year's target was \$600 per week — \$642 per week has been received. Over \$45,000 will be given toward the support of our Swanston Street Missionary Family, yet more than one half of our membership are students. Fourteen members of our congregation are already in missionary service and at least another six are in preparation.

— Allan Webb

ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION

115th Vic.-Tas Conference

This year's Vic. Tas. Conference, presided over by Geoff Foot (Launceston, Tas.), was a time of enthusiasm for what has occurred and for dedication as the Brotherhood faces the 1980's with a sense of optimism and expectancy.

One feature mentioned in reports and the handbook which highlight the enthusiasm was the increase of membership over the year of 77. This is the second year in a row to record an increase and people are looking forward to further increases. Two new churches were affiliated with Conference. They were Dandenong North under the ministry of Alan Baker formed 3½ years ago from the Oakleigh church and with encouragement of the Dandenong church. The Toora church was also affiliated. This church covers the South Gippsland area and has a part-time ministry of John Dostine (a recent Woolwich graduate). Worship in the home of Mr and Mrs Payne occurred for about 15 years before meetings were conducted on alternate Sundays at the Uniting Church.

One sad aspect was the report that Lygon Street, Collingwood and Clayton had withdrawn from Conference over the issue of Roman Catholic membership of the Victorian Council of Churches.

Inspiration during the conference sessions came from addresses at the President's reception by Doreen Gordon (C.W.F. President) and by Geoff Foot. Dean Hamilton, minister at Launceston, Tasmania for nine years challenged both evening business sessions on "Creative Discipleship in the 80's." Musical items from "Right On" — Bayswater church, College of the Bible singing group, Ken Harris, Graham Funder and Ian Tippett added to the atmosphere.



Dean Hamilton

Business proceeded in a good spirit and with a desire that all may come together to achieve the work of the Kingdom. Changes were made to the constitution to enable the Conference Executive to be more of an elected body than an appointed group.

Other issues that were voted upon were in the area of casinos, social questions and local churches and aboriginal concern. The issues of casinos is still very current in Victoria with pressure still on the government to allow their opening in the state.

Again one very interesting part of the sessions were the interviews con-

ducted by Ron Elbourne (1980/81 Conference President). Those interviewed were E. L. Williams, Mrs Enid Fisher and Graham Chapman. E. L. Williams was questioned on the amount of work he now does since his retirement as Principal of C.O.B. When asked about trends in the Brotherhood he saw an increasing understanding of the implications of the gospel and how we are increasingly relating the gospel to the whole of life.



E. L. Williams

Enid Fisher commented that one of the major changes she has seen in aboriginal work since they left the field was that the work has burst wide open. She saw the lives of the people radically changed and now the aboriginal people were really reaching out to their own people.



Enid Fisher

Ron Elbourne introduced his theme "Let there be Life" with a challenge. He is looking to a 10% growth over the decade (this means a membership of 27,000 by 1990 growing from 11,000 today). He challenged the Brotherhood to develop a 10 year program and have conference presidents whose skills help develop that program rather than a new emphasis and direction every 12 months. The thrust of his message and energies will be on church growth with also the development of a state wide Bible study program as well.



Graham Chapman

The final evangelistic service on the Sunday evening was a fitting climax to the Conference. Ted Keating (Nunawading) spoke on the topic "Never Alone." One young man and a young woman responded to the call to commitment. "Harmony" from the Camberwell Salvation Army Corps were the featured artists. The attendance was one of the best seen by the writer of this report.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

To assist the church in developing leadership, and the individual to increase his effectiveness, Lay Involvement for Evangelism (L.I.F.E.) has made available leadership training in South Australia.

Some of the topics covered are Personal Evangelism, the Dynamics of Prayer, Motivating People, Personal Organisation, Discipling Others, Effective Follow-up of New Christians and Church Growth Principles.

The intention behind the Institute is that students will return to their churches with the skills, knowledge and some experience, that will enable them to fulfil a major role in the life and outreach of the local church.

The Institute is to be held at the Hawthorn Church of Christ on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. The curriculum is: Winter Term — June 3-August 19, "Soul Winning and Discipleship"; Spring Term — September 16-December 2, "Dynamic Christian Leadership A"; Summer Term — February 17-May 4, "Dynamic Christian Leadership B".

L.I.F.E. advise that registration is open to all who have a desire to develop their God-given potential and who are willing to pay the cost of discipleship.

The cost of registration is \$35 per term which will cover materials and a manual. For further information please contact L.I.F.E., G.P.O. Box 1202, Adelaide, 5001. Tel: (08) 51 9899 or 271 2875.

SOCIAL SERVICE STUDY TOUR

The Queensland Social Service Department has announced that the Director, Don E. Stewart, and their Architect, Don Cranston, are to go on a study tour of Europe returning through U.K. and U.S.A. for further study visits.

The tour which is being assisted by Ansvar Insurance Company and the architectural firm Merrin & Cranston, is to look into recent developments in aged care, child care and the methods of dealing with social questions.

Mr Cranston and Mr Stewart will leave Australia in August to return to Federal Conference in October.

VIC./TAS. CONFERENCE CASSETTES

- 1 — C.W.F.: Barbara McKay, The Yukona Singers and Betty Dow.
- 2 — Thursday Evening: Geoff Foot, Doreen Gordon and all musical items.
- 3 — Friday/Saturday Evening: Dean Hamilton, Ron Elbourne. Interviews with E. L. Williams and Graham Chapman. Musical items by Graham Funder and Ian Tippett.
- 4 — Sunday Evening: Ted Keating and "Harmony".
- 5 — Addresses: Barbara McKay, Geoff Foot, Dean Hamilton, Ron Elbourne, Ted Keating.

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S.A.'s 106th CONFERENCE

The sanctuary of Church of Christ Adelaide (Grote Street) was filled and more than half the seats of the gallery taken for the Thursday night business session of the 106th S.A. Conference. The sole item on the agenda was to hear a presentation of the two year report of the five person Commission of Inquiry. The 35-page printed Report was released four weeks prior to the meeting.

The Commission was determined by the 104th Conference to address itself to (1) Brotherhood Structures, (2) Ministry, and (3) Ecumenical Strategies. The Convener was Richard W. Lawton and members: I. John Chivell, C. Kingsley Curtis, Eric P. C. Hollard and Helen B. Morrow.

Following discussion from the floor of Conference on the Report on the Thursday evening the Saturday session of Conference passed a motion in three parts that the churches be asked for their study and response to the report, that a Steering Committee be appointed by Executive to report on the feasibility, implications and methods of implementing the recommendations to a special Conference in October 1980 and that the special Conference should debate the recommendations in the light of the findings of the Steering Committee and make decisions concerning their implementation with whatever Constitutional amendments may be required for the next Conference.

CHRISTIAN REST HOMES

Part of the business undertaken by the Conference included two significant decisions for the work of the Christian Rest Homes Board. The Constitution was accepted which allowed the Christian Rest Homes Board to become an incorporated body rather than act under the incorporation of the Churches of Christ Evangelistic Union. The new Constitution makes no significant change with regard to responsibilities to Conference for its appointments and its major projects, but it does remove the legal liability in the case of financial loss from the Conference.

The other decision on behalf of the Home was to allow a \$500,000 project to develop in demolishing and rebuilding the north wing of the St. Georges Home.

It is a matter of rejoicing that three days later, news came of Federal funding for the Joslin project in the 1982/3 financial year. This project at a cost of more than \$2,000,000 will comprise Nursing Home and Hostel accommodation as well as a Day Care Centre on the ground floor. It was a project that had been carried through to the drawing stage and had been anticipated to commence about two years ago.

NEW CONGREGATIONS

Conference received into its membership Happy Valley Church of Christ and Leigh Creek United congregation.

The Happy Valley church is an exciting development in the southern suburbs in a new housing area. The congregation consists almost entirely of young families who have moved into the area.

Leigh Creek is a town developed by the Electricity Trust of South Australia. The town has recently moved and E.T.S.A. is building a new church complex for the use of the churches. There are separate meetings for the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England and also for the United Congregation consisting of U.C.A. and Churches of Christ members under the Joint Advisory Council operating in this State.

Two years ago Conference made all full time ministers, including all those who are in retirement, delegates to Conference in their own right. This is in recognition of their ministry to the church at large as well as to those particular congregations in which they serve at the time.

That part of the Constitution was changed at this time to include also as delegates to Conference, ministers of United Parishes which are affiliated with this Conference and Chaplains associated with this Conference.

The Department of Christian Education had commenced for a two year trial period, Birribi — a training centre for young people. Conference extended that trial period for another 12 months to conclude at the end of 1981.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

An increase of 87 in membership was a pleasing part of the statistical report. This is the third successive Conference in which we have rejoiced in and given thanks to God for membership increase.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE



This year another Children's Service was held. The Theme was "Let's Celebrate Sunday School". Emphasis was given with great rejoicing and colourful displays as well as historic and current scenes in recognition of the 200 years of Sunday School since its founding by Robert Raikes in 1780.

PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

All meetings of the Conference were well attended and the Presidents' Reception on the Wednesday night included both the President of General Conference and the President of Women's Conference. The pattern of Coffee and Dessert from 7.00 p.m. allowed the Presidents and their spouses to welcome people as they arrived prior to the Service at 7.45 p.m.

WITNESS TO AUSTRALIA RALLY

The Saturday evening session of Conference was a shared service with the U.C.A. at the Maughan Uniting Church. It was the occasion of Dr Alan Walker's visit to Australia. The Theme of the night was "Covenanting for a New Missionary Age". The chairman of the meeting, the Rev. Dean Drayton, was surprised when he asked for a show of hands of those who were from the Churches of Christ who were formally sharing in the meeting. Probably more than 50% of the congregation raised their hands.

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

Barry J. Grear completed a year of intense personal activity as President. He was preaching twice on most Sundays and covered vast areas in meeting country appointments. His professional training and service as a business administrator meant that he made creative contributions both to the churches and the departmental life of Conference.

The business of this Conference that was significant in receiving and handling the Report of the Commission of Inquiry was well expedited because of the careful preparation, clear expression and grace of the President. Barry is currently a Federal Vice-President for S.A. and has been nominated incoming Federal Conference President for the Conference to be held in Adelaide in 1982.

Conference very happily received Bob Clymer, minister at Col Light Gdns, as Conference President. He was inducted at the closing Service and gave as his theme, "The Family of God".

— Ed. Roffey

CHRISTIANS QUIT IRAN

About half of the members of the Evangelical Church of Iran have left the country since it became an Islamic republic. Active members of the denomination are now estimated to total 1,500. But most are of Assyrian or Armenian backgrounds.

Meanwhile, although less than 5,000 of Iran's 35 million people are Protestant, the Bible Society of Teheran reports that sales of Bibles in the capital have considerably increased and that more Bible study is taking place among young people than ever before.

— Buzz

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN



The World Council of Churches has over recent years been under strong attack from many Christians — from non-denominational groups and from the denominations too.

Evangelical Christians, who have been concerned at the failure of the WCC to endorse what we consider the essentials of the gospel, should find some cause for encouragement in the imminent world conference.

The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the WCC is holding the conference on the theme *Your Kingdom Come* in Melbourne from May 12 to 25. As you read this it will probably be underway.

Of particular significance is the prominent place given to conservative evangelicals.

Argentinian author and pastor, Dr Rene Padilla, who is also chairman of his country's Scripture Union council, will address the conference on *The Kingdom of God and Human Struggles*.

I've been privileged to hear two of Dr Padilla's messages in Melbourne recently and to have interviewed him afterwards. He forthrightly proclaims personal salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Son of God. (He speaks about other things, too, but that's his central message.)

John Smith, leader and pastor of the Truth and Liberation community and president of God's Squad motorcycle club will also address meetings planned for the conference fortnight.

Although John has perhaps become better known for his incisive critique of Australian society and his prophetic proclamation to Christians to be truly God's community in this shattered world, his fundamental message is also that of salvation through the power of the risen Christ.

I wonder if the World Council of Churches knows what it's in for.

★

Speaking to God's Squad's John Smith this week, I asked him about his response to criticisms of his involvement with the WCC: "Well, I'll go just about anywhere to talk about Jesus. We've been to Lions and Rotary clubs, political party branch meetings, University campuses and the steps of Parliament House. We go to car races, rock concerts, pubs and out into some pretty sleazy streets. If I can talk about the Master, I'll speak to Catholics, communists, atheists and even the World Council of Churches.

"That's the first thing I'd say. The second is you always have to be careful when you say, 'Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?' To limit where God can work is a pretty arrogant thing to do. I believe the Word of God and the Spirit of Christ work on many planes. Even Cyrus was called 'My servant' in the Scriptures.

"But let me say I don't assume the worst about the WCC. It has a very wide range of people involved in it and a range of theological perspectives. They're not all bad people. It's not as simple as that.

"But even if they were, what do you do if you follow a Master who described the leaders of the church of his day as graves full of dead men's bones . . . blind leaders of the blind who would all fall into the ditch together . . . whited sepulchres . . . children of their father, the devil . . . I mean, you can't get much stronger than that!

"He called them hypocrites and men who replace the words of God with the traditions of men. He described all that and said to them, finally, 'From henceforth your house is left unto you desolate.' And then proceeded, according to the New Testament, as his custom was, to attend the synagogue worship! As his custom was! It wasn't

that he just went there sometimes. So I simply say, if Jesus did that, I have no trouble with it."

★

Ronald Reagan, on the campaign trail for the US presidency, told of a man in a small town who addressed a meeting saying, "You know, I'm grateful to this town because I came here with just a bandana on a stick over my shoulder and now I own the bank as well as the building the bank's in and I also own some commercial property elsewhere in town and some residential property as well."

A little boy came up to him later, according to Reagan, and asked, "What was in that bandana?"

"Well," he replied, "as near as I can remember, \$300,000 in currency and \$700,000 in negotiable securities."

★

The World Bank has recently revealed just how far ahead economically the rich developed nations are. Even if the underdeveloped nations doubled their economic growth rates while the developed countries stood still, it would take a century to achieve equal development.

According to Bank President Robert McNamara, even if present growth rate targets are achieved, there will still be some 600 million people trapped in absolute poverty by the year 2000.

★

Next time you feel like complaining about American toys that encourage violence, consider the experience of an American diplomat stationed in Peking, who sent his ten-year-old child to a Chinese school to learn the local customs. The boy proudly announced one day that he had won an athletic event at his school and had been chosen to compete in a city-wide tournament. What event? he was asked. The grenade throw, said the ten-year-old.

(from The New Yorker)

★

Our cell group was discussing hobbies last week and we found that most of us collect something. Acquisitiveness, we concluded, is a basic human characteristic.

Your correspondent collects modern graffiti — public scrawls of hope or despair. Next time, I'll share some of my favourites. I'd be delighted to hear from other graffitiologists.

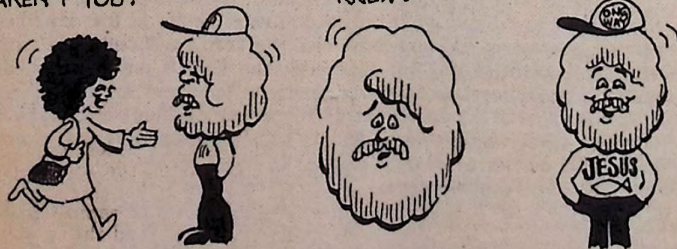
JASON'S HOUSE

HI! YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN, AREN'T YOU?

HUH? UM... ER... UM... YEAH...

GOSH... I WONDER HOW SHE KNEW?

MUST BE MY EYES SHINING WITH THAT CALM INNER PEACE AND SECURITY!



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.

ABORIGINAL WELFARE

To the Editor,

Your editorial ("A.C." p. 9, March 1) is appreciated. We do not think however that your lack of material is entirely the fault of the Federal Aborigines Mission Board. We very much doubt that a statement on aboriginal affairs by the Board would be accepted by the Brotherhood as "The Churches of Christ policy on Aboriginal Welfare". It would be no more than the policy of the Board.

The Board accepts your call for research into the question and hopes to do this without undue delay. Our forecast is that the issue of a Board policy would create much division of opinion in the Brotherhood and also that any resultant action in the broad field of social welfare would in all probability commit the Brotherhood to some political involvement.

Having said this we would hasten to add that at the request of aboriginal tribal people, particularly in W.A., officers of the Board have for years with aboriginal leaders been involved in discussion with Government Departments at State and Federal level in relation to land rights, mining, sacred sites, tribal law, health, housing, etc. Board staff have been shown certain areas of sacred land, and told many things by aboriginal tribal people which we are unable to talk about. However we have been of service to the aboriginal people in having the authorities peg tracts of land at the request of the aboriginal community in the area.

— Don Butler
(Secretary, Federal Aborigines Board)

"A DOOR KEEPER IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"

To the Editor,

At the recent Warragul Church of Christ 84th anniversary services, the chief usher was the organiser, C. W. Pedersen. There was nothing unusual about that as he has had 58 years experience.

Clarrie Pedersen, 80, joined the church when he was 12 years old; was a deacon from the age of 22, and for long periods served as secretary, treasurer, Sunday School teacher and superintendent and press correspondent, a position he still holds. How's that! Contaminantly, he gave distinguished service in community and sporting activities. The Pedersen Weir and his M.B.E. medal pay tribute to this. Perhaps we could hear from other stalwarts.

— Muriel Robottom (Warragul, Vic.)

MORE ON TAXATION JUSTICE

To the Editor,

I was disappointed to read the letter from Max Murray (Ballarat, Vic.) regarding Alan Austin's commentary on the Australian taxation structure. As an accountant I can vouch that the article was correct in

FLORA HASKELL

Flora Haskell died on April 28, the day after the 40th anniversary of her wedding to Arthur. The North Williamstown chapel could not contain all who attended the funeral, which was conducted on May 1 by Charles Wilson, assisted by Vic-Tas. Conference President Geoff Foot. A tribute will appear in a later issue.

highlighting the current inequitable system which is very quickly widening the gulf between the rich and poor. Let me also make it clear that I am a "swinging" voter (as I believe all Christians should be) and certainly have no political axe to grind. Keep up the good work, Alan — I am sure that the vast majority of subscribers applaud your excellent and provocative column.

— G. F. Hewitt (W.A.)

TRIBUTE TO DR ELLIOTT

To the Editor

Dr Elliott, in an age not unknown for its glorying in men and their achievements, once quoted to us as students from Luke 16:10. "So . . . when you do all the things commanded you, say . . . 'We have done only that which we ought to have done.'" Doc showed us what that meant.

Robert Ferguson (Sth Melbourne.)

DELROY BROWN'S REPORT FROM KOREA

Missionaries Delroy and Merrilyn Brown report that 75 young women responded to the gospel invitation at a correctional institution near Seoul. Mr.

Brown preached to more than 400 inmates during a special service organized by their chaplain.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

WORKING BEES

To the Editor,

Like most churches ours has a couple of working bees a year to save the Lord's money for other things that need to be done with it. A working bee in our church usually means the minister and about six other men of tender conscience turning up.

At Saturday's working bee I was assigned to a lone job weeding the rocky. I had both time and inclination to reflect upon those who never turn up to working bees. They can be classified under about five headings.

1. The very "spiritual ones". They will always do the praying while others do the work. Somehow being practical is not being spiritual.

2. The talkers. They shine at board meetings and church business meetings, proposing the working bees and what should be done by them. They work better with their tongues than with their hands.

3. The busy ones. They are always busy. Even when they are sitting in church they are busy fidgeting. They come to working bees for a few minutes, to put in an appearance, about morning tea time. Then, as they are much busier than anyone else could be, they make their apologies and go.

4. The hen-pecked ones. Their excuse is a parody of the song lines . . .

"I can't get away to work with you today,
My wife won't let me!"

5. Those with a "hot line" to the Lord. The Lord apparently tells them what to do and what not to do every minute of the day. It is always interesting to know how well the Lord's will coincides with what they want to do. But apparently the Lord is not in favour of working bees, because he never seems to tell them to turn up.

In the midst of my reflections my mate from St Chad's strolled by. I told him what was on my mind. He said, "Are you sure you're not describing our lot over at St Chad's?"

Hoping you are the same,

— TERTIUS

FULL MARKS TO VICTORIAN LIBERALS

The Victorian Liberal Party has given the "thumbs down" to the development of casinos in Victoria. The "A.C." had earlier condemned the move by the Premier to open up the way for casino development as a tourist attraction. We expressed the belief that Victoria has more than enough facilities for those desiring to pursue their democratic right to gamble.

PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The "A.C." now congratulates the Liberal Party and the Premier for their change of position. The Premier has said that there will be no casinos unless there is demonstrably strong public demand for them. Obviously he and the Party are sensing that at the moment public opinion is very much the other way.

WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?

In wondering why such a change of heart came about, I found my mind wandering to an old hymn, "God works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform." I am sure that God has a lot of friends in the Liberal Party and that Christian Liberals worked away quietly in the branches until the ground swell reached the top with sufficient force to encourage the leaders to look again at what they were doing. Added to that of course was quite a steady protest mail, including petitions.

THE NEXT MOVE

Victorian Christian Liberals have revealed what can be done through branches and at various other levels. Perhaps their next move will be the more difficult one of getting the Federal Government to change its mind about tobacco and alcohol advertising. All power to them! (Ed.)

PORT MACQUARIE SEMINAR

A "Power through Prayer" seminar was recently conducted at Port Macquarie by Enok Peipman and Bruce Murray of the Lay Institute for Evangelism. Enok Peipman directs the ministry of L.I.F.E. in Australia. Police public relations officer Bruce Murray is an associate staff member.

Desiring a more effective prayer ministry, the Port Macquarie church invited L.I.F.E. to lead them in this seminar. Participants dedicated 10 hours to re-think their prayer ministry — individually and in groups. The seminar's main emphasis was that prayer is the No. 1 priority, needing prime time. Prayer was presented as a ministry for all God's people."

Editorial

THE WRITTEN WORD

Churches of Christ in Australia have a long history of the use of the written word. The Austral Printing and Publishing Company came into existence to ensure that there would always be a plentiful supply of literature stating to ourselves and to the world the basic principles of what we variously called "our position" or "our plea"

Hundreds of thousands of tracts printed by "The Austral" found their way into letter boxes and under front doors.

SOME GREAT NAMES

The list of authors of these early publications sound like a Brotherhood "Who's Who?", including names such as Pittman, Ewers, Connor, Harward, Hagger, Main, Scambler and Fitzgerald. The Austral considered these writings by earnings from commercial printing, so that churches and communities could be saturated with "our teachings".

Several books were published including "Union in Truth" (a symposium), "First Principles" by A.R. Main, and "Pioneering for Christian Unity" by A.W. Stephenson. The last significant book published by the Austral was "A Biblical Approach to Christian Unity" by E.L. Williams.

THE END OF AN ERA AND A NEW BEGINNING

When changed economic circumstances made it increasingly difficult for the Austral Printing and Publishing Company to continue, it seemed that an era of publishing had come to an end and that another would not take its place.

It was about this time that a small concerned group of visionaries was elected to one of our "Cinderella committees", the Federal Literature Department, with its infinitesimal budget. They hit on the idea of publishing what they pleased to call "Provocative Pamphlets", designed to encourage our people to think about all sorts of issues in the light of the Scriptures. Later the title was changed to "The Pamphlet Club". We presume that some of the papers were not provocative or that it was felt that some people might feel threatened by such a title and not subscribe. In any case the pamphlets have been a great success and many hundreds of titles have been printed. We would venture to say that "The Pamphlet Club" is quite unique, and that it

still continues as a tribute both to the idea and the Department.

VITAL PUBLICATIONS

From publishing pamphlets the Federal Literature Department moved into book publishing under the name of "Vital Publications". By shrewdly estimating the demand for each book, by using a lot of voluntary labour, and by keeping costs to a minimum, Vital Publications has been able to publish two or three volumes a year, and to set aside enough profit to continue the process. The two most recent publications are "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism", a history of Australian Churches of Christ, by Graeme Chapman, and "The Book with a Blessing", a study of the book of Revelation by Harold Norris.

The Federal Literature Department has also promoted Literature Week to encourage churches to become increasingly conscious of the value of good Christian literature for adults and children. Many churches have "caught on" and we see many libraries and literature stands in the foyers of our churches.

CHECK THE LITERATURE STANDS

Perhaps readers will permit a comment or two on some literature stands. Some of them do not have books from Vital Publications and the Federal Literature Department. This is a pity. Some have literature displayed that is not always in harmony with "our witness". This does not matter if readers are aware of the fact and think through the issues involved rather than "swallowing" all that they read. Some literature stands are seldom used because there is very little change of titles, or they look scruffy, or the books are concealed under undistributed literature from Brotherhood Departments that is stuck in the racks instead of being handed out.

THE FUTURE

Because of the imaginative efforts of the Literature Department it appears that our future in publishing is assured. The cooperation of ministers and church leaders will enhance this possibility. And above all, a place in every home for our books and pamphlets will ensure that we are a people who know who we are, what we are on about and where we are going.

The "How to's" of prayer ministry were outlined. eg. How to enjoy a daily "quiet time"; How to deal with hindrances to prayer; How to establish prayer cells.

A unique concept presented to the church was the formation of a "Pastor's prayer support team". The plan interlocks the minister and his people in prayer for each other. Particular days of the month are allotted to the minister's prayer supporters, who covenant to pray for him on their specified day.

Encouragement was given to keep a prayer diary, recording the date prayer was first made, and recording the details of the Lord's answer. Being specific in prayer was highlighted, by writing out a

prayer we would pray in a normal prayer meeting. The question was then asked "If you were God, how would you answer that prayer"? (try it!)

The relationship between prayer and spiritual revival clearly pervaded the seminar.

The church at Port Macquarie is claiming the Lord's promise in 2 Chron 7:14. "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land". God said this. As a result of our seminar, we believe it a little more.

— Ray Smith.

BUDGETS AND SALARIES DELAYED

Our apologies to the Fields who suffered a slight delay in receiving budgets and salaries in April. The Overseas Mission Board was forced into this position as there were insufficient funds available.

As soon as the Gospel Outreach Fund was able to meet the costs, the money was immediately sent.

NEW HEBRIDES INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

The date for the independence of the New Hebrides has now been advanced to July 30, 1980. This date was announced by Father Walter Lini the Chief Minister. There are 67 centres where the flags and the ceremonies will take place and the ceremonies will last for eight days. The new name of the country will be Vanau Tu.

— New item supplied by Ishmael Bangga.

DIANNE FEENEY TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA

A conference entitled, Dialogue in Asian Theology sponsored by the Christian Council of Asia is to be held June 9-13 1980. Dianne Feeney a lecturer at the

VISAS GRANTED TO BURGARS.

After a long period of negotiation with the Papua New Guinea government Michael and Helen Burgar have been granted visas to continue their work of technical training. Thanks be to God.

Other missionaries returning to Papua New Guinea during the month of May are Paul and Judy Williams and family, and Dianna Catts and Fay Christensen.



Michael and Helen Burgar

COOKING AWARD

Ian Marshman, 17 of Whalers Inn Restaurant, Victor Harbour, is the Catering Institute of Australia overall winner Apprentice Cook for S.A. 1980.

Ian won the award from 11 other finalists.

He also won the Gold Medal & Trophies for the Top First Year Apprentice 1980.

Special awards to Ian included the award for the contestant who in the opinion of the judges made the best use of seafood. The most promising first year apprentice and the best Table-Top award.

Ian attributes his success to the untiring efforts and support of his employer, Mrs Dorothy Tilbrook and the help and encouragement of Head Chef, John Lindfield.

Ian is the son of John and Margaret Marshman of Owen, where he lived until he commenced work at Victor Harbor. On the same weekend sister Julie won the sewing award of the Rural Youth zone and the previous week brother Gavin celebrated his 21st birthday.

Ian attends Victor Harbor when work permits. His dad, John, is the Secretary at Owen, and his grandfather, Lance, had a ministry at Owen for several years before retiring to Victor Harbor.

THE CHURCH IN CHINA

During the "Cultural Revolution" between 1966 and 1969 the church in China went underground. Many of its members suffered persecution and were imprisoned. Bibles, hymn books, Christian literature, and equipment were burned in huge bonfires. Christians began to meet secretly in homes. Bibles and Christian books were hidden for secret reference. Parts of Bibles were faithfully copied by hand to distribute amongst the faithful. It is estimated that some two million Christians maintained their faith.

EASIER NOW

With the arrest of the "Gang of Four" following the death of Mao, persecution of Christians in most provinces has ceased. The new regime is apparently tolerant of the church and is permitting some buildings to re-open and some contact with western Christians.

The Overseas Missionary Fellowship base in Hong Kong reports that though most Christians are without buildings, organisations, and set worship times, the Chinese Church continues as the living body of Christ, rooted in the home and integrated into the family, and free of Western trappings that could be offensive to the regime. Those church buildings that are open are crowded. A protestant church in Canton reports over 1600 regularly attending.

HOUSE CHURCHES

Christopher Morris of the Chinese Christian Research Centre in Hong Kong writes; "Most Christians will continue to look to house churches for true spiritual fellowship. House churches will probably remain the norm for Christian life in China."

OPPORTUNITIES

Just as the Roman Empire brought about changes that enabled the early church to sweep across the world (common language, roads, the Pax Romana) so the Chinese Communist regime has brought about changes that could facilitate the spread of the gospel. These include simplification of the written language, eradication of traditional superstitions, improved communications and the breakdown of the rigid Confucian system which has traditionally been the greatest obstacle to the acceptance of the gospel by Chinese families. (ed.)

MOSCOW TO EXPEL BAPTISTS

Baptists living in Moscow have been threatened with mass expulsion and forced resettlement before the Olympic Games, according to Amnesty International sources.

Amnesty also believes, but is not entirely certain, that Soviet authorities intend to remove prisoners of conscience, at present in psychiatric hospitals in the Moscow area, during the period of the games.

It is also claimed that a number of prison and hospital sentences are to be extended until the games are over so as to avoid contact between 'dissidents' and Western visitors.

N.S.W. WOMEN GO RURAL

On the weekend of April 11-13, C.W.F. women attended a house party at the Gilbulla Conference Centre at Menangle which has as its central building the magnificent old mansion of the Macarthur-Onslows. Set in the midst of glorious gardens, the green of which stood out in marked contrast to the dry and barren countryside, the garden is watered straight from the Nepean River.

The studies for the house party were led by Bob Smith, Associate Director of the Social Service Dept. They were entitled "Close Encounters — with ourselves, others & God." The highlight of the weekend was the Communion service held in the log cabin Chapel in the gardens, and presided over by in-coming President of C.W.F. — Marilyn McDougall.

There was glorious sunny weather with enthusiastic singing under the capable leadership of Barbara West, heart warming fellowship and the opportunity to increase and grow in our knowledge of God, and how to become more effective, more attractive and more assured disciples for Him.

FEDERAL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

LITERATURE WEEK
MAY 25-31

This year the Literature Department has decided not to recommend a list of books for reading but to encourage people to read their own publications. Since 1975 the Literature Department under the name of Vital Publications has issued 14 paperbacks and three large booklets. 44,500 paperbacks have been produced of which to date 32,000 have been sold. The total printing costs have been \$58,000.

The most successful of the books have been "How to Grow an Australian Church" by Gordon Moyes with 13,000 printed and "Church Growth Principles" by Arn and McGavran with 7,000 sold. Both books have recently had a further print run of 1,000 copies printed.

Other publishing ventures have been the annual calendar with 51,000 produced for the years 1974-79. The Pamphlet Club

continues to be used as a forum of expressing attitudes within our Brotherhood. The current subscription to this is \$3.00 p.a.

Another recent publication is discipleship material written by Ian Allsop and produced in conjunction with the Federal Christian Education Department. This material is designed to cater for 16-18 year olds.

For many years there has been the need of a pamphlet on Churches of Christ that would be suitable for enquirers. A promotion folder "Churches of Christ — Who are they?" written by Gordon Stirling has just been released. This sells at 25c for an individual copy with discounts operating for bulk purchases.

The Department is looking to produce another two or three books this year.

However the Brotherhood should be made aware that the book bounty provided by the Commonwealth Government will be withdrawn in 1982. This will result in much larger costs in printing and hence higher prices of books. The result may well be a closer look at all publishing and a smaller number of titles being printed.

Within the next three weeks the latest book to be published by Vital Publications should be available. This will be "Churches of Christ — An Interpretation" by E. L. Williams and will cost \$3.50. This is a complete revision of his "A Biblical Approach to Unity" with extensions and new chapters to cover our position in regard to more current issues such as Christians in Fellowship, the charismatic issue and the Uniting Church.

BOOKS TO READ

YOU AND YOUR LIFE STYLE

Charles F. Kemp (Bethany Press)

Charles F. Kemp is well known to students and many ministers for his excellent manual, "A Pastoral Counselling Guide Book" (available from C.O.B.). He is Professor of Pastoral Care at Brite Divinity School, one of our American Colleges. Now he has written "You and Your Life Style," a hand book for Christian living.

Counsellors frequently give their clients some "home work" between sessions. This includes ways to relieve known pressures, learning to relax, spiritual exercises, and practising positive responses. It occurred to Charles Kemp that much of this material would be useful to most people seeking growth in their Christian life styles. Hence the book.

Very practical, it covers realistic thinking, the creative use of time, practical prayer, the meaning of faith, the capacity to be inspired and a dozen other themes. One of the appendices is "A Guide to Free Writing", a method of releasing tension and working through problems. The Bethany Press is our American Publishing House. Their agency in Australia is W. A. Buchanan Company, 21 Kyabra St., Fortitude Valley, Qld. 4006.

The book includes one of the latest americanisms, "de-awfulizing". It has to do with getting things into perspective so that they do not seem so awful after all.

— Ed.

YOU ARE MY SONS.

By Michael Harper: (Hodder & Stoughton) \$3.20

The Author is world renowned and here deals with a very important area of our Christian lives, our relationship to God. Although most of the chapters are well-worth reading the book does not appear to follow any logical line of thought. In one chapter of the book he introduces what is obviously an obsession, "Speaking in Tongues", and argues it through in a very illogical and unconvincing manner. So poorly used are some of his references that it is more likely to turn a mature Christian away from the Charismatic Movement than to it.

In the book's favour is that it displays Michael Harper's talent for making the reader part of the book. It is a pity that

such an important topic has been dealt with in such a slap/dash manner as it has so much basic material to offer.

Definitely not up the author's usual high standard and as such is not recommended.

John Urquhart.

HE GAVE US A VALLEY

by Helen Roseveare (I.V.P.)

Helen Roseveare worked as a missionary doctor for 20 years in The Congo and established a training school for native nurses and medical assistants interrupted by revolution, civil war, captivity, interrogation and rape.

She gained the love and respect of some of the African people but through misunderstanding with a business and money, antagonized others.

She assesses herself and her work and wonders if it was worthwhile.

Recommended reading.

— M. Ambrose.

FOR CHILDREN MAINLY

by Jason Shirah (The Bethany Press)

A collection of stories to be used with children. Each story is of one page length and relates to such topics as pets, "Clean Your Plate", "The Meaning Of Your Name" as well as "Don't Play With Matches".

The stories are well written and easily adapted for use as children's talks in church. It could also be used by parents as part of family devotions or by grandparents for telling stories to their grandchildren.

As this is published by our American Brotherhood, it may be of advantage to know that the Australian agents are W. A. Buchanan Co., 21 Kyagra St., Fortitude Valley, Qld., 4006.

THE TABLE TALK OF MARTIN LUTHER

Edited by Thomas S. Kepler (Baker)

A collection of some of the material of Martin Luther's "Table Talks". This collection is devoted to that material that deals with the higher spiritual life. The items which vary in length from one sentence to several pages are collected under titles such as "Of God's Word", "Of Prayer" and "Of a Christian Life".

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

HAPPENINGS

For the first time in Nepal's history Christians were recently granted permission to hold public evangelistic meetings in the capital city of Kathmandu. The meetings were organised by several Christian groups and the speaker was from the Khasi church in northeast India.

The first meeting between the Pope and the new Archbishop of Canterbury took place in Africa during the two religious leaders' visits to that continent.

The Papua New Guinea government is being asked by the National Council of Churches there to ban workers from 'crackpot' sects from entering the country on the grounds that they are causing divisions among people. Meanwhile, there are reports of conflict between Anglicans and members of other religious groups which has resulted in fights and churches being burnt down.

The latest box-office success in India is a film of the life of Christ made by a Hindu. "Embodiment of Mercy" tells the story of Christ from the viewpoint of five N.T. characters — blind Bartimaeus, Barabbas, Judas, Mary Magdalene and John.

Disco star Donna Summer is talking openly about having become a born-again Christian.

Since 1963, the West German government has purchased the freedom of approximately 14,000 political prisoners from East Germany. 'Buying' a doctor or other professional person costs thousands of dollars in ransom money. Un-skilled workers are cheap. But ministers of religion usually come 'free of charge'...

A rash of vandalism against churches and Christian institutions has erupted in Jerusalem over the past three months.

City officials say more than \$30,000 in damage has resulted from vandalism inflicted on Baptists, Roman Catholics, Russian Orthodox, and others. Anti-Christian slogans have been painted on walls and tombstones with crosses smashed, and clergymen harassed in the streets by young men believed to belong to the Jewish Defense League led by fiery U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane. The city is granting compensation for all physical damage.

An evangelical Bible College has been launched in Angola with government approval.

A government committee on children's rights in Sweden has come up with the recommendation that children be allowed to divorce their parents.

Hospital workers in Sweden have objected to aborted fetuses being classified as 'human biological refuse' and disposed of along with amputated limbs and organs removed during operations. They have sought guidance from the Lutheran Church of Sweden, which has

recommended that all fetuses from abortions be cremated and their ashes scattered in churchyards.

Charges of attempted murder against former Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver have been dropped after 11 years. Cleaver, a Marxist who became a Christian, said, "It is like being delivered from slavery." He plans to continue his Christian activities.

President Godfrey Binaisa of Uganda has decreed that all missionaries who were expelled by Idi Amin may now return.

House churches in China have become more public and more numerous under the new climate of religious tolerance. Attendance at some is approaching 400. The Three-self Churches, which enjoy government approval, are seeking to require the house churches to close and join them. Some fear a fragmentation.

"Life of Brian," the controversial Monty Python film, has been banned in Norway on the grounds of blasphemy.

DIARY

NATIONAL

May
15-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
June
1 Christian Union Sunday
July
6 Annual Offering — Overseas Missions
VICTORIA
May
24-25 Young Adults Camp
31 Explorer Bushcraft Day
June
6-8 Youth Leadership Training Weekend
12 Tertiary Students Tea
21-22 Sunraysia District Annual Conference
NEW SOUTH WALES
June
4-8 State Conference
QUEENSLAND
June
1 Youth and Christian Education Dept. Annual Offering
7 Opening of Eric Franks Nursing Home
6-8 Annual State Camp for Missions
13-16 Northern Convention
27-29 Social Service Committee Camp

INNER SPRINGS

NOT WHAT, BUT WHOM



In a world where there is much confusion of thought, with too many problems and too few answers we need to plant our feet firmly on a few certainties. The eternal heavens, ever changing yet unchangeable. The seasons that come and go with unfailing regularity each bringing their own measure of enrichment. Nature's perpetual cycle of life and death. Of leaf fall and renewal. Sunrise and sunset, with their breathtaking beauty. The timeless ebb and flow of the sea.

These are everlasting realities that man, with all his brilliance of mind cannot change. But more than what to believe in, the human heart needs the certainty of "whom" to believe. "I know whom I have believed," declared Paul. Can we say as much?

Not what, but WHOM I do believe!
That in my darkest hour of need,
Hath comfort that no mortal creed
To mortal man may give.
Not what, but WHOM!
For Christ is more than all the
creeds,
And His full life of gentle deeds

Shall all the creeds outlive.
Not what I do believe, but WHOM!
Who walks beside me in the gloom?
Who shares the burden wearisome?
Who all the dim way doth illumine;
And bids me look beyond the tomb
The larger life to live?
Not what I do believe but WHOM.

Our Father God, we give you thanks for the great certainties of our faith in the life, and the death and the resurrection of your son Jesus Christ. May we so live by them that we shall have the awareness of his loving companionship every day.
Amen.

2 Timothy 1:12.

Florence Rosler

50,000 KOALAS

Sir Bruce Small (Mr Gold Coast), former Mayor of the Gold Coast, has been noted for his public spirited generosity in support of worthwhile causes. He now has a special project to support the Churches of Christ Lady Small Haven. He has 50,000 toy koalas for sale at \$1.50 each and the proceeds will go toward the building of a 30-bed nursing home at Lady Small Haven.

The Department of Social Security has indicated its intention to provide subsidy for the nursing home in the 1981-82 financial year. Other projects announced for the "Haven" by the Queensland Social Service Department include 36 self-contained equity units and a block of 20 self-contained to be built with the aid of Federal Government subsidy.

Lady Small Haven is a retirement village tucked away on 10 acres of land at Benowa on the Gold Coast just behind Surfers Paradise. Anyone interested in returning to the Gold Coast to live in a two-bedroom equity unit or a bed-sitter "studio" unit should contact the Department at P.O. Box 8, Sherwood, Qld. 4075.

Since this was written Sir Bruce passed away, however the offer is still open.

PRAY FOR JIMMY CARTER

Jimmy Carter must have the most complex job in the world. Let us pray for Jimmy Carter.

"BORN AGAIN"

I have just watched Jimmy Carter taking upon himself the total responsibility and blame for the unhappy failure of the attempt to rescue the hostages from Iran. I believe that I saw the real Jimmy Carter, the "born again" Jimmy Carter. I believe that all along that is the Jimmy Carter of the White House . . . the born again Jimmy Carter.

A CHRISTIAN ON THE HOT SEAT

I do not agree with some of his policies, but I do agree that he is a genuine Christian on the world's hottest seat. I do not believe that Jimmy Carter is "electioneering". I believe that he is acting with integrity as a Christian.

CHRISTIAN RESTRAINT

He has been accused of vacillating. This may be the interpretation put on his Christian restraint when being pressured by a trigger-happy, panicky patriotism amongst his supporters. There are plenty of powerful "hawks" who would push him even further than the "brinkmanship" of cold war. Let us pray for Jimmy Carter.

HOW CHRISTIAN CAN ONE BE?

Perhaps the most Christian thing that the President could do would be to go himself in humility to Iran, to confess whatever past sins America may have committed there, and to seek forgiveness. It is doubtful if even then the mad Ayatollah would release the hostages. But that would be the ultimate Christian way. Most of us Christians shun that way ourselves in our own problems, so we cannot judge Jimmy Carter for not taking it. It would certainly be unpalatable to his people, because in spite of the affirmation on the coins, "in God we trust", the U.S.A. is no more Christian than Australia is. So Jimmy Carter has bearing down upon him all of the diverse pressures of American and world public opinion, as well as the giant problems of Russian aggression, Iranian intransigence and a home economy shot to pieces. In all of that he has to act as a born again Christian. I believe that it is his primary desire to do just that. Let us pray for Jimmy Carter.

NO EASY ANSWERS

All of this underlines the fact that simplistic Christian solutions are not good enough. They used to tell the story of the small boy who quickly completed a jigsaw map of the world. To his surprised parents he explained, "There was a man on the other side. When I got the man right the world came right." This story was used to point up the message that the answer to the world's problems is to save as many individual souls as possible.

It is not as easy as that. Saved people will make some difference. But they need a lot of skills and intelligence as well. No one is more saved than Jimmy Carter . . . but what does he do next? It is not enough to be content to save souls, hoping that when we have enough of them the new world will begin.

ALL WE CAN SAY

All that we can say is that there is likely to be some improvement when born again Christians begin to think about and work through how the Christian principles of love and justice and forgiveness and trust and truth and spirituality apply to modern affairs; and when born again Christians begin to work with other people of good will towards a more just and enlightened society; and when more and more born again Christians find their way into community leadership at every level.

"CHRIST IS THE ANSWER"

I hear sermons in which the diagnosis of the world's ills is excellent. I wait anxiously for the cure. But from being factual and detailed and down to earth, the preachers become vague and general, and tell me what I already know . . . "Christ is the answer." Sure he is, but how? How is Christ the answer in Jimmy Carter's predicament now?

BACK TO JIMMY CARTER

Jimmy Carter will try to find a Christian answer to his predicaments. His answer may be right and it may be wrong and it may be a bit of both. And he will be praised and blamed by other born again Christians who are as confused by the complex issues as he is. But the fact that he is concerned to find a Christian answer will make him a better President than he would have been otherwise. A brilliant atheist in the same position might do a better job. He would do better still if he were willing to look for Christian solutions.

WHAT TO DO THEN?

First of all, let us stop peddling simplistic solutions to complex problems.

Secondly, let us accept the fact that in a complex world there are no easy Christian answers.

Thirdly, let us realise that born again Christians looking sincerely for Christian answers may well come out with opposite convictions on some issues (e.g. Alan Austin and his fans and those who want him out).

Fourthly, let us surrender our minds, feelings, wills and lives to the indwelling Christ, along with our prejudices and pre-conceived ideas. This will make it more likely that we will be a leaven of the Spirit in the community lump.

Fifthly, at the risk of being wrong let us keep working at finding Christian ways through our modern problems by becoming better informed, and then more vocal and active for justice and truth in society, along with others of good will.

Sixthly, let us pray for ourselves and for Jimmy Carter and other world leaders, for God alone knows what is really going on and where we ought to be going from here. (Ed.)

OBITUARY

AITKEN, Mrs. Pearl

The chapel of the Berwick Regional Church of Christ was crowded as a large number gathered to say their final farewells to Mrs Pearl Aitken. Mrs Aitken was born in 1895, the eldest of nine children. Throughout her life she had a strong Christian faith, and she and her husband, Wilson, were regular worshippers and partakers in the life of the Berwick Regional Church of Christ. She had a great love of music, which is reflected in the fact that she taught music in Albury, Wodonga and filled in on the church organ whenever the need arose. Mrs Aitken knew hardship and difficult times as her mother died when she was 16 and as the eldest in the family great responsibility fell upon her shoulders. On marrying she became a farmer's wife in the remote little centre of Erica in Gippsland. Roads were very primitive in this timber forest area and it was here that her two children were born. She did all the usual country women's activities during the second world war, preserving a large variety of foodstuffs to help the family through times of shortage. In later years she took great joy and pride in her garden. In later years she continued her love of children and she demonstrated her love of Jesus by continuing to teach Sunday School until the age of 75. She once said that wherever she went there was a need for a teacher and she joyfully accepted the challenge. Her strong Christian faith and commitment was a shining light to all who knew her and, although very feeble, she attended the Easter Service at the Church of Christ. Mr Aitken has asked us to express his gratitude to all those who showed love for he and Mrs Aitken over recent months, with special mention of Daryl for his unstinted sympathy, love and help. At the funeral service Daryl McLeod led the congregation in praise and thanksgiving for a life well lived full of love of God, concern for others and a deep love of family and friends.

— M. G. Walker

HART, Charles Wyndham

(21.4.80) In the early evening of Monday April 21, there passed from this life the spirit of a great Christian man, who was an inspiration to all who came in contact with him. A highly respected and gentle, loving man, Wyn Hart was born in Monmouthshire, Wales, in 1904 and came to Australia at the age of 27 and worked on a farm at Boort, Victoria. Wyn entered the College of the Bible in 1931. On graduating, Wyn married May Metzenthin in 1935 and then began a 2½ year ministry at West Preston and remained on as a member after the conclusion of his ministry. For 6 years Wyn worked with the City Mission at Richmond and Collingwood and during World War 2 served as a welfare officer. After the War he worked as an admission clerk at the Repatriation Hospital and stayed there until he retired. Wyn served two periods of eldership at West Preston (1945-1955 and 1956-1967) — a total of 17 years. His presence in the West Preston fellowship has been a great enriching experience for everyone — his depth of knowledge and gentle, understanding personality provided us with a counsellor who was loved by adults and children alike. A packed chapel attended the funeral service led by Denise Wissmann and a tribute to Wyn was

expressed by his life-long friend Arthur Withers. As we continue to share with his wife May and daughter Gwenda, we praise God for the privilege of having known him.

— R.J.R.

ROSS, Nellie

(19.3.80). The day following the death of Nellie Ross was the 95th anniversary of her birth. Miss Ross was a well-known resident of the Oakleigh Guest Home. After temporary residence there, she returned as a continuing resident in 1961. Nellie Ross was a member of the church at Kaniva (Victoria), together with a sister and brother, both of whom predeceased her. She and her brother Tom regularly attended the church meetings, though both were badly afflicted with deafness. In the church there they were recognized as good and faithful members, and admired as people. Nellie was greatly loved, and in her need was ministered to from the congregation and by ministers of the church.

In her long time of almost 20 years at Oakleigh, Kaniva people were very mindful of her, and former ministers of this Wimmera church continued in visit her. Her deafness made conversation very difficult. She liked to have the scriptures read to her, more especially as her sight deteriorated, and even large print hardly sufficed her need. Nellie Ross never forgot the church whence she came. The church at Kaniva remembers Nellie Ross with love, and honors her for her faithfulness.

— A.B.W.

SMITH, Norm

We are all unique but there are some people who are special because they are beautiful. Norm Smith was not perfect but was a beautiful person. He worked quietly in the background at the church at Mount Clear and was a support to a succession of ministers. He had been a farmer for much of his life. The family live at Kalkes, near Horsham. When his first wife died he battled on with four daughters. Coming from a devout Methodist background Norm made his decision at a Hinrichsen Mission. Norm's confidence in God never ceased growing and he retained to the end his determination and humour. To visit enorm and Maude was like dropping in on one's parents. We already feel the loss but are more than encouraged by the fact that Norm is with Jesus. Mark Dunn and Graeme Chapman had the privilege of helping family and friends celebrate Norm's graduation. Our love goes out to Maude.

— Graeme Chapman

MINISTERS' SEMINAR

(From p.1)

FRIDAY 3rd

9.00 a.m. — "Keys for Christian Leadership"

9.30 a.m. — "Key Factor in Evangelism" — 1, **Geof. Fletcher.**

11.00 a.m. — "Key Factor in Evangelism" — 2, **Geof. Fletcher.**

DETAILS OF SPEAKERS

Dr Bruce Peterson — Practising psychologist with special ministry to ministers and their wives. **Don Smith** — Administrative Director — Department of Mission, Education and Development, Victoria. **Bishop Jack Dain**, Chairman the Billy Graham Evangelistic Associa-

tion. **Barry McMurtrie** — Minister Church of Christ, Wollongong. **Ron Hewitt** — Minister Church of Christ, Telopea. **Geof. Fletcher** — National Director for Lay Involvement in Evangelism.

The cost will be \$24 per person. Where wives accompany their husbands the cost for the wife will be \$12.

Time will also be allowed for discussion on the progress being made in development of the National Strategy of Evangelism for the '80s.

For further details write to: Mrs E. Impey, Post Office Box 55, Helensburgh, 2508.

VIC

GLEN WAVERLEY (R. B. Elbourne). Church made presentation and offered support to Ron and Mavis Elbourne and family as Ron commences presidency responsibilities . . . Speaker at men's breakfast Lindsay Chapman . . . Easter camp at Cape Paterson included communion service with 157 present including local campers . . . Men's A-grade basketball team premiers for summer season . . . Jewels and junk sale raised \$1,000 for special project . . . Twenties held music and talent social evening . . . Midget Explorers and Junior Good Companions held weekend camp.

BELMONT (B. K. Ryall) April was fellowship month. Specials were communion breakfast Easter Sunday, picnic lunch at Balyang Sanctuary and musical service during tea in hall featuring group "Breakthrough" . . . Ethics in Eighties seminars held. Speakers included hospital chaplain, social worker, gynaecologist. Topics included abortion, sexual lifestyle and death and bereavement. Good community response . . . Junior C.Y.F. numbers doubled . . . Senior C.Y.F. raised \$150 with table tennis-a-thon for the local spastic centre . . . New puppet group used during early worship service.

PRESTON/EAST PRESTON (J. Manallack, P. Wells) "Open Door" celebrated 5th birthday with 60 present including rep from Dept. of Community Card . . . Youth group walked in Community Aid Abroad Walk Against Want . . . C.W.F. held fashion parade and Devonshire tea . . . Linda Morgan attended C.W.F. camp at Halls Gap . . . Andrea Quafe and David Weir attended youth camp at Phillip Island . . . Jack and Jean Manallack attended seminar "Investment for Living" . . . "Open Door" went to Werribee Park Churnside Estate.

IVANHOE (G. Hall). Church parade and presentations held for Northern District of Vic. Baptist and C. of C. Tennis Assoc. . . After church youth fellowship resumed . . . Ladies' Bible study meeting Tuesday p.m. . . Play Group meeting Tuesday a.m. . . Guest speaker Jeff Deuble — Dept. M.E.D. . . . Guest president Geoff Foot.

CYRIL MULLER ALTERNATIVE DRINKS

Cyril is currently the chaplain at the Mildura High School and as well he operates a business "Alternative Drinks" which is a wholesaler and retailer of non-alcoholic drinks.

Cyril started in the "alternative drinks" business after he was called out one night in Mildura to two 12 year olds from the school who were so drunk that they didn't know who they were. The only thing they knew was that they had to leave the backyard where they had ended up before the police came. Cyril saw that it was impossible stopping alcohol getting into their hands and the only solution he saw was to provide them with an alternative. So a side-line which is rapidly growing was born.

Before becoming the chaplain at Mildura Cyril trained at the College of the Bible and then had a ministry at Maryborough for four years. He has been the chaplain at Mildura High since 1972. He is also active in the local church and is one of the Elders at the Mildura church.

Basically his business is a wholesaler and bulk supplier although sales to the public are made. He is attempting to supply hotels, restaurants, shops etc. to bring these drinks into the market place. The business has been expanding at a rate of 500% each year since it was commenced about five years ago.

WHY ALTERNATE DRINKS

When asked why more people who

would normally drink alcohol are switching to the alternatives Cyril gave several reasons. One of these was the stiffer road laws about drink driving as well as court imposed drinking habits.

As well as this socially it was now more acceptable to drink alternatives to alcohol. Many people had developed a taste for these alternatives from tastings at the Mildura show and other places that Cyril has organised. He is concerned that the products he has are made known and available to current drinkers of alcoholic drinks and this is this emphasis in looking for outlets.

NEW PRODUCTS

With over 70 varieties of non-alcoholic wines, liqueurs, fruit cocktails and beers, Cyril is also developing new drinks. With a local winery he has already developed a sparkling ginger and they are currently working on several other alternative drinks.

Since 1973 he has been involved and is currently co-ordinator of the Northern Region of the Health Education Committee. In this capacity he is concerned that after seminars about the problems of drugs in our society the dinners only have alcoholic drinks/available. He is pushing for alternative drinks to be made available at these functions and this is under review at present.

VIC

WEST PRESTON (Miss D. Wissman). Church saddened by death of Win Hart ... Family camp held at Rosebud. Culmination was service on Easter Sunday. Easter thanks offerings given to Christian Guest Home ... Quiz and competition for children held each week in church paper ... Ten ladies went to Alexandra for weekend camp ... Tennis coaching for children commenced ... Baptism held during family service ... Sue Arnett putting together a book of poems.

BRIAR HILL (R. Lloyd). Lenten studies shared with other Christians ... Walk for witness involving local churches was held on Good Friday ... Y.F. conducted first service after Easter ... Baptism recently ... Church preparing through giving to build extensions.

BOX HILL (S. C. Downie). Church celebrated 69th anniversary. Guest speaker Keith Horne, soloist Hilton Williams. Church luncheon followed ... C.W.A.F. visited Parliament House ... C.W.E.F. held non-alcoholic wine and cheese tasting ... Y.P.C.E. "Trekkling in Nepal" with Paul Sayers and Ilkka Tiltiner ... Church helped Vietnamese family of eight by furnishing house ... C.W.A.F. speaker Mrs Sutherland from Austin spinal unit ... Cricket club held presentation night ... Three decisions ... Guest soloist recently - Viv Hancock, Phyllis Eastwood, Charles Nips, Rosemary Koinig, Joy Keeble.

CHRISTIAN WORK CAMPS BLACKWOOD CAMP

The small town of Blackwood, 1½ hours North West of Melbourne, was the site of this years **Christian Work Camp** in Victoria. Over 60 volunteers attended the camp. During the 17 days of the camp, an existing house was converted into a small camp, for use by intellectually handicapped children. This was achieved by completely renovating and extending the existing building.

The first day saw most of the old cladding removed to make way for the new. Walls were removed, door openings created, as the building began to change its character. Completely new electrical wiring and plumbing were installed.

Working from 7.00 a.m. until 8.30 p.m. most nights, made the volunteers look forward to the Sundays, when they took part in the local church services, then enjoyed discovering more about the local area in the Sunday afternoons. The devotional time, morning and night, helped to give everyone the spiritual strength for the task.

Volunteers came mainly from N.S.W. and Victoria to attend the camp. The camp was also enriched by the presence of four International Christian Youth Exchange students from Switzerland, Finland, America and Japan.

Christian Work Camps provide a means by which untrained Christian people can come together to witness, by meeting a need that exists in our com-

munity and by sharing their Christian experience with each other and the townspeople.

The group is looking for a project for next Christmas and asks, if you know of any person or organization in need, who may be helped by the group, please contact David Fraser at 16 Kincumber Drive, Glen Waverley, 3150 or phone 233 7653.



Ian Coker (electrical apprentice) and Linda Boothby (U.S.A. International Christian exchange student).

CHINA RESPONDS TO BIBLE BROADCASTS

The Bible Societies are sponsoring radio programs which are produced by the Christian Broadcasting Association of Hong Kong and broadcast by The Far East Broadcasting Company in the Philippines.

Bible reading radio broadcasts are aimed at mainland China and are receiving a healthy response from listeners.

This year alone, over 10,000 letters have been received in Hong Kong from listeners in all parts of mainland China. This is a complete change from last year, when only a handful of responses arrived.

One listener wrote: "I am desperate for acquiring a copy of the Bible and am willing to pay even half my monthly salary for it!" Another listener said: "I am a new Christian. For the past few years I've been listening to your station for spiritual guidance. It is a pity that we know so little about the Bible, as more than 10 of us are sharing one Bible every Sunday evening. Could you please send me one Bible and one hymn book?"

One third of the letters are coming from repeat writers with non-Christians accounting for 72% of the total letters.

One third of the letters are coming from repeat writers with non-Christians accounting for 72% of the total letters.



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CHINCHILLA, HOPELAND (C. E. Dinning). Weekend family camp recently held near Tara with 80 present. Geoff Charles, Toowoomba, led the Bible studies. Mr and Mrs John Muller were camp parents while Hopeland ladies catered. Saturday night program presented by Y.P. and included "This Is Your Life" with Geoff Charles as guest, also models gave a preview of fashion for the 80's. Items were presented by the Powell family . . . An ex-school bus has been purchased for general use in the churches and the Y.P. gave it its initiation on Anzac Day eve with a short trip and overnight camp at Condamine.

GATTON (David Burrill). David Burrill, from Kenmore, settling in . . . Ministry in

song and the gospel by "Country Way" at Saturday night rally. 130 present. Two Y.P. accepted Christ . . . S.S. Picnic held at Atkinsons Dam . . . Ron and Sue Wilson will be the pastor for Gatton and Ma Ma Creek next year . . . At Amaroo Retirement Village two equity units already built and occupied. As well as a church committee, a town committee is active in fund raising . . . Church anniversary celebrations planned for July.

NAMBOUR (A. G. Leane, R. Dixon) Shane Foley and Julie Lobegeier entered Kenmore — Weldon and Kronk families welcomed from Branch View plan to establish a Christian Convention Centre . . . House adjoining church now used as education block and ministers study . . . New amplification system installed . . . Roy Dixon inducted as associate minister by Frank Ewers . . . 93 attended church camp at Luther Heights. Studies led by G. Weldon . . . Section 2 Boys' Brigade commenced to supplement Section 1 . . . 250 attended church and B.S. picnic on

Anzac Day . . . Regular visits by C.W.F. to hospital and retirement village.

CAMP HILL (Barry Cutchie) Bethel Bible studies commenced with Barry Cutchie leading . . . Care and share groups meeting regularly in homes . . . Ladies conducting fortnightly 'craft and coffee' morning . . . Girls' Brigade under leadership of Mrs Anne Cutchie and Boys' Club under G. Phillips . . . Weekend camps held by Y.P., young marrieds, Boys' Club and Girls' Brigade seniors . . . Teryl Baldry returned from W.E.C. college in Tasmania . . . David Anderson on furlough from N.G. where he works with Wycliffe . . . Kenmore students Murray and Karen Fenner and Alanah Fisher welcomed to assist in ministry . . . Bruce and Glenys Eagles farewelled to Overseas Mission work . . . Annual family camp held on Anzac long weekend at Mt Tamborine with Ivan Bowden, Principal of Q.B.I., study leader.

BAROLIN STREET, BUNDABERG (B. M. Nowitzke) 14-day "Crusade for Christ" conducted by John Timms. There were 24 decisions of which 11 were primary decisions and 13 rededications. Each morning there was a coffee hour for ladies. One feature was the number who came who had been out of fellowship for many years.

NORLANE (John Elliot). Opportunity Shop recently opened meeting a need in the community . . . Mixed youth teams enjoyed volleyball meeting with other Y.F.C. of Geelong and Melbourne.

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MELBOURNE: Singles and Doubles (03) 857 7766 or 277 1787.
ALBURY: Albury Singles Club (060) 25 1910.
NUNAWADDING: Unhitched (03) 877 6077 or 873 4531
FRANKSTON: Peninsula Singles Club (03) 783 3235 or 781 4257.
WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.
PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435
BRISBANE: Gleneagles Singles (07) 379 9122

Visitors to these centres are welcome and may obtain information re meeting times by phoning the numbers listed above.
 Other Singles Clubs operating who wish to be listed here on a share-cost basis should write to Mr R. K. Aldred, P.O. Box 478, Albury, 2640.

Albury Church of Christ,
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

BIRTHS

WESLEY — Eugenie and Russell welcome with love their daughter Dayna Louise, born at Hamilton on May 8th, a sister for Ben. Rejoicing in the Lord's blessing

DEATHS

HART. On April 21 at St. Vincent's Hospital, Charles Wyndham of 5 Eric St., West Preston. Dearly beloved husband of May. Loving father of Gwenda. Loved and remembered always.

PAYNE, Keith. At Dandenong Hospital, April 19th. Loved nephew (foster son) of Paul and Ursula. Brother of Dabra. Cousin of John, Alan and Geoff. Resting in peace.

IN MEMORIAM

MURNANE. Cherished memories of Jack. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Passed away May 11th, 1973. "Till we meet again". Aimee and family.

THANKS

WILSON Mr and Mrs David Wilson of 34 Emerald Dve., Springvale wish to thank all who sent cards and greetings on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. These were much appreciated.

WEEKEND SPECIAL

ONLY \$23 gives you two full days in beautiful Gippsland. Includes B & B and 3-course dinners (cut lunches extra). Single accom. slightly more. Comfortable and homely. Ring for brochure (058) 59 4353, (03) 51 2940.

STAMP COLLECTORS

STAMP COLLECTORS. Join us for fellowship on the 30th May at 7.45 p.m. at the Croydon Church (Jackson St.). Visiting speaker, large range of stamps for sale and supper. Profits to our Overseas Missions. If you are unable to attend but would be interested in similar programs in the future, please ring (03) 723 4297.

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BENTLEIGH

Church of Christ

51st Anniversary

All past members are invited to attend.

Sunday, June 1st

Services

11.00 a.m. — Guest Speaker
Mr. Geoff Crossman,
Chief Air Chaplain R.A.A.F.

3.30 p.m. — Afternoon Tea
5.00 p.m. — Gospel Service

ALL WELCOME

CHAPEL OPENING

KALGOORLIE

Church of Christ

All old members and friends are invited to attend

Sunday, July 1, 1980

2.30 p.m.

Enquiries to L. Gibb
187 Egan Street
Kalgoorlie, W.A. 6430
Phone (090) 21 2298

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The opening of the "Eric Franks Nursing Home"

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by His Excellency Sir James Ramsey, Governor of Queensland

on Saturday, 7th June 1980 at
2.00 p.m.

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25th Anniversary Dinner

7 p.m. July 26

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AND FRIENDS INVITED**

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c/- P.O. Condong, N.S.W. 2484
Phone (086) 78 6364

CAULFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bambra Road

60th Church Anniversary

Sunday, June 1, 1980, 11 a.m.

Ken Clinton (Senior Lecturer C.O.B.)

2.30 p.m.

P.S.A.

Moonee Ponds Salvation Army Singers

"Skylight" from Faithland Community Church, Mitcham

Speaker — Ken Clinton

Past members and friends help us celebrate this day in the service of the Lord.

CHADSTONE, VIC.

(Formerly Jordanville)

25th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, 25th May, 1980

Services at 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Luncheon provided for members and visitors. Enquiries: Mrs M. Patterson (03) 569 8756 or I. Field (03) 277 4144.

SOCIAL SERVICE CONVENTION

at Camp Cal on 27-29 June, 1980

An opportunity for every Church member to participate to find out what is happening in Social Service in Queensland and to hear our guest speakers:-

Bob Aldred — The Ministry of Singles Clubs
Colin Smith — Ministry to People in Hospitals
 Full cost for weekend \$15

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Registrations close when first 100 applicants are received on 23 June, 1980.

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DISCIPLESHIP

● Marcus and Kerry Hodge, Rob Lisk, John Wylie, Julie Bilton, Jean Gunning, Eric Shipton, Port Macquarie, N.S.W. ● Sharon Wray, Owen, S.A. ● Margaret Mitchell, Mount Clear, Vic. ● Max Mutton, Craig O'Connor, Shane Hayes, Stephen Montague, Sonya Page, Karen Proud, Julie Proud, Lisa Romanas, Craig Francis, Wayne Francis, Paul Taylor, Naracoorte, S.A. ● Wayne and Rochelle Gilbert, Rosalyn Pyne, Norm and Beryl Hall, Dulcie Fairburn, Warwick, W.A. ● Linda Kalmier, Earlwood, N.S.W. ● Jim Bremner, Cindy Marrett, Sandy Pember, Julie Vinton, Tanya Marrett, Brendon Ashworth, Shane Murray, Graham Murray, Mrs Jean Thompson, Glenda Lee, Mrs Ethel Allerdyce, Hamilton Hill, W.A. ● Frank Develyn, Mark Develyn, R. Jeffrey, B. Walker, Warragul, Vic. ● Pat McCarthy, Yvonne McCarthy, Peter Wong, Raylee Wyss, Nollamara, W.A. ● Alice Linderberg, Carol Cupitt, Christine Dalgliesh, Bradley Cook, Sharyn Cook, Mark Payne, Derren Miller, Steven Hillyard, Kristine Johnson, Mrs Morris, Barolin Street, Bundaberg, Qld.

● E. Davie, W. Davie, Michael Davie, Andrew Davie, Andrew Bull, K. Ferguson, D. Ferguson, V. Thomas, Elizabeth Eldering, S. Hansch, M. Turner, J. Keene, M. Say, J. Rudd, J. Miller, K. Hooper, B. Hooper, T. Woodger, P. O'Sullivan, A. Foote, D. Harbourn, H. Saint, J. McLean, Nambour, Qld. ● Ian Renshaw, Bruce Barnett, Box Hill, Vic.

● Darren Becker, Briar Hill, Vic. ● Ian MacKay, Robin MacKay, Mary Schollay, West Preston. ● Karen Marshall, Hampton, Vic. ● Christine Foote, Balwyn, Vic.

MARRIAGES

● Jennie Roberts to Jim Peterson, Kadina, S.A.

DEATHS

● N. G. Smith, Mount Clear, Vic. ● Mrs Pearl Altken, Berwick, Vic. ● Mrs Gladys White, Belmont, Vic.

● W. Hart, West Preston, Vic. ● Michael Chapman, John Glasson, Kadina, S.A.

SWAN HILL CHURCH of CHRIST — Victoria

Opening of New Hall and 70th Anniversary

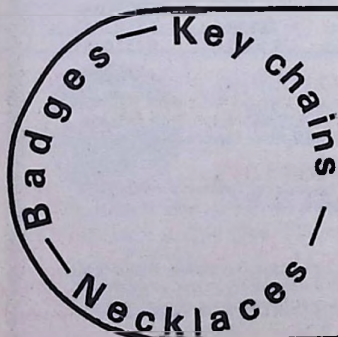
Queen's Birthday Weekend June 14th-16th, 1980

Saturday June 14 2 p.m. Hall Dedication & Opening — Speaker D. H. Smith
 7.30 p.m. Concert by 'Changing Moods'

Sunday June 15 10.30 a.m. Worship Service Speaker A. A. Avery.
 1 p.m. Luncheon followed by time of reminiscence.

7.30 p.m. Musical Presentation by 'Changing Moods' Speaker A. A. Avery.

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 10.45 a.m.: Sunday School.
 First Sunday in month. 5 p.m. Service.
 Third Sunday in month. 5 p.m. Fellowship Tea.

Enquiries Phone (053) 58 2571

THE CHANGING MOODS

Sunday 25th May 7.00 p.m.
 Oakleigh Salvation Army

14th, 15th June
 Swan Hill Church of Christ



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- 1. TOUR TO CAIRNS WITH A.C.T.S./TRANS OTWAY** Leaving from Melbourne on Aug. 23rd 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 Molle 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, Shangai, 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 5 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
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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.

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NSW WA

PORT MACQUARIE (Ray Smith). "Power through Prayer" seminar conducted by Enok Peipman and Bruce Murray of Lay Institute for Evangelism. Three prayer cells formed . . . First Tuesday of each month set apart as a day of prayer. A prayer chain is formed throughout day from 6 a.m. to midnight . . . Married couple, three Y.P. and two retired folk baptised recently.

HAMILTON (W. Flett). Family camp held over Anzac weekend at Bethsham Holiness Mission at Wyee. 57 adults and children attended. Arthur Tregloan was camp leader and Bill Flett led Bible studies. Six young girls made their decisions during the camp.

MAITLAND Mayfield church is mother to the Maitland church which was established on April 20. Guest speaker was Kevin Crawford, State Conf. Sec. and Federal Conf. Pres. 25 recognised as foundation members. R. N. Hawkins, associate pastor with M.A.G. Hall at Mayfield, is taking oversight of the new work.

PENDLE HILL (Ron Bassett) Nick Driver running B.S. . . . Four Y.P. attended teacher-leader camp run by D.C.E. . . . Stephen Harrop recuperating after surgery . . . Recent speakers were Queensland Open Air Campaigners Jim Vine and Wes Fittell . . . Lip reading teachers Vi Smith and Leslie Quarterman attended conference in W.A.

COLLIE (D. Krause). C.W.F. held "At Home" with ladies from many churches and Matron Hamill from local hospital as guest speaker . . . Fellowship and clothing stall held with many Aboriginal people in attendance. Mr and Mrs R. Parkes, Roelands Mission, assisting on local Aboriginal outreach . . . Two baptised . . . Youth participating in last evening service of month . . . Ladies purchased 50 more stacking chairs and new windows for church hall . . . Prayer meeting and Bible study commenced on a weekly basis . . . T. Mandry visited Hong Kong C. of C. . . . Diana Catts and Faye Christensen on deputation presented slides and conducted a ladies luncheon next day . . . Glyniss Holtham added to the volunteer scripture teaching staff for primary schools.

ROCKINGHAM Church formally admitted to Conf. of C. of C. in W.A. . . . Elders and deacons elected . . . Many visitors during holiday period with attendance frequently in the sixties . . . S.S. commenced and Ladies Group formed . . . Mid-week studies progressing and monthly lunches . . . Ladies visited Nursing Homes with Easter program, regular hospital visitation continuing . . . Saturday evening tennis held in summer.

WARWICK (G. B. Carslake). Minister has left for studies in U.S.A. at Fuller Seminary. Keith Robinson will conduct a part-time ministry for next 4½ months . . . Several baptisms at Easter . . .

C grade team won basketball final . . . Greg Hornsby being supported to attend Explo 80 in Brisbane . . . 120 attended church camp at Rockingham . . . Bill Tabbernee led creative worship service . . . 80 (½ active membership) attended A.G.B.M. celebration time. Six elders and eight deacons have been appointed.

HAMILTON HILL (D. M. Hughes). 12 decisions (four adults, eight young people) and seven rededications in recent months . . . Attendances at services have increased especially at night. Junior C.E. and Youth Club growing . . . Church shared with Longbottoms in the loss of their mother after a long illness . . . Church farewelled junior Navy recruits Jim Bremner and Mark Taylor who have helped youth club.

NOLLAMARA (A. J. Anderson, J. Hicks). New office complex adjoining Harrison St., manse completed. . . 150 participated in church camp at Serpentine . . . Brian Willersdorf spoke at gospel service. Two decisions and many rededications . . . Easter services conducted by John Hicks. A. Anderson shared with folk in the Pilbara area . . . 43 attended "Change the World" school of prayer . . . Fashion parade held by C.W.F. . . . 250 saw film "Jesus" . . . Guest speaker Dr D. Hammer, vice-principal of Kenmore . . . Nine men visited Roelands to assist with painting and working bee . . . John Hicks attended in-service training for ministers led by Dr Hammer and Dr Tabbernee . . . A. Anderson attended Director's meeting of World Home Bible League in Sydney and a church growth seminar in Queensland . . . Four teams entered in basketball competition and four in netball.

SWANSTON STREET (A. L. Webb, B. Morton) Record attendances in April . . . Annual Missionary Convention held. Offering response staggering \$12,887 for Love Offering and faith promises in excess of \$35,000 . . . Church seeking services of a full-time Christian Education Director . . . Monthly family service now regular feature . . . 250 of our overseas students planning conference in May with Dr G. D. James as speaker . . . Five Y.P. are planning to attend Explo '80 in Brisbane.



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SO

COWANDILLA (R. W. Saunders). Recent visiting speakers Cliff Perkins, in Adelaide from Whyalla for S.A. Conf., and John Williams, Temperance Alliance ... Ted Heard spoke at Boys' Brigade Section I church parade. Support for two orphan boys (India and New Hebrides) presented ... Mrs Ivy Pollard in hospital for surgery ... Two Vietnamese families meeting with church. English-Viet. N.T. and Viet. Bibles given by Gideons and Bible Soc. Simultaneous translation unit set up ... Mrs Phyl McLean Women's Conf. Pres. ... C.W.F. and C.M.S. combined for meeting. Men met for monthly tea and ladies shared in evening program with concert party providing items ... Members shared in combined Lenten

studies in several homes in district and in S.A. Conf. combined worship.
NARACOORTE (Ron Holmes). Two baptismal services held ... Church tea held to say farewell to Christine and John Fazakerley and Luke before departing to Norseman Mission ... Visit from M.A.F. members ... Shirley and Ron Holmes had open house at manse to give members opportunity to see improvements ... Easter service held on Good Friday ... B.S. held camp at Karingal. Sonny Pillay study leader ... C.W.F. members attended C.W.F. meeting at Bordertown.
BROOKLYN PARK (Graham Agnew). Over \$2500 raised at fete. All proceeds going to establish a Community Care Centre in a house adjacent to the church ... Reg and Dawn Brand conducted a seminar for parents "Getting Communication Into Focus". Evening organised by playgroup ... Promotional film for Explo 80 screened recently ... Minister a S.A. delegate to A.C.C.

Conference on Evangelism in Melbourne ... Sixty attended church camp at Longwood over Anzac weekend ... Recently formed Youth Task Group formulated plans to commence another youth group for those in their early teens ... Jeff Morgan to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Camp ... Parent-child dedication service held.

TOAS

LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). 45 y.p. attended camp at Bicheno over Anzac weekend ... 25 were at Girls' Brigade camp ... Dr. Clezy guest speaker on behalf of Gideons International ... C.W.F. held trash and treasure afternoon while C.W.E.F. held its annual Mother's Night.

ESSENDON (A. Clark, J. Keatch). Vin Collins hospitalised after bad accident during working bee ... Mrs. Lil Orr returned following long illness ... C.W.A.F. and C.W.E.F. hosted W.R.O.C. fellowship rally. 65 from 10 churches. Donations of \$85 for Ascot Vale Church Crisis Centre.

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VIC

CASTLEMAINE (Peter Haylock). A regular segment for a children's story held each a.m. service . . . Easter Sunday p.m. service saw four decisions . . . Visits made by superintendent to parents of each B.S. student inviting them to an open day . . . Golden wedding of Mr and Mrs Henry Walters celebrated at family dinner . . . Julie Reid's slides of India Sharing Venture shown.

MOUNT CLEAR (Mark Dunn). Woman baptised . . . Evening services held first and third Sundays . . . John Fox, Geelong, spoke at Men's Fellowship on sports and business relative to Christian outlook . . . C.W.F. 15th birthday dinner held in pre-school hall . . . Ladies morning Bible study re-commenced . . . Good Companions entertained with concert and raised \$56. During evening 13 girls made their pledges and received scarves. 25 attend each week . . . Mark Dunn leading "Tweenagers" youth group . . . Church missing N. G. Smith who died on Good Friday.

PORTLAND (Noel Mitaxa). K.Y.B. studies growing — seven groups . . . Annual meeting held. Arthur Butler and Les King elected elders . . . 40th anniversary saw chapel filled for both services. Town Band played at evening service with Box Hill Salvation Army singers taking part . . . Red Cross and C.W.A. church parade with Betty Alexander as speaker . . . Planned giving review held at end of April.

BERWICK (D. McLeod, N. Bunch). Church office open every morning with voluntary assistance — one minister in attendance for counselling . . . Eight weeks of discussions led by Norval Bunch on discipleship . . . Musical presentations at Easter services. Choir and "Sugar and Salt" led worship . . . Children's choir "Little Lanterns" participated in celebration service . . . Two baptisms . . . Youth group plans a work camp to W.A. . . . Funeral held of Mrs Pearl Aitken . . . Street stall held in main street . . . Paul and Mark Fletcher and Sue Williams in Christian Drama Group.

NORTH BALWYN (W. J. S. Gaunson). Minister speaker at mission organised by Bendigo church. Many members from North Balwyn assisted . . . Team from Wycliffe Bible Translators led in a week of missionary education . . . Trevor D'Ambrosio compiled an audio visual showing a day in the life of Hilary Carne in P.N.G. and Dorothy Geyer in India . . . Frank Richards placed display of Overseas Missions work in foyer . . . Board held one-day retreat to review church program . . . Gwenda Steele, member of the Indian Sharing Venture Team, spoke at C.W.F. . . . A.B.M. held. Max Witt retired as church secretary after many years' service.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). Baptismal service held when father and son baptised . . . Gospel service featured Burgess family from Berwick as guest singers . . . Norm Harris out of hospital but still unwell.

HURSTBRIDGE (V. Quayle). Mr Quayle's five year ministry concludes on June 29 . . . Building of new hall commenced . . . C.W.F. street stall raised \$250 for building fund . . . Ivan Bell, Underground Evangelism, showed film . . . The "Changing Moods" presented "A Joyful Noise" . . . Visitors have included Paul and Judy Williams, N.G., Jeff Deuble, Dept. M.E.D., and speakers from Baptist Preachers Soc. who are assisting in the ministry.

BALWYN (G. Shaw, M. Foote). Following growth seminar and weekend retreat the board considering directions for the 80's . . . Monthly family services well at-

tended . . . Recent baptism followed by "open air" morning tea . . . Doreen Gordon completed year as C.W.F. President for Vic.-Tas. . . Church now an affiliate of local inter-church care group.

HAMPTON (T. Hanna, D. Morffew). Service held Maundy Thursday. After service on Good Friday members joined "walk of witness" with other churches through main street of Hampton . . . Baptismal service held . . . Black Rock shared in service for screening of "The Cross and the Switchblade" . . . Basket luncheon held . . . Two young ladies to attend Explo 80 in Brisbane.



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What is the place of the Old Testament in our movement. We plead for the restoration of New Testament Christianity which leaves me wondering what we do with the Old Testament. As one who loves reading the Old Testament and who has gained many insights from it as to my conduct as a Christian and as to my relationship with God and his son, Jesus Christ, I wonder at times whether many in our churches have any use for the Old Testament.

Often in our churches if we have two readings the one that is dropped or replaced is from the Old Testament. Many of our Bible study groups plough their way through some of the New Testament books learning very little new but are afraid to tackle any Old Testament book at all. I have heard others say that they do not read the Old Testament because they have found it difficult to understand or they see it as portraying a God that they could not fit into their theology. (One of the people in the early church had this same problem. His name was Marcion who rejected the God of the Old Testament. In fact Marcion was most impressed with Paul and had difficulty accepting any other New Testament writer. He was condemned by the early church as an heretic).

Why use the Old Testament? Firstly because it shows us of the character of God. It shows his dealings with his people and the lessons and joys we can learn from this. Just because we are part of God's family it does not mean that a standard is not expected of us. When the Israelites fell short of this standard then God called someone to ask for their forgiveness and their response conditioned God's

action towards them. This should give us food for thought. How is God going to view our actions and thoughts given that we are part of his family.

The Old Testament was the Bible of the early church. It was the teaching that Jesus used to develop our understanding of God. Paul and others have built on an assumed understanding of the Old Testament to help us in our efforts to live as Christians under the new covenant we have through Jesus. We too should have an understanding of God as he revealed himself in the Old Testament.

Another factor for me is the revealing of one side of the character of God that is not so fully shown in the New Testament. Many in past years have laid great emphasis in the loving God as revealed in the New Testament. This is very important and should never be forgotten. However we should also remember that God is a righteous God. He is concerned that his right rule should be followed and that we should be helping the world to know this right relationship. God is holy and one who abhors any contact with that which is not pure and yet a loving God who cares for each one of us. This double emphasis is needed and one of my favorite passages (the call of Isaiah in Chapter 6) exhibits God as holy and yet also as a loving, caring God.

Through the Psalms I can identify with men, as they have expressed their feelings for God through the good and the rough. These have helped me to face times of trouble and also to share the times of happiness and joy. Even a book like the Song of Solomon speaks to me of the joy that can be in a marriage relationship.

For me the Old Testament lives and helps me to know Christ in a fuller way. Have we as a movement perhaps neglected it too much?

THE LAST WORD

True religion affords government its surest support. The perpetuity of this nation depends upon the religious training of the young. It is impossible to govern the world without the Bible.

— George Washington

Duty Verses Love

Duty looks at life as a debt to be paid; Love sees life as a debt to be collected. Duty is constantly paying assessments; Love is constantly counting its premiums

★ ★ ★

"Every time I ask you something," the angered husband said to his wife, "you answer all my questions with another question. Why?"

"Do I really do that?" his wife replied.

★ ★ ★

Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false, they cannot harm us unless we are wanting in character; if true they show us our weak points and forewarn us against failure and trouble.

★ ★ ★

Four things which cannot come back — the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life and the neglected opportunity.



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