



THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 84 No. 1 February 7, 1981

Registered for posting as a newspaper — Category A

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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COMMITMENTS



"A.C." SPECIAL
OUTREACH



CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPOINTED TO FEDERAL ABORIGINES BOARD



David Hammer

At the Annual meeting of the Federal Aborigines Mission Board held in Perth in October 1976 it was resolved to appoint an assistant to help the Secretary in the administrative role of the Aborigines Mission work. This decision was reached because of the continuing rapid development of our involvement as a Brotherhood with aboriginal people Australia wide. However, since that decision was reached in 1976 new centres have been opened in Adelaide, Port Lincoln, S.A. Tamworth and Albury, N.S.W. Normanton and Brisbane Q. Onslow, Port Hedland, Mechanical Training Workshop, Esperance, W.A. as well as general growth in the established aboriginal fields.

The Board in endeavouring to implement that earlier decision has been looking continually to find the man with the qualifications and abilities to meet the day to day demands placed upon him. The Board is now pleased to announce the appointment of David Hammer of Brisbane to the Federal Board office in Perth as assistant secretary. Mr and Mrs Hammer and family are due to take up the appointment towards the end of January 1981. They come into the Aborigines work from a background of Aborigines Missions, Woolwich Bible College, Overseas Missionary Service in

\$180,000 COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR PERTH SUBURB

The Christian Community Centre at Thornlie is almost completed at a cost of \$180,000. Not a bad effort for a church that commenced just nine years ago with 15 members.

FULL TIME MINISTRY

Thornlie had doubled their membership by 1978, and in faith the 31 members called John and Julie Bond to full time ministry. Since then the place has exploded. Membership is now 200 with over that number at morning services and over 150 at night.

THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

Services have been held in the local high school hall, but there is now no building in the community large enough to contain them. And it is still growing. There were 86 baptisms in 1980 and 22 in the few weeks before Christmas. On Christmas Sunday an outdoor service attracted 500 people with seven decisions. The church has now added Jack Bond (the minister's father) to the staff. All of this has made a new building essential.

TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

There was no point in building a make shift utility hall in a back street. Whatever was built would also need to be able to meet community needs. So a Christian Community Centre it had to be, with facilities for counselling, social care, aged persons fellowship, play groups and

New Guinea and Ministry in three states. Mr Hammer was utilised by Kenmore Christian College from 1974-80 as a part-time lecturer at the College. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Theology and is currently endeavouring to complete his thesis for Doctorate of Theology. Mr Hammer has also served the Brotherhood on State Aborigines Committees in N.S.W. and Queensland, Overseas Committees, Preacher Placement and Advisory Board in Queensland. Mrs Hammer has a nursing background, served with her husband in New Guinea and has been involved in leadership in women's work and Christian Women's Conventions International. David and Lynne Hammer have three children, Narelle, 7, David 12 and Wendy 10.



John Bond

marriage guidance, as well as the chapel. Those parts of the building related to adult, family and community education are attracting tax-deductible giving.

\$105,000 TO DATE

The church has raised \$105,000 and is urgently seeking the balance from people interested in giving to something that is moving. They hope to open the building debt free early in the new year.

THE MINISTER AND EVANGELISTIC PROJECTS

The Thornlie church is not self centred. They have released John Bond for evangelistic work both interstate and in W.A. and plan to continue to do so. They have also released him for special planning for Explo 81 in May.

PUBLICITY

Although Thornlie church is heavily burdened with its imaginative building program they are still prepared to spend money for attractive printing and publicity that lets the community know of both the Sunday services and the many activities during the week, all geared to meeting community needs, especially the need for the good news about Jesus Christ.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 84
No. 1

February 7
1981

ISSUE

Feb. 21
March 7

DEADLINE

Feb. 11
Feb. 25

EDITOR: G. R. STIRLING

SUB-EDITOR

MANAGER: C. R. AMBROSE

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ON MY MIND

Richmond I. Nelson

Richmond Nelson is the Newly appointed President of the World Convention of Churches of Christ. He is a black Jamaican and is Principal of the Oberlin High School in Jamaica. He is a distinguished leader in his community, amongst our Jamaican churches, in the Jamaican Christian community, and at world level in Churches of Christ. He is hoping to meet many Australians at the World Convention of Churches of Christ in Jamaica from July 15-20 in 1984.

Last summer I shared in a mutual mission project between the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and the Caribbean Conference of Churches. One Sunday morning I was the breakfast guest of an outstanding Presbyterian layman at his home in Gainesville, Florida. As we sat down at the table and were about to ask God's blessing on our meal the telephone rang. It was the police. They broke the shocking news to my host. His daughter had just been found murdered in an apartment a few miles outside the city. He hung up the phone, returned to the table and told us the sad news. Then he said to us "This is very sad news indeed, but I know that I am not alone. God is with me." We joined hands around the table — three white Christians from the U.S.A. and one black from the Caribbean, and we prayed together for the sustaining grace of the one who promised to be an "ever present help in our time of need". My host overcame the shock, drove us to church and faced that day with hope and courage.

—EASY GIVING, DIFFICULT SHARING

This incident set me thinking about what we Christians from different nations, races and cultures have to share with each other. Until recently the affluent nations assumed that they had something to share — wealth, education, culture, and technology, and the poor nations had nothing. They were recipients. The Christians from the wealthy nations developed techniques for giving but they were never too good at receiving. In most cases wealthy Christians felt that once they had given a few dollars they had met their obligations and satisfied the need — particularly the need on the mission field. Giving comes easily. Sharing is more difficult.

— SHARING WHAT WE ARE

Sharing implies that the other person has something to give. So we are now learning that each of us has something to share and that each one is in need of receiving. Most importantly we are called to share not only what we have but what we are. Therefore as Christians begin to understand what the Lord has done for us in Jesus Christ — He gave Himself in order that we might be liberated from that which enslaves us — so we will discover that what we have to share with one another is more spiritual than material.

"SUCH AS I HAVE"

As I sat with my host in his hour of tragedy and need, I remembered the words of Peter to the Lame Man, "Silver and Gold, I have I none, but such as I have, give I unto you." Money is not the most important gift. The church around the world will be enriched when we make it possible for believers to share what we are with each other mutually.

BC: The Archaeology of the Bible

A new 12 week half hour series of programs will be broadcast on ABC television commencing on Sunday February 15 at 9.30 p.m.

The series takes a look at the Bible and its background. Magnus Magnusson, the presenter, asks archaeologists to examine the evidence for Biblical stories in their actual location — Egypt, Jordan, Syria

and Israel.

The series ranges from Genesis and the contrast with the latest knowledge about the birth of man and civilisation through to the commencement of the Christian era.

The series includes such up-to-date finds as the new library discovered in Syria about two years ago.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY NIGHT?

Under this heading we wrote two Page 13 articles that created some comment. Now we read that the A.C.T. Conference has come up with a possible answer to the question.

They moved the following resolution: "That steps be taken to increase substantially the average attendance at, and the evangelistic effectiveness of, the Ainslie Sunday night services, by enlisting 'covenanting supporters' in all three congregations who will dedicate themselves to:

- regular attendance at the services,
- regular prayer for the services,
- increasing the number of covenanting supporters,
- introducing to the services persons not committed to Christ.

They celebrated the Covenanting Program at the Conference Sunday night service. It was inspiring and well supported and hopefully a foretaste of what will be usual when the covenanting gets under way.

Now the ministry team is busy sending out letters in preparation for follow-up visits to enlist the covenanters.

No doubt some one from Canberra will keep us posted with news of this fascinating project.

o *Victoria*

Community Refugee Settlement Scheme

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has a scheme operating to enable community groups to assist in the settlement of refugees in Australia, particularly Indo-Chinese families. They are seeking to settle 2000 refugees in Victoria in the next 12 months.

Can your church (or group of churches) become a sponsor for the settlement of one or more of these families, whose hardships have been well publicised in the media? With the guidance of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, a sponsor group undertakes responsibility to offer support, orientation, and assistance in initial settlement. The group would help find accommodation, provide necessities, clothing, furniture and initiate contact and integration in the community. Any church undertaking sponsorship should be prepared to meet a cost of approximately \$700 per refugee family.

The Department of Community Care is seeking to promote and assist our churches' participation in the scheme. The use of its resources and some financial assistance is available where necessary. For further information and literature to enable your church to become involved in this means of Christian caring, please contact the Department, Office (662 1411), Rod Lloyd 435 8797 or Wal Fordham 836 4253 (A.H.).

— Rod Lloyd

YOUTH MINISTRY REVISED

A "routine investigation," has led to the development of a totally revised and upgraded youth program for the Glen Waverley church. The new strategy for youth ministry has been endorsed by the board and enthusiastically welcomed by leaders, parents, and young people alike. It will come into operation at the beginning of 1981.

ASSESSMENT

The investigation arose at the direction of the board, who were concerned at the "drop out" rate of young people from some areas of the church's life. Those chosen to look into the problem enlisted the help of Jeff Deuble, field director with the Department of Mission, Education and Development. His expertise and objective view point proved invaluable. It was soon recognized that the problem was not one which could be dealt with superficially, and consultation over several months resulted in the development of a new model and approach to youth ministry.

ADVANTAGES

The new model is seen to have many advantages. It is an integrated approach, and as such will not only safeguard against duplication but introduce an overall strategy for effective youth ministry within the church. It will be more directly assessable and open for adaptation. Through social, study, small, and special interest groups, a variety of needs will be catered for, while evangelism and nurture are kept as high priorities. It will allow for greater leadership development, co-operation and follow through between age groups.

OVERSIGHT

Graham Ladner has been appointed as Youth Co-ordinator and under the board will have responsibility for the program. Apart from organizational and

pastoral oversight he will act as a resource person in programing. He will also be responsible for leadership recruitment, training, and support, and for inter-group cooperation and communication.

COMMITMENT

The church is situated in an area of high youth population, with some 150 young people involved in its own life and programs. This latest step is a tribute to the concern and vision of the board and youth leaders in the church. Not only does it speak of an ongoing commitment to ministry within the church, but may well show the way forward to other churches grappling with similar issues.

NATIONAL YOUTH OFFICER BIBLE SOCIETY

Miss Mary Hughes of Melbourne took up the position of National Youth Officer with the Bible Society in Australia on December 1. There have been Youth Officers in Victoria previously, but this is the first appointment that embraces a national responsibility.

Miss Hughes, 21, has recently completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in psychology at Melbourne University.

The National Youth Officer will be responsible for the co-ordination and production of the "Seeds" and "Word Alive" periodical newspapers, and the annual Children's Project for use in Sunday School classes. Miss Hughes will act as the focal point for all research and investigation into children's and youth work for the Society.

Based in Melbourne, Miss Hughes will work under the general supervision of the State Secretary of Victoria, the Rev. Wesley D. Girvan.

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GOD AND THE ITALIAN EARTHQUAKES

A reader has written to us suggesting editorial comment on a statement made by a Naples priest concerning the Italian earthquakes. He said, "God has punished us severely!" The reader sent us a newspaper cutting describing the Italian suffering. The "Thought for the Day" appeared just beneath it, quoting from the Psalms, "God fills me with joy and brings me pleasure forever." He wondered if this applied to the disaster victims.

We were going to write something. Then we visited **Greg Deuble** at Shepparton. He gave us a copy of his church paper. In it we found the comment below. He has said it better than we can.

The natural disasters which occur from time to time prevent many from believing in a loving God. If the created world was good (Gen. 1:31), why do so many have to suffer from earthquakes? But God's creation is living and it continues to develop and change. The earth as it was "in the beginning" was very different from today. For instance, the chalk hills and the sand beds of Surrey were under the sea millions of years ago. Paul wrote with great insight. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Romans 8:22) indicating that the universe is working towards perfection.

Another stumbling block to belief is the scourge of disease, such as cancer. Why should men, women and children suffer from this? Medical researchers are now conquering these dread illnesses as they did years ago against tuberculosis and diphtheria, and in their victories "God is working His purpose out".

We are inconsistent in our approach to life if we ask for protection from pain and tragedy. Parents do not wrap their children in cotton wool to preserve them

from accidents, or stop them from rock climbing and other dangerous activities. They let them take their chance so that they can develop naturally. So God has put us in a world of high risk — a risk which mankind has greatly increased by his inventions and foolishness.

Some look on Christianity as an insurance policy to preserve them from calamities; but no commercial company would promise that, only compensation after an accident. When terrible and tragic things happen to us and our loved ones, God in His love and compassion compensates us by reconstituting our lives, provided we allow Him to do so, picking us up when we are broken, then strengthening us and re-creating us for his purpose.

UNUSUAL SERVICE BRINGS RESULTS

An unusual service at the **Cheltenham (S.A.)** church during November brought worthwhile results. Seeking to challenge his congregation to a deeper Christian commitment, **Colin Jones** invited them to see a short film instead of listening to a sermon.

After a period of singing and a reading from James, the congregation, which included many young people, watched the film "The Hungry People", made by World Vision. It dealt with the effects of community aid projects in relieving the plight of people in developing countries.

After the film, **Colin Jones** spoke briefly about the challenge of allowing one's faith to find an expression in positive action. He concluded with an appeal for commitment, to which five young people responded.

DIVINE HEALING

The question of the church and healing is an ever lively subject for discussion, speculation and controversy. The presence of many "religious quacks", both scrupulous and unscrupulous, in the field only complicates the question more. Most Christians have no problem with the fact that God heals today, but rather with the fact that many who have really prayed the prayer of faith for themselves or on behalf of others have not seen healing take place. The slick, self righteous, judgementalism of those who naively question the faith of those concerned adds nothing to the discussion.

A DOCUMENT PREPARED

So we welcome an excellently prepared document on the subject of Divine Healing as a basis for further discussion amongst us. It is entitled impressively, "Churches of Christ in N.S.W., Report by the Commission on Divine Healing, to the Annual Conference of 1980."

The 1977 Conference resolved that, "This Conference requests the Conference Executive to form a Commission to examine the biblical doctrine of Divine Healing, the healing ministry being practised in other communions, and the place that the healing ministry should have in our own Brotherhood."

THE COMMISSIONERS

The Commission included **Alan Norling** of Epping a counselling psychologist, **Colin Saxby** of Lane Cove a member of the Federal Council of the Order of St Luke, **Garry Walker** of Lane Cove and the Registrar of the N.S.W. Churches of Christ Theological College and **Dr D. S. Berecny** of Telopea, practising psychiatrist.

They presented their Report to the 1980 N.S.W. Conference. It includes:

- Statement on Divine Healing by **Lloyd Jones**.
- Details of survey in the churches concerning Divine Healing.
- Other testimonies of Divine Healing.
- A detailed documented case of a healing.
- Comments by the Commissioners.

The Report document is available from **C.A. Saxby**, 38 Earl St., Roseville, N.S.W. 2069 at 40c per copy. (Add postage of 40c per copy, 50c for 2 copies, 80c N.S.W. or 90c other states for 5 to 9 copies).

"I DREAMED I DIED!"

I dreamed I died the other night,
And Heaven's gate swung wide,
With kindly grace an angel came
And ushered me inside.

And there to my astonishment
Stood folk I'd known on earth,
Some folk I'd judged and labelled
As unfit ... of little worth.

Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free.
For every face showed stunned surprise—
No one expected me!

(Anon. From A.C.T. Bulletin)

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OUTSTANDING INDIAN CHRISTIAN VISITS AUSTRALIA

Dr. I. Ben Wati, former President of the World Evangelical Fellowship and for 23 years the Secretary of the Indian Evangelical fellowship, recently spent 6 weeks in New Zealand and Australia. Four days were spent in Adelaide when he addressed a number of meetings, including a brief session with the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board. Dr. Wati made a number of very touching comments as he spoke of the work in the N.E. area of India from which he comes. Just a week or two before leaving, he had been speaking to a group of 300 university students when two of them came to him afterwards and asked him to give their greetings to the people of Australia. One was a young undergraduate who has set himself the task of winning one person to Christ Jesus each week. Dr. Wati's own grandfather, in his young years, had been a head hunter, but when by the grace of God he became a true follower of Christ, he would say with Paul, "I am what I am because of the grace of God." He remained illiterate all his life, but he grew in his commitment to Christ throughout his whole life of 111 years.

The pioneer missionary to his home area was a Rev. Clarke who spread the message very effectively among these hill tribe people. Instead of inviting people to come forward to accept Christ as we do in our services, Mr Clarke drew a line across the roadway and placed a bamboo there, then invited all those who wanted to become disciples to cross the bamboo. To these people it was a very significant and heart searching decision, which for a long time some could not do. Eventually many did with the result that today in some of the States in that area, up to 70% of the people are Christians.

In a number of places in the N.E. of India there has been persecution of Christians resulting in the deaths of a number, and several churches have been burnt down. But despite all of this there has been a wonderful revival sweeping through these seven small States over the past four years. In some places there have been daily prayer meetings since then. Some of these prayer meetings commence at 4 a.m. and last one to two hours, and again people gather after sunset. Churches are filled for the sessions with as many as 2000 attending in some places.

In one village in 1976 as a result of the revival, 300 young people were baptised. The revival even was felt in schools and in the court rooms. 11 times in the past four years a Christian magistrate had the experience where Christians were opposing each other over land or other issues, presenting him with a real dilemma. In this situation he asked both parties to pray. All prayed together including the magistrate. At the end of some time an elder or deacon from one side stood up and apologised to the magistrate for bringing the case before him. Likewise a leader from the other side did the same

W.R.O.C. MEANS FELLOWSHIP

Conference President, R. Elbourne, preached at Sunshine's 54th church anniversary service on November 2, after which with Mrs Elbourne he shared in a Western Region Meet The President Program, Fellowship Tea and a combined gospel service at Footscray, at which the President preached, L. Croxford (Glen Waverley) being songleader. Items were contributed by several members from W.R.O.C. churches.

Western Region Combined Prayer Meeting was held at Melton, Nov. 19, in the home of Arthur and Wendy Street. Jim Midgley, who concludes his ministry at Melton in December, led the meeting attended by representatives from seven churches.

The Gisborne church organized a W.R.O.C. fellowship day with 70 attending the function based at the Gisborne manse. Features were mini-Olympics, a scenic drive and devotions with children's story led by W. Rogers (Maidstone).

W.R.O.C. churches continue to support the younger churches at Werribee, Melton and Gisborne. The W.R.O.C. Annual Meeting was held at Sunshine on December 11.

— F. B. Alcorn

SOME INTERESTING COMPARISONS

"Church Scene", the national Anglican paper has 4,500 subscribers. "Church and Nation", the Uniting Church paper: for Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, has 6800 subscribers.

"The Australian Christian", the national paper of Churches of Christ, has 5250 subscribers.

and the issue was settled without the magistrate having to give a decision.

In this whole area where live some 37 million people, there is not a single foreign missionary. Foreigners are not permitted even to visit this area because it is so close to the border with China and Burma. The Christians of this area are themselves the missionaries to their own people, but not just to them. Today they have sent out a number of missionaries from their own Clark Theological Seminary to various parts of India. These, their own missionaries are being fully supported by these Churches of N.E. India. The Clark Theological Seminary is only 4 years old and all the buildings including residences for staff are thatched roof and bamboo walls. Some day they hope to erect more substantial quarters. Meanwhile they have far more applicants than they can admit. Enrolment stands at approx. 70 while last year they had to turn away over 120 as accommodation and faculty are taxed to the limit at the moment.

— Bruce Coventry.

INDONESIAN PARTNERSHIP

R. S. A. McLean

Mr D. R. Maitimoe, director for the Department of Lay Training and Education of the Council of Churches in Indonesia, has expressed appreciation to Australian Churches of Christ for sponsoring two recent training workshops organised by the Scripture Union of Indonesia. Twelve participants were involved in the Children's Bible Reading Note Writers' workshop and twenty people shared in the workshop for adult Bible Reading Notes. Important recommendations concerning the policy and practical and technical guidelines for the writers will not only be used by the writers of the Indonesian Scripture Union, but also other Christian writers in Indonesia who are concerned with the promotion of the gospel through Christian literature.

NEW PROGRAMS

Several new programs to train new writers will be held in 1981. The first will be held in Jakarta in April with 25 writers, and the Overseas Mission Board on behalf of the Churches of Christ in Australia, will remit US\$3,000 for the expenses involved including travel and accommodation for participants.

By sponsoring Writers' Workshops in Indonesia, we are sharing with the Indonesian Churches in the mammoth task of promoting the reading and study of the Bible throughout the whole of Indonesia.

TWO AUSTRALIAN COUPLES

In addition to supporting leadership training programs conducted by the Indonesian churches, the Board now wishes, with the approval of Federal Conference, to extend its involvement by sending two married couples who will work in partnership with the Churches of Christ Mission in Indonesia (American Churches of Christ Christian Churches) in establishing a program for the training of Indonesian pastors. Prayer is requested for this new venture, and that workers with initiative and leadership qualities and a gift for Bible teaching, will be available.

Daund Developments

Dorothy Geyer who is the Administrator of the Ashwood Memorial Hospital at Daund, reports.

Two young doctors, a married couple, Dr. Shemeen Bhaskar and Dr. Ravi Bhaskar were appointed to the staff last October. Two new trained nurses have also been appointed. This means that a village outreach program has become possible and has been operating in Bhigwan as well as as well as Shrigonda, with reasonable response.

At the Daund church a number of Christian families are witnessing to their neighbours. There are about 150 — 200 children attending Sunday School.

Born to



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Then this is followed by co-operation with them to fulfil their needs and become self-reliant.

Jesus identified with the suffering poor:

"Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me". Every time He met a person in need He always gave healing.

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OPEN FORUM

Correspondents are requested to say only what is true, kind, necessary and Christian, and to say it in no more than 150 words.

CONSEQUENCE OF DIVORCE

To the Editor:

Modern scholarship is wonderful. For almost 2000 years the Christian church laboured under the misapprehension that the Bible discouraged divorce and condemned the re-marriage of divorcees. Suddenly we are given to understand that this is wrong. It is on O.K. thing to divorce and re-marry, providing you are sorry. Other Christians are guilty of the unforgiveable sin if they do not ignore what they believe to be forbidden by God.

Sin is always accompanied by consequences as well as punishment. God, and the church, may forgive a drunkard, but his disease-ridden body is not automatically healed. He has to live with the consequences of his action. Divorce has its consequences. One of those appears to be that they cannot re-marry. The church always believed that those who did were living in adultery.

Forgiveness of sin does not possess the right to continue in sin. The woman taken in adultery realised this when Jesus told her to "Go and sin no more". If we are right in understanding the Bible states that the divorced person who re-marries is living in adultery, then, if they repent and are forgiven, this does not entitle them to remain in an adulterous relationship. Failure of the church to condone re-marriages that are operative, has nothing to do with forgiveness of sin. If we have been wrong for 2000 years, that's a different matter.

— Owen Wainwright (N.S.W.)

NEW LOOK CALENDAR

To the Editor,

I wish to congratulate and thank those responsible for our 1981 "new-look" Churches of Christ calendar. The space available for daily notes and also the daily readings, are both very welcome additions. The daily readings leading up to the Sunday worship theme are most helpful. Thank you.

Joy Thompson,
(Murwillumbah, N.S.W.)

MORE ON NOONKANBAH

To the Editor,

Thank you for publishing in "A.C." Dec. 6 "Another Point of View" alongside of the presentation of Noonkanbah as Alan Austin sees it. These two statements present one view by a white after a fleeting visit to a culture which is difficult for Europeans to understand even after years of study of Aboriginal life and culture at first hand, and one view from a group of Aboriginal Christians who live on the spot.

When situations such as Noonkanbah arise with their political and emotional implications, many do-gooders with a few days experience suggest so-called Christian answers which are accepted by white political and religious people and some Aboriginal people.

Having known and worked with Jimmy Bleundurry, I agree that he is committed to preaching Christ and him crucified, but as a government representative of his people he is under great pressure by socio-political groups. This pressure and stirring has gone on for many years in the North West and is not

related to the good news of salvation through Christ. The "Strelley mob" are led by a European who is antagonistic to the things of God and salvation through Christ. Strelley are being championed by certain Christian agencies and listened to in preference to tribal leaders. Joe Lannigan is a tribal leader and was at Federal Conference and expressed similar thoughts to those of Hansen Boxer.

Alan Austin questions, "Can we really expect people to respond to the gospel when those bringing the message are seen to be supporting an intruding culture which has been more destructive than constructive?" If it is a socio-political gospel presented by so-called "Christian Australia" then the answer is in the negative. But where the good news of Jesus Christ is coming to them in their culture there are more Aboriginal people accepting him as Saviour and Lord, per capita, than in the white society.

Alan Austin asks, "Is the Aborigine's attachment to his land just pagan superstition or is it rather a real strength that God would have us affirm? Which is more biblical, the Aborigine's understanding of the land and land tenure, or that of white Australians?" Hansen Boxer answered with scripture: "Love and serve God with heart, soul and mind, and this cannot include worship of land or sacred sites."

Surely Jesus himself faced socio-political questions and the many injustices which existed then. Surely the temple site was sacred to him, but he said, "All of these buildings will be knocked down with not one stone left upon another." (See also Matthew 18:11, John 6:39,40).

Lance Fisher, The Patch (Vic.)

We have given this correspondent extra space because of his long association with the Aborigines of the North West of W.A. (Ed.)

GOLDEN WEDDING INVITATION

An invitation is extended to the friends of ETTIE and ROSS LLOYD to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the home of Alice and Keith Bates, 38 The Outlook, Glen Waverley, 3150 (phone 560 9623) between 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday March 1st, 1981.

A baby girl to Vanuatu Missionaries

Congratulations to Richard and Tina Lala on the birth of Glenda at the Madang Hospital, P.N.G. on January 7, 1981. Richard and Tina are from Vanuatu and involved in pastoral work with Churches of Christ at Samban in Papua New Guinea.

A LEGACY PERPETUATES YOUR INTEREST IN

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DRESSED FOR CHURCH

To the Editor,

I wouldn't dream of going to church without full church dress, suit and collar and tie. But I often wonder if I am making it difficult for my neighbour to go to church, because he has no suit, collar and tie. Or if he has, am I saying to him, you would not be welcome at church if you came informally dressed. And worse, am I giving him the impression that Christianity is all about dressing up in one's Sunday best and going to church?

I have been told that it is a good witness for our neighbours to see us all dressed up on Sundays and obviously going to church. I am wondering if it is necessarily a good witness in an age when dress has become so very informal. Perhaps it only witnesses to the fact that Christian men dress conservatively.

My father-in-law always advocated "Sunday Best". He used to say, "If you were going to meet the king you'd wear your best clothes wouldn't you? Well you are going to meet the King of Kings!" I used to think even then that the King was my father and that the rest of us are brothers and sisters, and that should make a difference. I know now, of course, that I do not go to church to meet the King, and that I am meeting him all the time, both dressed up and in my working clothes.

But habit dies hard and I will no doubt still dress up for church, but I hope a little less conspicuously, for my neighbour's sake.

Yours sartorially,
TERTIUS

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

NOT A QUIZ NIGHT, SURELY!

Strangely enough, the humble quiz has blossomed into a popular social event for young and old in the churches, as an aid to inter-generational fellowship, outreach and even fund-raising (church families buy tickets for themselves and for outsider families whom they invite). We had to see it to believe it!

AT TABLES

Those who attend sit at tables for six to ten people, each table being a team. Each table has eight (or more) score sheets, numbered one to ten, one sheet for each round. Each round consists of ten questions. The first round could be general knowledge, the second current events, the third geography and so on. Other rounds could include music, bible knowledge, sport, history, literature, local knowledge or biography.

QUIZ MASTER

The quiz master reads each question and the teams work on each answer for 30 to 45 seconds, and each recorder writes the answer down. Teams have to remember to work quietly lest their answers are eaves-dropped by other tables.

At the end of each round papers are collected and marked by the recording team. Usually progressive scores are added to a large board as the evening progresses. The winning team is often given a prize, say a free supper or their admission returned. Sometimes there is a minor prize of sweets or chips for each table as it wins a round, presented after the subsequent round.

FUN, MIXING AND OUTREACH

Mainly it is a "letting down the hair" fun night, admirably suited to bringing along and mixing in new people for the church, as well as cementing friendship for those already in the church. It also makes a good program for the many senior citizens and friendship clubs that are blossoming round the place.

I.T.I.M. IS TWENTY ... AND A MIRACLE!

Laurie Styles, the founder of the Industrial Trade and Industry Mission worked for a year before agreement was reached on August 14, 1980 between Unions, Management, the Government and the Churches on the shape of I.T.I.M. and the church's mission in industry.

After the conference between these bodies the representatives of Unions and Management were marvelling at the miracle that had just happened in that they had agreed together on something of significance. A church leader, overhearing the conversation commented that an even greater miracle had taken place on that day. 10 Churches had agreed to work together.

Love Maharashtra Outreach

R. McLean

The many months of planning for the Love Maharashtra Outreach has come to an end and the evangelistic program was commenced in December. Teams of workers will be penetrating every corner of Maharashtra, one of the largest states in India. The goal is to reach as many as possible of the 60 million people living in 36,000 villages and 17 large cities with the good news concerning Jesus Christ.

One team is in the Baramati District and Hazel Skuce writes enthusiastically concerning their ministry: "We have a girls' team here, led by Geraldine Lee from Singapore. They have been visiting the homes here in Baramati, and also we have had two girls going out with the Medical Unit each day, plus also girls for the days that we have wheat distribution — as the girls remarked that they have had a warm welcome, plus people being ready to buy and listen to them. This welcome is due to the friendship and trust that we have formed over the years with our Food for Work programs in these villages.

The in-coming mail has more than tripled; up until now we have only been answering the letters, but by next week, the lessons will be returning and then we will be kept out of mischief. My worry has been the mounting postage bill that we will have, but we will go ahead in faith. We received two days ago, the following letter: 'You will be very glad to know that I have accepted Jesus Christ. I am interested to know more about Jesus Christ and his teachings. Please send me your Bible Correspondence Course lessons. I shall be highly thankful to you.' S.C. Sharma. This is just a sample of the many letters that are coming in. They are coming in from all over Maharashtra. This is more than what they expected — also young people are joining the teams in their areas. Some of our young girls have been going out with the girls here in Baramati.

Highlights of a Holiday

During three months overseas my wife and I took the opportunity to spend a few days at two Christian communities, and I offer this brief report as a strong encouragement to other travellers to include such visits in their itineraries.

The Island of Iona

The first place we spent a few days was on the island of Iona, at the beautiful Abbey. Iona is off the west coast of Scotland, but has a very significant place in Christian history. Here Columba set up a Christian community in 563, and from Iona missionaries went to Scotland and northern Europe. The Abbey was restored this century and it is now a place of pilgrimage for about 200,000 each year. It is a deeply encouraging and uplifting experience to be there and share the unique atmosphere of the island. Iona is a place where prayer and meditation come easily, and the Abbey worship each morning and evening is very moving.

The Taize Community

We went to Taize, in France. Taize is a much younger Christian community, having its origin in the call to Brother Roger to set up a Christian Community in 1940. The community have found themselves being sought out by ever-increasing numbers of seekers over recent years. For example, about 20,000 young people go there each Easter. Throughout the year there are people dropping in for a few days, a few weeks, or longer.

While we were at Taize no actual program was being conducted by the community, but every day they gather for worship on three occasions, and these times serve as the focus of Taize's ministry to her visitors. We were fortunate to be present on a Sunday when their beautiful communion is celebrated. Despite language difficulties the worship speaks in deeply spiritual language to all who attend. They have built a simple but dramatic Church of Reconciliation, and their message of forgiveness, unity, sharing, and prayer is profoundly beautiful.

We highly recommend both these places and would be glad to help anyone with detailed information.

— Alan Cant

A PRAYER FOR HELP

Lord, I visited a widow yesterday. Her husband died suddenly and I was asked to call. She had been very dependant on him. They had kept very much to themselves since they had arrived in this country after being interned in concentration camps.

Lord, I was not prepared for the resignation I saw in her eyes. She just sat, twisting her hands, without hope, waiting for what fate would bestow.

Lord, I wanted her to know you. I know you intervened in all the trauma and suffering of mankind, I know you met my need, and yet my need is so infinitesimally small in comparison to hers. Lord, how do I get a hold of the fellowship of your sufferings, without actually participating in them?

And yet, even as I pray I see that you did let me participate. As I held her hands and prayed,

you showed me the layer upon layer of suffering, and my spirit touched hers as I held her in my arms and asked that you might become real to her. Just because our spirits met, and I could discern her pain, so I must trust that my caring could be the vehicle of your compassion, your understanding, your healing.

She wants me to come back. Lord, teach me to care as you care, unconditionally, out of the depths of your heart.

May my heart be one with your heart, may I feel as you feel, may I weep as you weep, may I rejoice as you rejoice. May my spirit be the meeting place between your Spirit and hers. May I see in her the fulfilment of all you accomplished on Calvary.

Pat Thrift (Tamworth)

Papua New Guinea news

Builders off to Madang, PNG

The preliminary planning has been completed by Michael Burgar. The skilled work team from Toowoomba, Queensland, has been granted permits to enter. Horace Christensen, David Lowe and Merv. Muller expect to spend February in P.N.G. erecting the first stage of the Madang Christian Centre, the chapel.

Our thanks to God, and the brotherhood for people who are willing to

go and willing to give so that Christ's church may grow. When further funds and personnel are available, it is proposed to erect two houses to complete the project. They will provide accommodation for an indigenous pastor and ex-patriate staff.

This centre is strategically located and will provide a base from which people will be able to share the gospel of Christ.



David Lowe, Horace Christensen and Merv. Muller studying plans of the chapel.

Gokto Bible School visited

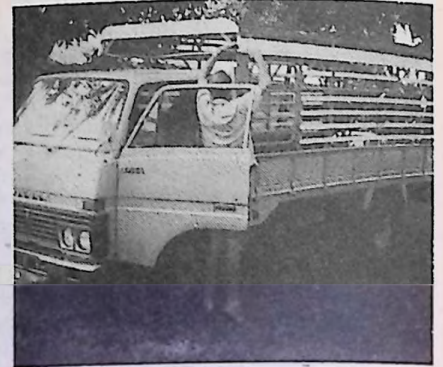
A six man team flew from the Christian Leaders Training College at Banz to the Gokto Bible School for a brief visit in November. During the day the students tackled a number of projects including the planting of new types of crops for the Bible School students. Each night there were meetings of inspiration and challenge. A bond of Christian love was forged which made it hard to say good-bye.

Aileen Draney on Deputation

You'll want to grasp the opportunity to hear veteran missionary Aileen Draney, home from Papua New Guinea on furlough. The dates are: — Victoria: February 12-March 4. Please contact Douglas Hughes, 9 Heather Grove, Cheltenham. Vic. 3192.

Queensland: March 22-April 5. Get in touch with Ken Warne, 26 Wuth St., Toowoomba. Qld. 4350.

The Wheels keep Turning



Adjusting the canopy frame.

Wheels were needed — six of them. Numbers of people in the Australian brotherhood responded magnificently to the need and last year a 2.5 tonne diesel powered truck was purchased for the work in Madang.

Through the hard work of Michael Burgar and Rod Feldhahn, a canopy frame has been constructed. Now when cargo is carried to Bunapas or people transported from the outlying camps to worship services in Madang, the canvas offers protection against the elements.

Bislama New Testament released



Morrie Tabi and Pastor Bill Camden, two members of translation team.

The long-awaited translation of the New Testament was released in Vanuatu last November. Scripture Union under the co-ordinator Kami Shing, was appointed sole distributor of the initial shipment of 25,000 copies. This translation was made possible by the combined efforts of the Vanuatu Christian Council, the translation team and the Bible Society.

The production of "Nyetesteman Long Bislama" results from many years of dedicated effort. It's another step forward in ensuring that people discover Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.



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BOOKS TO READ

WHO WALK ALONE

by Margaret Evening (Hodder & Stoughton) \$4.95.

I've read a dozen books on the single life but this is the best of the lot!

Margaret Evening writes out of personal experience but with an objectivity and understanding that is superb. Her handling of the difficulties encountered in single life is balanced and penetrating. She raises issues like sexual frustration, homosexuality, friendship between single and married people, how to survive and end affairs, how to live with parents and to relate with other people's children.

This book is indeed excellent reading for married people, especially the chapter on singleness through death or divorce, and the subsequent matters concerning the handling of grief. There is plenty of practical detail here on such issues as househunting, solo holidays and handling finances.

Undoubtedly, the best book for any single person, and one that would benefit most married people as well!

DYNAMICS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

by Richard E. Lovelace (The Paternoster Press) \$15.75

When I saw the size of the book (435) pages and its sub-title of "An Evangelical Theology of Renewal" I felt that I was in for a lot of hard reading. In contrast the book was an easy to read study of Protestant theology and history, basically from the Reformed and Pietist traditions but with sympathetic approach to other movements such as the Baptist and Charismatic.

The author is a professor of church history at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and considering his background his look at the renewal in the Roman Catholic church is particularly sensitive. While the book covers an area basically of interest to the theological student the loving and simple style keeps it well within the understanding of the layman.

— J. Urquhart

GOING TO CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY

by Robert Banks (Hexagon Press) \$2.25

The story of an early house church meeting in Rome in the house of Aquila and Prisca told by an eyewitness who is not a Christian. This small booklet brings to life the early church in the cultural setting of the Roman Empire. The line drawing illustrations help to bring the setting to life.

This book is designed to help people to think through the vitality of the early Christian worship and to look at the New Testament to discover the pattern of worship. Three study guides are also available to be used with high school students studying ancient history, for adult Christian study groups and for youth study groups.

FAITH AND SCIENCE IN A JUST WORLD

Volume 1 — Plenary Presentations, edited by Roger L. Shinn (W.C.C.).

Volume 2 — Reports and recommendations, edited by Paul Abrecht (W.C.C.).

These two volumes contain all the reports and presentations made at the World Council of Churches conference on faith and science held in July 1979.

Areas covered include both the nature of science and faith as well as discussions on the relationship between the two in all parts of the world. Areas such as energy and biological issues were raised. These volumes would be of interest to anyone who wants to further look at these issues even though they may not agree with all that is written here.

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

by Derek Kidner (Inter-Varsity Press) \$7.75

The latest addition to the Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries is this commentary on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. This is very helpful as there is very little available on these two books especially in a verse by verse commentary. This series is designed to be used by lay people and therefore technical

details are not heavy or else are explained. The format is that there is an introduction in which Derek Kidner looks at the books in their historical setting and some of the leading themes are outlined. The two books are then commented upon section by section. The final section of the commentary is six appendices which look at the questions of such matters as dating and authorship which have been hotly debated over these two books. Recommended.

ONE BAD DUDE

by Ted Jefferson (Baker) \$2.45

The story of a former criminal who was enslaved to alcohol and drugs. The author's mother was a Christian who continued to pray for his conversion until finally her prayers were answered. While the title and cover are a bit off-putting the actual story is much better. Probably the book is aimed at a teenage audience but is really suitable for a much wider age-group.

— J. Urquhart

A GUIDE THROUGH NARNIA

by Martha C. Sammons (Hodder & Stoughton) \$4.25

A guide to the seven Narnian tales written by C. S. Lewis. These stories were originally written for children but many adults have received great pleasure from reading these stories and from seeing Christian symbolism present in them.

This book firstly relates the history of the writing of the chronicles of Narnia and then the history of Narnia itself. There are discussions of the good and evil in this world and of the Christian concepts apparent in the stories. Being a fan of the Narnia stories (I reread them every so often) I found this book interesting but the first three chapters on the history of Narnia were very superficial. For fans only.

A paperback edition of Billy Graham's book "How to be Born Again" has been recently released. The hard back edition was reviewed during 1978. The book is published by Hodder and Stoughton and costs \$2.95.

Unless otherwise stated books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: Keswick-Scripture Union Bookshop, 1st floor, Port Phillip Arcade, 232 Flinders St., Melbourne 3000; N.S.W. Churches of Christ Book Shop, 9 Endeavour Arcade, The Kingsway, Caringbah, 2229; Scripture Union Bookshop, 121 Bathurst St., Hobart, 7000; Associated Church Bookshops, 38A St. George's Terrace, Perth, 6000; Scripture Union Bookshop, 6 Sherwood Court, Perth, 6000.



"DO YOU HAVE A WINDOW SEAT?"

HAPPENINGS

A Californian church and its pastor are being sued for malpractice by the parents of a 24-year-old part-time worker from the church who committed suicide. The parents claim proper guidance wasn't given at a time of mental crisis.

The printing centre of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church (ELOC) in Namibia was blown up by unknown persons on November 19. The building was completely destroyed. No one was injured. This was the second time the centre had been attacked. The first was on May 11, 1973. The South African police have still not established who the culprits were. But the Bishop at that time repeatedly said that all signs pointed towards the police themselves.

The Holy See might give Galileo a second chance. Condemned in 1633 as a

heretic for teaching that the earth moves round the stationary sun, the Catholic Church is investigating the possibility of withdrawing the decree.

Hungarian teenagers will soon be able to study the Bible in school. Some 80,000 secondary school students will be exposed to the Bible as "profound" cultural work next semester. The course is the outcome of a delicate compromise worked out between party leaders and the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinist churches.

Evangelical radio programs in Mexico have been totally banned. In recent years the government has increasingly opposed evangelical programs while permitting regular coverage of the Pope's discourses and other programs promoting Roman Catholicism.

Revival is sweeping through the Kachin tribal area of northern Burma. The call for a "Gideon's band" of 300 young Kachins to give three years without remuneration to evangelism and renewal efforts resulted in more than 600 volunteers. The selected 300 were trained, formed into teams, and sent throughout the mountain region, singing, telling Bible stories, sharing testimonies, and distributing medical and other supplies. A resulting marked increase in baptisms brings the Kachin Baptist's membership to over 90,000. The 1980 Good Citizen award for national leadership presented by the Festival of Light was awarded to the N.S.W. Governor Sir Roden Cutler. Russia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia have all given permission for the United Bible Societies to provide Bibles for Christians in Eastern Europe.

Norway's government has appointed an "unorthodox" clergyman to a pastorate over the unanimous objection of all 10 of the (Lutheran) Church of Norway bishops. The bishops rejected Helge Hognestad because his public statements conflicted with Lutheran confessions on the character of God, the historicity of Jesus, the Atonement, and justification. The government minister went ahead with the appointment, saying there should be diversity of theological opinion. Tibetans in many parts of the Himalayan region controlled by China are being forbidden to practise their faith despite a lessening of pressure in Tibet itself. Egypt has barred Jews from one of Israel's holy sites — Mount Sinai. Israel has accused Egypt of going back on a promise that Israelis would be able to get to the monastery of St Catherine, on the mountain, and the mountain itself.

diary

NATIONAL
March
 22 Annual Offering —
Aborigines' Mission
VICTORIA
February
 15 Annual Offering —
 Properties
 Corporation
 20 College of the Bible
 Opening — Induction
 and Recognition
 Service
 28 Explorer Leaders'
 Breakfast
 March
 2-9 Visit of Dr. Ray
 Stedman
 6 Women's World Day
 of Prayer
 7 Central and
 Northern District
 Conference
 24 C.W.F. March
 Effort
TASMANIA
 March 28-29 Annual
 Convention —
 Nubeena

INNER SPRINGS

THE WORD — RELIC OR RELEVANT?

A certain well-known film and television personality was once asked what he thought of the Bible. "The Bible, dear boy, I never read it. Full of prohibition and do's and don'ts!"

Is the Bible an unused relic, irrelevant, meaningless, frowning on all enjoyment, presenting a God who is neither loveable nor loving?

Let us look into its pages for a few moments and see for ourselves. Have you ever had a visitor who has lingered on way past visiting time? Proverbs 25:17 offers this delightful gem. "Remove thy foot from thy neighbour's house lest he weary of thee, and so hate thee!" And from the same book. "A man of quick temper acts foolishly." Few would argue the relevance of that! From Jeremiah 8:18 comes the meaningful cry, "My grief is beyond healing, my heart is sick within me." And surely in today's world these words from Paul strike a familiar note. "The good that I would I do not, and the evil that I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:19). Who would doubt the comfort and strength given to the human heart in the beauty of the twenty-third Psalm; the gracious invitation of Jesus Himself "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy-burdened, or those matchless words from the Cross, "Father, forgive them ..." Judgment, instruction, discipline there is, but no life can be an integrated whole without a measure of these things.

In the words of another, "The Bible is as fresh as ever it was. We don't live in tents under patriarchal rule; we live in modern homes and flats, but we know as well as Abraham, Isaac and Ruth, the fears and temptations, hopes and griefs, struggles and defeats and victories of life. For those who earnestly seek to know, the Bible is a storehouse of riches, "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

Story of men's wondrous journey
 From the shadows of the night;
 Garner'd truth of sage and prophet,
 Guiding forward into light; Words and

deeds of Christ our Master,
 Pointing to the life and way,
 Still appealing, still inspiring
 'Mid the struggles of today.

Psalm 119:130

Florence Rosier

THE "A.C." IS INTERESTED IN RE-ACTIONS

"The Australian Christian" is interested in reactions of church boards after they have all read "TIME OUT" by Barry McMurtrie.

NEVER THE SAME AGAIN

We are sure that no church board will be the same again if each of its members reads this book about the ministry of the church, of the board and of the minister. It is provocative and stimulating without being threatening. It holds up a mirror to the leadership of the local churches. As we look into it we are not likely to be enthusiastic about what we see looking back at us. But, not to worry! Barry has all sorts of workable ways to improve the image.

PLEASE TELL US

When your board members have read and discussed "TIME OUT", will some one please write and tell us how they reacted. By the way it is an easy book to read with plenty of illustrations, no hard words, and quite a bit of humour.

A SPECIAL OUTREACH ISSUE OF THE "A.C."

Early in the second half of 1981 we are publishing a special issue of "The Australian Christian". It will be paid for by Christian Projects Limited.

10,000 FREE COPIES

Each subscriber will of course receive a copy. Over and above these there will be 10,000 extra copies printed for those churches willing to use them in their outreach and evangelism programs.

The Special Outreach Issue will be similar in most ways to each usual issue. We will be presenting it as such to neighbourhood people who live near to our local churches, to enable them to get a sample of our faith and life. We will assume, as many of them are, that they are interested in faith and life and God and even in the Church of Christ down the road that they have often seen and wondered about.

NOT HARD SELL

The Special issue will not be a "hard sell" paper. It will feature many exciting things that we are doing as a people. Our regular features will be slanted towards our neighbourhoods.

We expect that about 100 churches will order an average of 100 each of these free copies. Priority will be given to churches that order first, and ordering can be done from now. Churches may of course order more than 100 if they can use them effectively; say anything up to 500.

A CONDITION? NATURALLY!

There is of course a condition. When churches order their copies they will need to tell us how they propose to use them for outreach. A mere letter box drop alone will not really do.

We are suggesting the following.

1. Use the phone book or the electoral roll or the town directory to compile a list of names and addresses in the immediate neighbourhood. Type neat wrappers with the names and addresses, and deliver the copies into the appropriate letter boxes. (The front cover of the Special will tell neighbours what it is all about.)
2. During the week following the letter box drop, visitors go to the homes concerned and indicate that they are from the church from which the "A.C." came. They indicate that the church is on a fact finding mission, discovering what personal and community needs, in their view, the church might be addressing itself to. They might also add that the services of the church are already available to those wishing to avail themselves of them.

Page 13

3. A neatly prepared list of the church's activities could be made available for those showing some interest. Also visitors could have in their pockets or purses supplies of "Churches of Christ Who Are They?" (Vital Publications) for those expressing interest in our life and faith.
4. Inevitably there will be lonely people, sick people and troubled people. Visitors should be willing to spend plenty of time listening to them. They should offer to return again, and in some cases offer the services of the minister.

A BETTER PLAN

Some churches may have a much better plan than the one we suggest. They should write and let us know about it. Churches intending to use our suggested plan or one like it, should also tell us.

THOSE CHURCHES UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE OUTREACH PLAN.

Some churches may feel unable to cope with the Special Issue in the ways suggested. But they may wish to give copies to people on their pastoral care list, such as parents of children and young people in the various auxiliaries or other "contacts". Copies will be available for this purpose at 10 cents each. Individuals may care to order at the same rate, a number of copies for friends and relatives and neighbours.

"FIRST COME FIRST SERVED"

As we have indicated, applications for the Special Outreach Issue of "The Australian Christian" may be made from now. The only limit in numbers to any church is the adequate use that can be made of them.

AND WHO ARE CHRISTIAN PROJECTS LIMITED?

As we have indicated "Christian Projects Limited" is providing the money for the Special Issue. Christian Projects Limited is conducted by the Trustees of the Christian Building Trust. It makes funds available for the Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship, for In-service Training for ministers and leaders, and for social welfare projects, as well as for Australian Brotherhood publicity such as the Special Outreach Issue of the "A.C." In 1980 Christian Projects Limited provided subscriptions to the "A.C." for a number of local public libraries throughout Australia. In 1981 they are sponsoring the special Outreach Issue of "The Australian Christian."

OBITUARY

Typed statements of not more than 250 words, recognising the work and witness of God's faithful servants are welcomed. They should be submitted promptly.

CLOWES, Charles George Gordon

Like one of the patriarchs of old, the long life of Gordon Clowes was characterised by his strength of character, the consistency of his Christian life and example and his love of the Lord. Born in 1888 in the Kyneton District, Mr Clowes was raised a Salvationist. As a compositor, he moved from town to town in Victoria, linking up with a church, usually Anglican, wherever he went. Finding himself with his family in Warrnambool in 1931 he became interested in the blind evangelist named Hugh Ball who was preaching at the Church of Christ. After some weeks in attendance he felt the prompting of the Spirit to publicly confess his faith. So began a commitment to Christ and the church at Warrnambool that was to continue for the next 50 years. The church was his life, in which he involved himself to the full accepting enthusiastically the roles of Sunday School teacher, deacon, 25 years secretary, respected elder and on the many occasions when the church was without a minister, as preacher and pastor. In the latter weeks of his life he enjoyed nothing more than to share in communion in the home or at the hospital bedside and to speak in anticipation of his call home. His son-in-law, Colin LeCouter, delivered the tribute at the funeral service.

FEATHERSTON, Gertrude Amella.

(24.10.1980). The Richmond church was saddened to hear of the death of their oldest member, Mrs Gertrude Featherston, who died aged 93. Gertrude Amella Davey was born in September, 1887 as the first child in a family of nine children. She was born in Northcote, but lived most of her early years in St. Kilda where she attended school and worked. On March 10, 1915 Gertrude was married to Stanley Featherston and together they enjoyed more than 66 years of married life. This ended earlier in 1980 with the death of Stan. Mrs Featherston made her decision to follow Christ at the St. Kilda church. In May, 1915 she and Mr Featherston were welcomed into the membership of the (North) Richmond church and it was in this church that Mrs Featherston actively lived out her discipleship. This was born out by the many and varied ways that she served this church. Mrs Featherston was loved by many and she will be remembered as a person — who refused to criticise others, who had a sense of humour, who helped people, who was respected and who was dedicated to serving the church. She was a real Christian lady. Graeme and Bronwyn Rogerson led a service which celebrated her life and the new life she now shares with her Lord.

— Graeme & Bronwyn Rogerson

FLEMING, Lauriss

On September 23, 1980, the Warrnambool church suffered the loss of a highly respected elder and gracious Christian gentleman in the person of Lauriss Fleming, affectionately known as Loy. A life time Christian, Loy was baptised at Nullawarrie Baptist church when aged 17. He met his wife Nellie in the C.E. there and they were

married in 1927. He continued in active Christian service as a C.E. leader, S.S. teacher, a deacon with the Ararat Church of Christ and latterly, an elder at Warrnambool, a position which he carried out with humility, friendliness, a genuine care for people and loyalty. Loy was particularly gifted in his relationships with people. He committed himself to the visitation of the elderly, shut in and isolated members and contacts. He contributed much to the fellowship with his organizing of different people to be on the door each week to welcome people to worship, and his supervision of a home communion roster. Loy had a cheerfulness and sense of fun that was appreciated by both old and young alike. The respect and love in which Loy was held was indicated by the fact that the overflow crowd which came to his funeral spilled out onto the lawns in front of the church. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, his nine children and his many grandchildren.

KIRBY, Phyllis Edna.

(6.12.80). The Red Hill church and community felt a deep sense of loss at the death of Phyllis Kirby following a short illness. Phyllis spent her whole life at Red Hill and was active in church and community affairs. She was the youngest daughter of Vic. and Glad. Holmes and a sister of Ron Holmes of Naracoorte S.A., and Betty McKenzie of Red Hill. She was a niece of the late H. A. G. Clark. She joined the church as a young girl and commenced teaching Sunday School at 14 and continued teaching throughout her life. She loved music and was an accomplished musician and singer. Her husband, Jack, shared her love of music and their instrumental and vocal duets were a feature of Red Hill church life. She assisted Jack and others in the commencement and leadership of the combined churches youth club and was active in the Rechabite Lodge. In public life she was active in the tennis club and was joint treasurer with her husband of the Red Hill Horticultural Society Show. Her faith in Christ was very real and she was loyal to the church which formed a large part of her interests in life. She has left many lives the richer for her influence. Because she was loved she is greatly missed by her husband, Jack, her step-mother, Dorothy, her brother Ron and family, her sister Betty and family, her children, Joy (Mrs Whyte), Robyn (Mrs Laing) and John, and by the church members and friends.

MATTHEWS, Mrs Vera Field.

(13.11.80). This gracious Christian lady died just one day before her 82nd birthday. Born to Joseph and Elizabeth Turner at Glebe in Sydney in 1898, the family moved to Marrickville in her childhood. When only 16 she met Norman H. Matthews who was to become her life-long partner and who worshipped at our Marrickville church. In 1921 she confessed her faith in Christ and was baptised and received into fellowship by A. C. Crisp, who also officiated at Vera and Norman's marriage and they will be long remembered for their loving service at the Marrickville church over so many years. After moving to Punchbowl she served as Treasurer of the Christian Womens' Fellowship at the Wiley Park church (now Greenacre) and was greatly loved by all. She was of enormous help and encouragement to her husband in all his many and varied

Brotherhood and Committee responsibilities, especially some years back when he was Conference President and they travelled together visiting churches throughout N.S.W. Moving to Warrimoo in 1973, her health gave rise for concern, and at the time of their Golden Wedding she was far from well following two strokes, and spent many months in hospital at Cole House, Pendle Hill and Governor Phillip Hospital. Neighbours and so many others rendered valuable help, and the pastoral care by the minister of our Lower Blue Mountains church, Ken Mason and his wife Dal was especially appreciated. She now has freedom from pain and suffering, and is in the presence of her Lord. The Marrickville church was crowded to capacity for her funeral, presided over by Charles Cole and assisted by Ken Mason and Geoff Sloman. Her husband, Norman and her brother Arthur, as well as her countless friends, rise up and call her blessed for her gracious life and her deep and profound influence upon us all.

— G.H.S.

PITTMAN Annie Vera.

(25.10.80) Mrs Annie Pittman was born at Glenelg in 1897. Her association with the Glenelg church began with her attendance at the Sunday School and with her membership of the various youth groups. As a teenager she confessed her faith and was baptised by the late Ernest Pittman, and almost immediately began using her musical talents in the roles of church organist and pianist. In 1918 she married Roland Pittman and in 1926, with their three children, the family moved to the country where they had acquired a business. For 27 years they worshipped with the local Presbyterian church where, for some years, Mrs Pittman was the organist. In 1953, Mr and Mrs Pittman moved back to Adelaide where they attended the Nailsworth church until transferring back to Glenelg in 1970. At Glenelg she was associated with the C.W.F. until advancing years suggested a move to the Rest Home at Everard Park. We thank God for such as Annie Pittman, a good wife, loving mother, sincere friend, worthy citizen and a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. A service attended by family and many friends was led by Wally Bartlett.

— E. H. Wilson.

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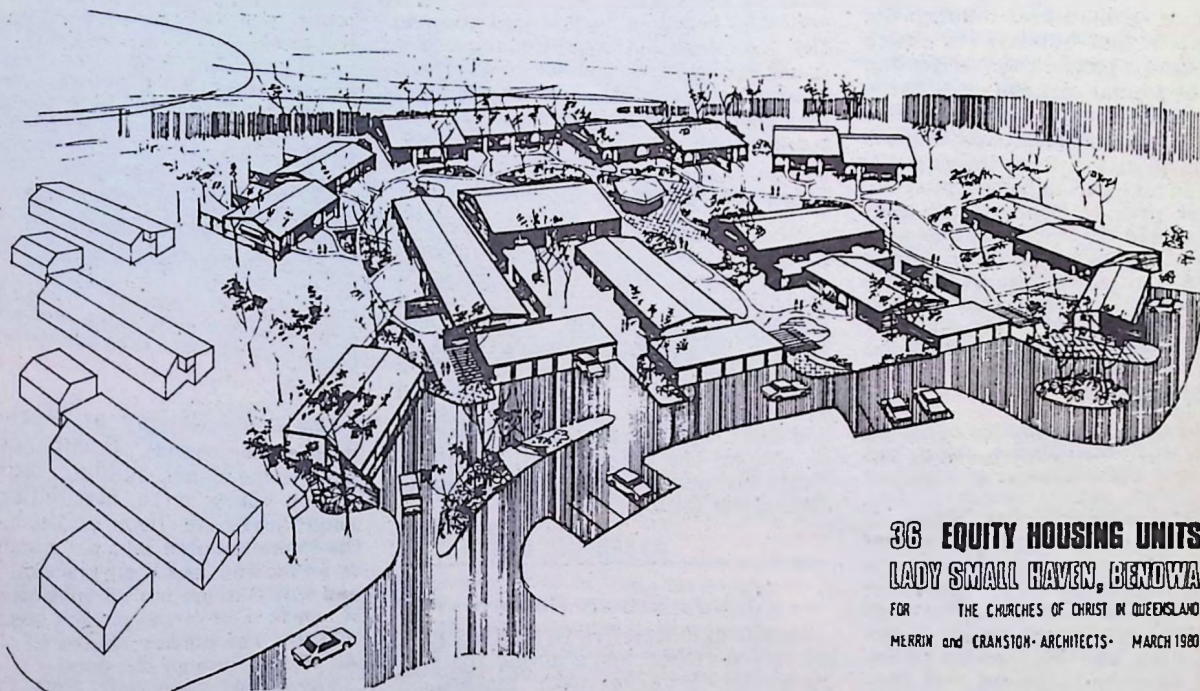
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A CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN QUEENSLAND SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT PROJECT

32 COMMITMENTS TO CHRIST

A program of home visitation carried out by the Nunawading churches in the week prior to Sunday, November 23, resulted in 32 commitments at the services on that day and will probably mean, over the next few weeks, at least 40 additions to the membership of the church.

The whole church has been uplifted by this thrilling result, and the Visitation Team, which included the Ministers, have had their own faith deepened and enriched by the experience.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

A few months ago, November 23, was nominated as Commitment Sunday. Six weeks prior to that Sunday, the Youth Minister began a program of Discipleship Training, by regular personal visits to the homes of C.Y.F. members. Next, letters were sent to selected church members inviting them to attend some training sessions, and to take part in home visitation, in the week prior to Commitment Sunday. 30 accepted the invitation and were instructed in the following topics, "Basic convictions that strengthen us for personal evangelism", "What moves men and women to decision", "Ten steps for effective witnessing", "How to share our faith", "The six stages of a visit".

A CARING LIST

A list of names was compiled of people associated with the Church, who had never made a commitment, or who had once attended other churches, but now regularly attended ours. These all received letters informing them of the visitation program and that someone would call to discuss with them, the church and the Christian faith. They were invited to ask any questions about the beliefs, witness, and membership of the church. It was also suggested that they should inform us if they did not wish to receive a visitor. Only one or two preferred not to be visited. In all other cases, the visitors found God had been there before them and although they had gone out in "fear and trembling" they "returned with great joy". They did not go to argue or

debate, but to share their faith, to witness humbly from their own experience, and were generally received with warmth and appreciation.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

The church was called to prayer to support the program. Prayer services were held at 7 a.m. on two mornings in the week prior to the visitation and a prayer vigil all day on the Saturday. Two more 7 a.m. prayer services were held during the Visitation Week.

Visitation evangelism should have a place in every church program. Success is assured if the church has a good image in the community, a reputation for friendliness and for service to the community, good preaching on Sunday and meaningful worship in which all can participate, and a genuine concern for people.

SHARING FAITH

Nunawading churches have over 30 Auxiliaries, which are designed to meet people's needs: Youth Groups, Sporting Clubs, Singles Club, Painting Class, Weight-Watchers Group, Toy Library, Morning Play Groups, Morning Coffee for Young Wives, Cell Groups, Bible Study Groups, and so on. These are all valid when they provide means of friendship and help. But ultimately the Word must be spoken, the witness must be made. Home visitation is one splendid way of sharing our faith.

— Jim Wright

Delroy Brown Reports

Delroy and Merrilyn Brown report 22 primary decisions made during the first gospel service in a newly established congregation near Seoul, Korea. This church, primarily for staff members in a factory, began at the request of the factory's management, and meets in the firm's cafeteria. The Browns plan a brief furlough home between January 24 and April 6.

THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE EVENING CLASSES 1981

Taught in conjunction with Whitley College as part of the Evangelical Theological Association

BIBLICAL STUDIES 1: Old Testament Prophets and Pauline Epistles. Mondays 7.30-10 p.m.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 1: Introduction to Theological Studies. Thursdays 7.30-10 p.m.

CHURCH HISTORY 11A: Mediaeval and Reformation History. Tuesdays 7.30-10 p.m.

These subjects are part of the B. Theol. degree programme but a limited number of places may also be available for non-degree students.

For further details contact:

DR. W. TABBERNEE, DEAN, E.T.A.,

C/O COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE,

7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, 3148

Phone (03) 25 6541

C.E. CENTENARY

Christian Endeavour completes 100 years of service in 1981. The Australian celebration will be in Brisbane, January 7-14, 1982. C.E. was commenced by Francis Clark on February 2, 1881 in Portland, Ohio. Its purpose was to train young people to be effective disciples of Christ and the church. The first Australian Christian Endeavour Society was commenced on June 5, 1883, in the Geelong Church of Christ, by Nettie Thurgood. We understand that this indefatigable lady also commenced the first women's groups in Australian Churches of Christ.

The fourfold aim of C.E. is:

1. To lead young people to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
2. To train them for service and leadership in their own church.
3. To help them to apply biblical principles to their lives both in the church and in the community.
4. To provide peer group fellowship with other young people in their own church and from other churches.

MARY CAME, RIDING ON A DONKEY!

Christmas Sunday at Marion S.A. church was special. Joseph and Mary came to the church building, through the streets, riding on a live donkey! The congregation met them on the car park, they were escorted into the worship area by teens, and took their place on bales of hay scattered around the platform. Then, the back door of the church opened and "Oliver" the donkey shared in the hour with head through the door!

The service was a "gift" time. People of all walks of life presented themselves, and tokens of their life, to the Christ Child. A doctor brought his "tools of trade" dressed in white coat, a family came in together, a politician, in regalia laid books of law at his feet, a policeman in uniform placed the cap of office before him, youth in sporting attire laid their cricket bats and basketballs, an engineer and a minister presented the implements of their profession, as did a nurse, a musician, a student of the university and a teacher and child. Then, through all the open doors little children swarmed in and sat round the manger area. Throughout the presentation selected carols were "piped" through the building.

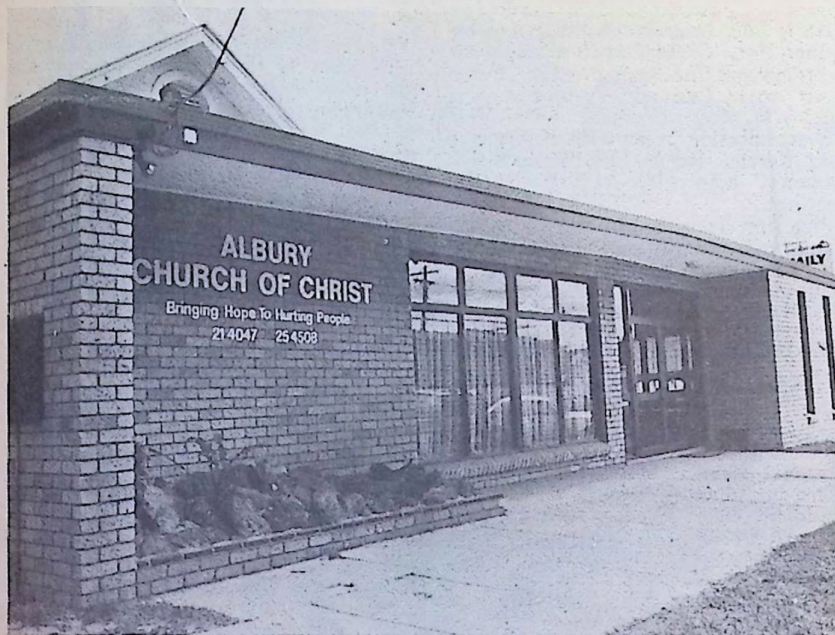
Following the presentation two baby boys from church homes were dedicated in a thanksgiving moment with their parents. The acts of the Cross brought the worship to a climax of meaning and celebration, as the Lord's Supper was served.

That night the festival of singing conducted by the choir climaxed with "The Plum Pudding Festival", and a "Soliloquy" on Mary by Celeste Pieratt.

The special script prepared for the presentation service can be made available for interested churches, and adapted to local talents.

— Eric Hollard

A Growing Church in a Growing City



2000 new people move into Albury every year. To keep pace with this growth there is a building boom with shops and industry investing millions of dollars.

The Albury church is in the centre of this growth with supermarkets and department stores mushrooming around it. The church adjacent to the SSW Supermarket is now watching the \$17 million multi-storey Myer complex take shape opposite.

In line with Eph 5:16 the church has sought to "make the most of every opportunity" by adapting to its surroundings.

BUILDING EXTENSIONS PROJECT NEW IMAGE

Growth in numbers over the last 5 years meant an acute lack of space. This was especially evident in the hall with the Opportunity Shop and Friendship Centre having to be dismantled for Singles and Family Nights.

The sale of property and a \$35,000 loan from the Vic. Tas. Properties Corporation enabled new extensions worth over \$80,000 to be completed. The new, modern Opportunity Shop, Tea-Pot, Foyer, Cry Room and Offices were opened by Charles Cole, Director of NSW Social Service Department on July 27. Representatives from Vic./Tas. Conference, NSW Conference and the Community were present.

600 CONTACTS EACH WEEK.

The Tea-Pot and Opportunity Shop provide low-cost meals and clothes in air-conditioned comfort. These facilities and other programs draw over 600 people each week to the church, many coming for a break from shopping.

The Singles Club and the Family Night have remained the most popular and effective programs. The Family Night

provide a catered meal for about 60 people each week who then participate in children, youth and adult programs. This program has been running for 5 years.

MEDIA OUTREACH

The minister, Bob Aldred, has become well known in the Growth Centre through his frequent appearances in the media. This year he commenced a weekly talk-back program on the local commercial radio station. The programme "Nightline" draws a large listening audience between 10-11 p.m. on Tuesday nights. Calls are constant during the hour and give many opportunities for talking about Jesus Christ.



Bob Aldred

5 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Bob Aldred, with his wife Dorothy, have now completed 5 years at Albury. During this time the church has grown in numbers, achieved a good community image, established hundreds of contacts and grown in the understanding of the will of God through scripture and service.

For Albury the future years are full of promise for growth in present and new areas. Already plans are under way and land purchased for an Aged Care Hostel and Retirement Village, and additional programs during the week. The most immediate goal is the employment of an Administrator in 1981.

Verlie Ellis expresses gratitude

Verlie Ellis and her family wish to sincerely thank every person for their loving messages, calls, cards and gifts since the calling to glory of Rex Ellis. Please accept this as our very personal thanks as the great volume of mail prohibits personal replies.

NEW BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Two of the questions asked of the Federal Board of Christian Education at the Federal Conference.

Q. In the light of the changed financial relationship with the Joint Board of Christian Education: (a) What is the future of the Federal Board? (b) What is the future position of the Director?

A: Due to changes in the financial position and staffing requirements of the Joint Board the salary grant, (75% of the Director's salary and 50% of the Secretary's) currently received will cease in December 1980. This places the responsibility back with Churches of Christ to fund the Federal Board.

The Board believes it has a future role in: (i) Providing educational resources for children's, youth and family ministry. (ii) Providing opportunity for National Youth programs. (iii) Providing resources for and assisting the State Departments of Christian Education. (iv) Linking christian education in Churches of Christ with other agencies and resource groups.

(b) There is work for a full-time function but funding will only allow a part-time appointment. From January 1981 the Director will be employed on a part-time basis until longer term direction and finance can be finalized.

Q. What is the Kerygma Bible Study Program?

A. Kerygma is a Bible Study in depth program. It is suitable for church members who want to study the Bible in small groups in the local church. The program does not require leader training and uses current leadership in the church. The cost is \$16.00 for the Leader's Resource and \$14.00 for the Participant's Resource. 33 sessions cover the major themes of the Bible.

As a depth Bible study program for "average" church members, it is highly recommended by the Federal Board.

WILLIAMSTOWN (S.A.) COMES ALIVE!

October 5-19 the Williamstown (S.A.) church held a Campaign in the local Institute Building. The theme "Come Alive in Christ".

Pre-campaign door knocks to every home in Williamstown on two occasions, presenting literature and a personal invitation to the meetings were well received and brought a good response. Williamstown knew where the action was. The local press was very helpful in their handling of advertising.

The evangelist, W. J. Philp, minister of the Fullarton church ably presented the Gospel to well attended meetings each night.

SECONDARY ALLOWANCE SCHEME

The maximum allowance for 1981 will be \$660 (\$550 in 1980) and the level of adjusted family income at which this is payable will rise from \$6,200 to \$7,440. Entitlement under the means test ceases when the adjusted family income (combined income of parents minus certain deductions) is \$10,029 where there is one eligible student in the family or at higher levels where there are two or more eligible students.

SAS benefits may be paid to parents of children who are studying full-time in either Year 11 or Year 12 at a secondary school or technical college or through a State education department correspondence school. Application forms are available in Victoria from: The Director, Victorian State Office, Commonwealth Department of Education, 450 St Kilda Road, Melbourne (Phone 268 0444).

The Department is interested in increasing the community's knowledge of SAS and any assistance the Churches of Christ can give will be appreciated.

The music was provided by visiting Groups — "Edwardstown Singers" and "HIS", solos from W. J. Philp and his brother Per, Craig Dyer on his piano accordian and fine singing by the Church Choir with Lynette Vennings and Shirley West at the organ.

Every meeting began with an inspiring Song Service led by our minister, E. Stevens, who also "Chaired" the meetings.

Five first decisions were made among them a man and wife in their late 70's and the whole church has been built up as a result of this time of great blessing.

Williamstown is alive and Well!

PERTH BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATION SERVICE

Just under 500 friends attended the 1980 Graduation Service of the Perth Bible College held on November 29, in the Beaufort Street, Christian Centre.

In his introductory remarks the Council President, Geoff Pearce, congratulated Richard Britton (Wembley church) on his retirement after serving as the College Treasurer for 20 years.

Leo Cox, a former P.B.C. student who takes up a new appointment as Pastor of Narembeen church in January, brought the Scripture reading.

The Principal, Dr David A. Beavis (Whitford City church), reported that P.B.C. had enjoyed a very good year with attendances up and high academic and spiritual results achieved by the students. There is also a rapidly growing part-time study program. P.B.C. will be heavily involved in *Explo 81* to be held in Perth in May next year.

Nine students graduated, including three from Churches of Christ (Jeff Brenton from Whitford City, Gillian Sprigg from Mukinbudin, and Mary Scott from Subiaco).

RESPONSE AT THE PATCH

By candlelight, amid thunder and rain, with jokes of the inability to pay the electricity bill being told, members of The Patch church gathered to hear the report of the results of their stewardship program. Through the half-light and overflowing spouting, they were excited to hear that, as a result of the program run by the Department of Mission, Education and Development, their weekly offerings would rise by 49.4% per week and that a number of people had discovered new insights about stewardship and giving.

This was the first program of its type The Patch had experienced. In past years, people had expressed fears about different aspects of planned giving as we know it. A particular problem was the issues of pledging and numbered envelopes. An over-emphasis on money was also feared. Yet, as a result of this program which emphasised other areas of Christian stewardship as well as the use of our possessions, 72% of the members have made pledges and 75% are using numbered envelopes.

The program, directed by Ian Tippett, approached people with sensitivity, recognising people's fears. The purpose was to educate people regarding meaningful giving to God and his church. The visitors were encouraged to have concern for people, to share their understanding and to respect people's decisions. Very little opposition to the program was encountered during the week's activities. People were willing to share and respond. Those formerly antagonistic to planned giving responded to the nature of the program and became actively involved. Many people re-assessed their thinking about giving.

The most exciting aspects of the program were the willingness of the members to learn some new ideas and the fact that the church can now budget for the future assured it will be able to support its new tent-maker ministry in 1981.

BUSHWALKING

A Churches of Christ Bushwalking Club has been operating in Victoria for several years. Their aim is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ within the bushlands and mountains which God has provided.

Most of the walks and other activities such as bike rides are designed for the inexperienced walker. Harder walks are planned and many of the activities are single day walks which leave people free to be involved in their Sunday worship. Social activities are also held.

Some of the planned activities for this year include a walk around central Melbourne, walk around Lorne — including swimming, a car trip weekend to the Big Desert as well as day walks in various areas of Victoria.

People interested in these activities should contact Greg Spencer at 20 Bradley Ave., Thornbury or phone (03) 44 3748.

WOMEN TO MEET AT BELGRAVE HEIGHTS

Christian Women's Conventions International
11th Annual Victorian Weekend Convention

MARCH 20-22, 1981.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER: Mrs Eleanor Page.

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- * Five years Bible Study Group Leader in Washington D.C. at the White House, to members of the State Dept., and to the wives of national leaders.

INTERSTATE SPEAKERS: Miss Jean Raddon
Mrs A. M. Chambers.

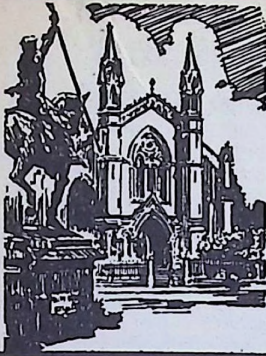
- * Have brought a new dimension to Bible Study in the lives of many women.

THEME: IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!

but there is still time . . .

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7 p.m.

Ministry Team: Allan Webb, Bruce Morton, Pam Deuble.

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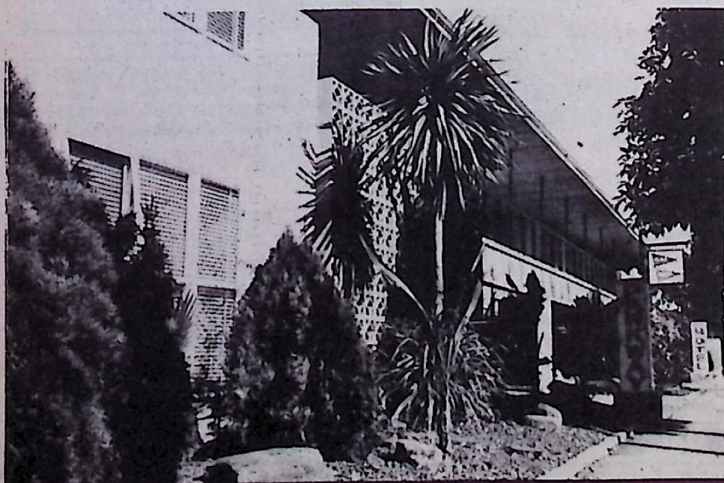
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VIC

YARRAWONGA (Keith Pitt). 55th anniversary held. Bill Gaunson speaker. Four commitments made plus five in recent weeks ... Keith Pitt attended orientation seminar in Sydney for Bethel Bible series ... B.S. raised \$59 for 'Bibles for Indonesia' ... Fun nights held monthly for under 13s ... At C.W.F. Coffee'n Dessert night, Gladys Mackenzie was guest speaker ... "The Sonlights" singing at evening services.

HORSHAM (W. Gibney). Two baptised ... Musical service held ... Church family picnic held at Mt Arapiles ... Ken and Gwenyth Brook, Bible and Medical Missionary Fellowship Nepal, spoke at home meeting ... Church sharing in sponsorship of TV program "Turn Around Australia."

PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (Jack Manallack, Peter Wells). Church saddened by the deaths of Mrs Alice Tieman, Mrs Sando, Ron Salisbury and Mrs Jean Patten ... 'Open Door' handcraft included Christmas tree construction and toys for Kew Homes ... 20 travelled by train to Mildura for tour ... Peter Wells graduated from C.O.B. and will minister at Hampton Gardens, S.A., next year ... Members conducted letter box drop in 1000 homes in area of church. Calendar informing of activities to be distributed in Dec ... Tape club commenced with music and sermons.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). Bus load attended Gippsland Gathering where Ron Elbourne speaker ... Over 40 went by bus and car to C.O.B. graduation service ... Combined B.S. Intermediate class brought items in morning service ... Farewell to Colin Murdock after two years as student minister.

HURSTBRIDGE Church crowded for S.S. anniversary. Musical "Bullfrogs and Butterflies" presented by children trained by Mrs Jean Mynott ... C.W.F. Christmas luncheon held in home of Mrs Ruby Clarke followed by annual meeting ... C.W.F. street stall raised \$410 towards cost of new hall.

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BANKCARD WELCOME

Concern for Hariba Waghmode

On Saturday, January 17, Ron McLean (Executive Director, Overseas Missions) received a 'phone call from John Main in India to say that Hariba Waghmode, Secretary of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India was in the intensive care unit at the Wadia Hospital, Pune.

Unfortunately John's voice on the phone was considerably distorted, and every word could not be understood. However, it was evident that there was real concern for Hariba's condition and that members of his family in Australia should be advised.

It was not possible to make out from the telephone call the nature of Hariba's illness, but it is expected that he could be hospitalised for some time. The Brotherhood is requested to pray for Hariba's complete recovery and that his wife Shalini, and the family will know of God's peace and love surrounding them at this time.

THANKS

Mrs. Georgie Withers, Josie and Valda wish to thank all the many friends who contacted them by post and telephone and attended the service at the time of the death of their loving husband and father, Leslie Withers.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

FEB. 22nd

11 a.m. Mr. R. Brooker
5 p.m. Fellowship Tea
7 p.m. Mr. C. Wilson

All former members and friends welcome.

Inquiries: — B. Dorgan
(03) 397 5916

THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

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The Council for Christian Education in Schools
55 Exhibition Street
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VICTORIA. 3000
Phone: 63 4105

CHURCH OF CHRIST — BORONIA

60th ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 14 & 15

Speaker — E.L. WILLIAMS

Saturday 7.30 p.m. "Down Memory Lane"
Sunday 10.15 a.m. Thanksgiving
7.00 p.m. Looking Forward

Hospitality Available: Bev Jeffrey Phone (03)
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To meet requests for Industrial Chaplains from both private and Government organisations the I.T.I.M. Board of Management has approved the appointment of additional Staff Chaplains for the Adelaide Metropolitan area.

APPLICANTS should be Ordained Clergy (men or women) from ITIM member-churches.

PREFERENCE will be given to applicants who have had experience as Industrial Chaplains but all applications will be considered.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS would be required to commence no later than January 1982 but an earlier date may be negotiated. Further Information can be obtained from the ITIM State Director on (08) 51 6950 or (08) 281 7161 or the ITIM Office, 28 Franklin Street, Adelaide.

INTERESTED PERSONS should apply in writing no later than March 31, 1981. Interviews will be conducted in April 1981.

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

Doing it in the River...

David McKay is a former high school music teacher, and a graduate of Kenmore Christian College. He is married to Joan and they have four children under six. He will serve the church at Stirling (S.A.) from the beginning of 1981. He wrote to us asking for publicity for a thesis he was doing on Children's Ministry. We advertised for people willing to assist him. We hope that some replied. In any case his thesis is completed, and we publish here a digest of it.

I have recently completed tabulating the results from a questionnaire on children and the church in which I sought to find how we can help children, who attend church with their families, become adult members who are glad to serve Christ and His church. The 36 respondents (from all states, but mainly Queensland) consisted of 11 women and 25 men aged 19-67, 29 of whom came from Christian homes. They gave information about their spiritual upbringing and also described present activities in 29 churches.

The survey is not necessarily representative of the views of Churches of Christ members as a whole, but does provide some information concerning what some members are thinking and doing in relation to children and the church. (N.B.: 2 respondents attend a Baptist church in N.S.W.)

MOST HAVE CRECHES

Most of the churches attended have a creche for children under school age, run by two rostered ladies. About a third of these provide stories and/or activities, but the rest are run as a babysitting facility. They are mostly simultaneous with the morning service, but some begin after communion, so that children can "learn the attitude and atmosphere of worship" but leave before the sermon.

The churches nearly all provided Sunday School, boys' and girls' clubs and youth groups, but only a minority have innovations such as children's church and family services. A N.S.W. congregation meets each Wednesday for tea and then divides into four groups: Mini Midgets (pre-school children), Junior C.E. (primary age), young people's group (high schoolers), and a Bible discussion group for adults.

INVOLVING CHILDREN

The necessity of involving children in activities that make them feel important and needed was stressed. If children share the work-load in their local church, they will develop responsibility and become aware of the practical side of being a Christian. Several pointed out that church should be relevant to children, but family-centred rather than child-centred.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

The importance of the family and the church family as agencies of Christian socialisation was clearly seen. Of the 29 from Christian homes, 24 saw their Christian parentage as a major factor in their decisions to follow Christ, while 20 of these also said that the interest shown in

David McKay

them by adults in their local church made them feel a part of a loving church family, in which they wanted to be involved.

While seven said they were influenced to become Christians by a minister, only two said this was due to "good preaching", and four of these seven were P.K.'s. Of the five who specifically mentioned their father's influence, four were children of ministers. Interestingly, five people were helped by a godly grandmother.

SEEING CHRIST IN PARENTS

The key factor in helping our children become Christians is a real, genuine faith. Of the 13 who stated that they were influenced by their parents' example of "practical Christianity", 12 said that all their siblings have also followed Christ, and the other one commented that in his family there was "one stray out of six children." There were several families where the parents prayed with their children, led in family devotions, answered the children's questions about God and took them to church and Sunday School, but not all children in them became Christians. But the track record of those "lucky 13" families where the respondents were able to see Christ in their parents' lives is remarkable. It shows that children can spot the difference between those who know about God and those who know him. When they see God's love and Christ's teaching being applied in their own homes, they find it hard to resist the Lord's call.

A comprehensive report of the questionnaire is available for \$2.50 together with the thesis on The Biblical Theology of Children.



On Sunday December 7, members and friends of the Ascot Vale church gathered on the banks of the Maribyrnong River at Keilor. At 5 p.m., 19 year old student, Kathy Allam was baptized.

Kathy grew up in Stawell where, until her move to Ascot Vale, she attended the Stawell church. Her faith has continued to grow as she has lived and studied in Melbourne.

Mrs Robyn Schaeffer (Minister of the North Essendon church) led the singing and Ian Corlett conducted the baptism. People were visibly moved by the spirit of that moment — passers by stopped and didn't go on until after the service was completed.

Kathy told the crowd why she was being baptized in a word of testimony and then, holding hands, Kathy and Ian walked out into deeper water as Robyn sang, "Come to the water." It was a most significant and appropriate way to declare the Lordship of Christ.

The bar-b-que tea which followed the service completed the day.

IDC.

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Do you want to be a partner with Christ and His church overseas? Here's a way to be involved.

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VIC BOETTCHER, M.B.E.

Our newspaper listed under the heading M.B.E., The Rev. Victor George Boettcher, Booval Queensland: for service to religion.

The M.B.E. stands for Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The British Empire of course no longer exists. And Vic. Boettcher is not very good at religion. He is much better at being Christian. However Her Majesty has been pleased to give him this signal honour in recognition of a life time of Christian service both in and out of the pulpit. We congratulate him.

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A CHURCH OF CHRIST COLONY



While the units of the Bendigo Church of Christ Retirement Village may be purchased by any suitable applicants, it appears that many of the original inhabitants will be from well known families from our middle district churches, thus forming something of a Church of Christ colony.

ALMOST COMPLETED

The Village is almost completed and already many of the units are occupied. In a bushland setting, the complex is nevertheless not far from the city centre. A Village bus makes shopping and church attendance a simple matter for residents. Eventually a nursing home will be

completed, thus enabling the Village to provide total care.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Social Committee is in the course of development. Pastoral care is provided as well as legal services and emergency domestic help.

The Bendigo church is showing the same adventurous spirit in this project as it is showing in its re-siting plan which will dispose of the old church building assets at the wrong end of the business district, in order to set up work in a growing residential area a little further out, but central to Bendigo itself, handy to the Retirement Village, and where community need is greatest.

GEORGE WARREN TO HEAD NEW REGIONAL CO-OPERATION



A group of Melbourne's Eastern Suburban churches is moving toward a major administrative and ministry change which it is hoped will bring new impetus to the region. George Warren, currently a field director with the Dept. of Mission, Education and Development, will move to this project in 1982.

During the last 12 months the churches at Ashburton, Balwyn, Camberwell, Gardiner, Hartwell, East Kew, Surrey Hills and Wattle Park have been considering a scheme for regional co-operation. The proposal originated within the group and has been carefully discussed during 1980. Most of the churches have formally endorsed the proposal to establish a Regional Board

with a team ministry. Several churches expect to finalise their decisions early in 1981. The churches expect to co-operate at various points while continuing their ministry at a local level.

One new initiative comes from Wattle Park early in 1981 when the church will sponsor a special midweek service for the region. Ian Allsop, the Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education, has accepted the Regional Board's invitation to serve Wattle Park in a half time capacity in 1981. Bruce Clapp is already in full time ministry at Hartwell. George Warren will assume pastoral responsibility for Balwyn — East Kew and act as ministry team leader for the region. The newly formed Regional Board expects to begin planning a number of major initiatives from 1981 onwards. Staff and members of the Dept. of Mission, Education and Development have assisted the churches in the formation of the regional co-operation.

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

A church is not a building
Made of bricks or steel, or stone;
But is composed of people
Who worship God alone.

A building cannot save you,
Although it stands out bold;
It's like worshipping a statue
Which leaves your heart quite cold.

Nor can priest or parson
Sticking close to man made creeds.
It is only Christ, The Saviour,
Who can meet all human needs.

— Les Yelds (Rockdale, N.S.W.)

SO

MARION (E. P. C. Hollard). Gospel service featured slides of Israel. Mrs Phyl Crowley accompanied by son John soloist ... Glen Lea Singers presented program ... Two made confessions of faith ... Christmas Sunday saw Joseph and Mary riding on a donkey arrive at service. Two infants dedicated by their parents during service. ... Plum Pudding Festival held following gospel service on Christmas Sunday. Celeste Pierratt gave solo. Mrs Ida Rogers and Terry Pomeroy led carol singing ... Christmas Day communion service held.

WO

BASSENDAN (P. Moyle). Combined Ladies' and Men's Fellowship break-up barbecue with Leo Cox speaker ... Christmas Day service attended by 180. J. K. Bond guest speaker ... Appreciation of visiting and locals for assistance during 1980 awaiting commencement of ministry of P. Moyle in February 1981 ... Family camp held at Serpentine with Des Nelson leading studies.
CARNARVON (Barrie Yesberg). Cliff and Jane Manning have returned to S.A. after seven months service at Ingada Village ... S.S. distributed Encounter

Christmas leaflets to local caravan parks. Church members letter box dropped throughout town at the same time offering a gift Bible ... Local churches combined to present Carols by Torchlight. Carnarvon is too windy for candles ... C.W.F. held windup luncheon. Incoming president is Mrs Marian Law Davis ... At prize giving and break up S.S. children brought gifts which were presented to hospital for distribution on Christmas Day ... Sandra Moore baptised on Christmas morning.

VIC

REDCLIFFS (W.L. Keddie). B.S. held Christmas party ... Four baptisms. Two received into membership ... B.S. put on Christmas play ... Saturday morning prayer breakfasts held ... C.W.A.F. held Christmas meeting at manse ... Two Girls' Clubs held combined Christmas evening ... Sympathy extended to relatives of W.J. Cunningham a long time member.
SPRINGVALE (Reg Combridge). Five welcomed into membership ... Ted Buck and Kit Seamer elected to board ... Three baptised ... Work on modernising kitchen progressing ... Farewell night to Reg and Beryl Combridge and family held and presentations made.
FRANKSTON Recent highlight was baptismal service on December 14. Two

married couples and two teenagers were baptised. the same evening two people made reaffirmations of faith. There have been 57 additions to the Frankston membership from Sept. 1979 — Sept. 1980 which brings membership to 279.
BAYSWATER Reg Combridge and family have accepted call to ministry commencing in February 1981 ... Thanks extended to Neal Hodgekiss for interim ministry ... Combined carol service held with Bayswater Uniting Church held in our grounds.
WILLIAMSTOWN (C. Wilson). Church decided to drop word North from title and now known as Williamstown C. of C. ... New manse being built on site of present manse ... C.W.F. entertained Preston 'Drop In Centre' for a pre-Christmas luncheon ... Arthur Haskell new treasurer following resignation of Colin Rewell who held position for 20 years. John Morris new board member.
COBURG Keith and Laurel Milne and family farewelled to Glen Waverley after five years of ministry ... Church saddened by the death of Les Withers ... Church fete raised over \$1,500 ... Regional board Christmas concert held at Coburg ... Project 5,000 has raised over \$5,700 in seven months with five months still to run.
HORSHAM (W. Gibney). Young man baptised ... Annual meeting showed membership increase of 18 ... M.A.F. screened film of work in Africa ... S.S. presented musical "The Music Machine" ... Choir presented Christmas Cantata ... Service held on Christmas Day ... Locals preaching whilst minister on holidays.

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SO

MAYLANDS (Lloyd Cooke). Lloyd and Shirley Cooke commenced ministry on Nov. 23. Induction service conducted by Chas Dow. Covenants of commitment were taken. At evening service Maylands Uniting Church met with us to welcome the Cookes . . . Friendship Centre held closing meeting for year and after carols sat down to dinner. Centre raised \$1342 at previous evening for building extension fund . . . Leprosy Mission boxes raised \$88 . . . One Day's Pay offering \$481 . . . Group visited Riverland churches and shared services at Barmera and Berri.

VICTOR HARBOUR (R. C. Mitchell). Senior C.Y.F. elected new committee . . . Gerald Rose and Dawn Benjamin met with board and youth workers to discuss children's ministry . . . Bible School elected Christopher Bowey as Supt. for 1980 and Ron Camac as Secretary. Committee to plan Vacation Bible School in January . . . Y.P. presented youth service at Goolwa and Victor Harbour. Youth tea held before service at V.H. Slides of 1980 highlights shown.

FULLARTON (W.J. Philp) Y.P. combining with Baptists for bible study led by Craig Ellern of Adelaide Bible College . . . R. Clymer, Conf. Pres. spoke at Anniversary a.m. and Rev. and Mrs. Chambers spoke of experiences in Kampuchea at P.S.A. Offering taken for Thongs for Refugees, \$145. Evening service conducted at Christian Rest Home. Church also responsible for service at Home for Incurables . . . Aboriginal girls from Pulsford Rd. Church sang at C.W.F. break-up. Betty Crouch, M.B.E. Speaker.

COWANDILLA (R.W. Saunders). Maurie and Ivy Pollard honoured at church lunch. They have involved in the church for nearly 55 years including 30 years involvement with Boys' Brigade who also honoured them at their break-up social. Bill and Jean Ware also resigned as assistant leaders of B.B. 1. Bill is to be State Extension Officer. New leader is Ian Sander . . . After school Good News Club held dinner for children and parents. Leaders are Elva Hall and Dorothy Pearson . . . C.W.F. breakup smorgasbord tea and mini-bus drive to view lights of Adelaide.

LONG PLAINS (John Wilson). Donation sent to Darwin Building Appeal . . . C.W.F. offering for Northern District Womens Conf. Project of \$195 . . . Guest speakers at final meeting of C.W.F. in Long Plains were Major and Mrs. Albert Knop, Salvation Army, Norwood . . . Valuation made of church property, which was placed on market after the final service on January 11.

WHYALLA (Cliff Perkins) Trevor Meares, from Broken Hill, speaker at mission which resulted in two confessions of faith . . . 40th anniversary celebrated. Tea held on Saturday. Colin Jones, local member before training for the ministry guest speaker at both services . . . Membership grew from 40 to 49 last year.

WILLIAMSTOWN (E. Stevens). Church presented program at Albert Park

church . . . Family camp held at Longwood. 50 attended and families from Kersbrook shared. Studies based on the Holy Spirit with Roger Risson study leader . . . Mr Stevens to conclude his ministry at end of 1981 after six years.

VIC

NUNAWADING (E. C. Keating, P. B. Burnham, C. H. J. Wright). Following prayer and visitation Commitment Sunday held with 32 decisions . . . Good Companions took gospel service . . . Calisthenics held annual display . . . Church planning conference held at Belgrave . . . Choir featured in guest services . . . Renovations to Surrey Rd. vestry . . . Negotiations for property next to church . . . Y.A.F. held "Crystal Ball" . . . Vosces, Russian gospel group, guests Gateway . . . 30 meeting weekly for 7 a.m. prayer meetings . . . Coffee shop now called "Perks" . . . "Unhitched" hiked at Marysville on Cup Day . . . Springfield Rd. Old Time Country Fair raised over \$2000 . . . Don Walker set up own workshop area for unemployed youth to be trained and make use of their time.

OAKLEIGH (C.J. Mackenzie). Mr and Mrs J.K. Robinson reported on Aborigines work in W.A. along with Andy and Hilda Brown who have been touring there . . . Y.P. under direction of Mrs Beryl Miles presented musical "The Music Machine". C.W.F. in second part of program presented "Love" . . . Girls' Brigade gave items and gifts they had made to residents at Christian Guest Home . . . Church sponsoring two broadcasts to Russia by Voice of the Gospel.

WATTLE PARK (D. Prestidge, J. Clapp). Farewell to student ministers. Prestidge family returning to New Zealand. John and Eira Clapp to a vacation ministry at Blackwood, S.A. . . Ian Allsop to minister part-time next year . . . Intermediate and Senior Explorers each spent weekend camping at Cathedral Ranges . . . Good Companions led service.

HAMPTON (T. Hanna, D. Morffew). Dedication and Commitment service with Black Rock celebrated decision of joint ministry followed by family picnic . . . Three baptised . . . Doug Morffew and Hanna family farewelled . . . Home coming speaker John Paver . . . Good Companions took evening service . . . Board members conducted service . . . Annual meeting held. Os Cooper Secretary, Doug Allen Treasurer . . . John and Eira Clapp and Ken Barrett student ministers next year.

WARRACKNABEAL, BRIM, DIMBOOLA (R.W. Marshall). Brim and W'beal ladies' Trash and Treasure raised \$288 . . . Brim and W'beal C.W.F. combined for final meeting. Christmas message by Mr Marshall . . . Circuit family service held . . . Manifold Heights members spent weekend in circuit Oct. 25, 26 . . . Mr and Mrs H. Parsons celebrated Golden Wedding . . . R.W. Marshall celebrates 40th year in the ministry.

BOX HILL (S. Downie). David Brooker appointed third member of ministry team for 1981 . . . Church business meeting

held . . . S.S. picnic held at Jells Park . . . Senior Christians held bus trip to Werribee Park . . . Explorers held display and presentation night . . . Y.P.C.E. speakers Christian lawyer and Christian Foundation for Blind . . . David Tralao, grief counsellor, speaker at gospel service . . . Binh Pham an escapee from Vietnam interviewed . . . Recent artists Ichthus, Living Light, Sonshiners, Helen and Don Skilbeck, Chas Nipps and Joy Newman.

NOBLE PARK (K. Clinton, L. Mayes). After church BBQ held to farewell student Leigh Mellberg . . . Series of three healing services held . . . Contacts made through doorknock and letter box drop . . . Lindsay and Erma Mayes to continue in 1981 . . . Carols by Candlelight to be held on Christmas Eve.

OLD

AVENELL HEIGHTS (B. Francis). Four decisions, five rededications and seven baptisms in last two weeks of November . . . C.W.F. mini fete raised \$500 . . . C.W.F. breakup at Eva Linderberg's home . . . Minister attended church growth seminar under Dr Paul Yongi Cho. ANN ST. C.W.F. held break-up morning tea. Mrs Joan Coathup succeeds Mrs Hilda Northey as Pres . . . B.S. under leadership of Lewis Vincent treated church to a Christmas party. Eric Hart, minister, presented scholars with awards during a previous Sunday morning service . . . Church and Auxiliaries at a farewell tea honoured Mr and Mrs Hart and presentations were made.

CHINCHILLA, HOPELANDS (Ted Dinning). Queensland Conf. Pres. Ron Sansome visited . . . 14th annual Harvest Thanksgiving Missionary weekend held with H. Finger. Mrs Mary Finger gave talk at Sunday fellowship tea. Slides shown of Vanuatu and P.N.G. and Mr. Finger told of his latest stay in P.N.G. Harvest Thanksgiving offering \$7,729 . . . Youth groups to continue to meet over holiday period.

NSW

WYOMING, BERKELEY VALE (E. K. Morrison, M. Leask) Farewell evening held for Ian and Heather Morton and Ed and Peg Morrison, who are going to Inverell and Lismore respectively . . . Elders and Deacons Seminar held over six weeks . . . Town Planner for Berkeley Vale has located the church building to face Roma Street. Start to be made soon . . . Combined Churches Holiday Youth Crusade at Ettalong Showground in January . . . Boys Brigade held Display Night . . . Special Christmas Family Service with B.S. presentation.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins). Church eight months old and has 36 members . . . Mayfield exercising oversight . . . Vickie Allen and Denise Manson of W.E.C. Brazil recent speakers . . .

Church shared with Mayfield in family camp with Dianne Feeney as speaker. **LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS** (K.A. Mason). Church's first communion service in Springwood held December 14 in home of Will Lyle. 15 adults and four children present.

WAGGA WAGGA (E.W. Taylor, T. Grant). Special missionary projects reached target Madang Christian Centre \$1200, Project Pearl \$1246 . . . Group of Y.P. from Yarrowonga visited for weekend and sang at Sunday morning service.

THORNLEIGH (D.W. Mansell). Family service held on Dec. 7 with Brigades and B.S. sharing in service . . . Telopea Gospel Players presented musical "The Clown" at gospel service . . . At after church fellowship Mr and Mrs Mansell honoured for their four year service to the church. Presentation made by Mr Bartholomew. Mr Riggall made presentation on behalf of Port Macquarie . . . Christmas Day service held. Offering to assist Ellis family now stands at \$1291.

PENDLE HILL (Ron Bassett). Col Bowser visitor during November . . . During December features were family home party, Rev. Albert Mewett of Bible Soc., J.B. Wilson of J.E.W., family Christmas party, Vicky Watt as soloist at a.m. service and "Running Free" gospel group at a gospel service . . . Two new elders in training are Tony Baird and Max Kingham.

VIC

BURWOOD (P. Wing Tang, B. Williams). Board held conference at Dromana. Future needs and organisation discussed . . . 11 attended men's dinner at North Balwyn . . . 83 men shared annual breakfast. Rowland Crowcher speaker and Brian Jacques soloist. Ladies catered . . . Annual meeting held . . . Combined picnic held with St. Lukes Uniting . . . C.W.F. smorgasboard dinner entertained by Bentleigh Salvation Army Band . . . Girls club held tea and took evening service . . . Boys club service project raised over \$300 for Leprosy Mission.

NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn Schaefer). Board held retreat at Gisborne . . . Working bee held . . . Baptism held . . . Christmas gift sent to Hazel Skuse in India . . . Church sponsoring eight children in Indian children's home . . . Hannes Schaefer will next year be student minister at Essendon.

TOOTGAROOK (Mal Giezendanner). 29th anniversary held. Guest speaker Alf White. Guest artists Mrs Merilyn Bertram and Tiriki Duet . . . Market held raising \$4,200 to go off manse debt . . . Happy Hour for children held end of year function . . . C.W.F. held pot luck tea end of year function for whole church . . . Bonsai Society had successful year . . . Annual meeting elected Harry Earl elder.

STAWELL (Peter Mathews) "A New Gift for Stawell" mission held over eight days with nine meetings. Greg Deuble (Shepparton) and Jeff Deuble (M.E.D.) speakers. Burt Stevens (Ararat) song leader and Bev Stephens played piano. One married couple were baptised . . .

Two others made initial commitments . . . Odds and Ends Auction held for project of painting the chapel . . . George Warren spent an afternoon with S.S. teachers.

BRIGHTON (H. Bischoff). Choir celebrated 50 years continuous service at special every members present day . . . Mini Fete organised by Girls Club, raised \$550 towards a Seeing Eye dog for the blind . . . Church saddened by death of Herb. Malin, member for 40 years . . . Church interest group organised luncheon in grounds of "Billilla", local historical home . . . Services of Miss Debbie Wright (C.O.B.) student assistant, recognised . . . Mr Bischoff accepted call to extend ministry for a further year. Mr Bischoff celebrated 50 years in the ministry . . . Combined Bayside District Youth Service held at Brighton with over 100 present.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (P. A. Pitts) Series of Fellowship house parties held prior to 55th church anniversary . . . Temple day offering over \$2000 for missionary project and furnishings for new chapel . . . Weekend exchange visit to Warracknabeal-Brim-Dimboola . . . Gary Simper attended Bethel Orientation Clinic in Sydney . . . Stall raised \$1000 for building fund . . . J.E.W. presented film . . . Sudan United Mission represented by Miss Muriel Pickworth . . . Robert Frazer, student minister, farewelled . . . Peter and Margaret Wing Tang, Burwood, led evening service . . . 14 Bethel graduates presented with certificates.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R. B. Elbourne). 27th anniversary celebrated with Clive Ward as guest speaker at both services . . . 20 attended Small Groups Seminar at Blackburn . . . Working bees held weekly to prepare second manse for Milne family . . . Past Conf. Pres. honoured at special luncheon catered by church ladies . . . Counselling Centre B/M held thank-you luncheon for volunteers . . . Twenties Connection led open-air worship service at Jells Park . . . Merv. Symes preached at recent morning service . . . C.Y.F. held car-wash night and bike ride on the Yarra bank.

SD

PROSPECT (R.H. Sercombe). 4 km. rally held at Prospect. Eric Hollard preacher accompanied by the Schonfeldt Sisters . . . Intermediate S.S. barbecue . . . For carols night at Middletons electronic organ moved outside and Mrs S. Dix led the carol singing. Basket supper . . . Combined Christmas service held at St Cuthbert's C. of E. . . Farewell service to Rick and Bev Sercombe followed by lunch . . . Ladies arranged for gifts of groceries, toys etc. to be collected and forwarded to Prisoners Aid Society . . . Christmas collection this year divided between C.O.C.O.A. and Christmas Bowl.

TUMBY BAY (M.D. Williams). Eyre Peninsula Women's half yearly conf. held at Tumby Bay. Maureen Nankivell President. Audio visual on women around the world compiled by Tumby Bay ladies . . . 30 attended women's camp held at

Redcliffs with Erica Hammond study leader . . . Combined churches S.S. service held for Christmas. Offering taken for Christmas Bowl. Luncheon followed . . . Ladies' Catering Committee renovated kitchen with help of Lincoln Burrow and Ray Lawrie . . . Combined evening services held with Uniting Church fortnightly over six weeks.

PORT LINCOLN (John Brear). John and Pam Brear attended Church Growth International Conf. in Brisbane during Nov. . . . Coffee and dessert evening with Dr Rob Wight of Adelaide concluded women's program for year . . . Celebration dinner marked end of year's activities for church . . . Day of Renewal held with Rev. Geoff Bingham . . . Combined Christmas Eve service held with Baptists . . . Many families spent Christmas Day together in hall hired for occasion. Local single policemen were involved.

tas

NUBEENA (Cec Neville). Five ladies attended camp at Bicheno . . . Recent speakers Keith Stevens — Copping, Tony Williams — Howrah, and Mr Gray — Overseas Missions . . . Boys Brigade end of year breakup guest speaker Bruce Spaulding. Mark Frerk won chaplain's award . . . Prizes and badges presented at Brownies breakup night . . . C.W.F. presented Twelve Days of Christmas and gifts of \$138 placed under tree for Christmas Bowl . . . S.S. anniversary held with afternoon tea following . . . Minister back after three months sick leave.

VIC

PARKDALE (B. Waldron). C.W.E.F. concluded year with BBQ and film . . . Explorer leader Bevyn Hargreaves resigned . . . 1981 program around theme "Your Church Family".

NOBLE PARK (K. Clinton, L. Mayes). C.W.F. street stall raised \$260 . . . Married couple baptised . . . After church barbecues held monthly . . . Lindsay Mayes passed C.O.B. exams . . . Church joined other denominations to letter box drop special Christmas leaflet. **BLACK ROCK** (Theo & Alison MacKaay). United effort with Hampton in 1982 will be under full-time minister yet to be appointed . . . Church combined with residents of Potter St. for annual street Christmas party.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ALBURY: Minister and Secretariat — 524 David St., Albury, N.S.W. 2640.

THORNLEIGH: Minister — Paul Cameron, 6 Loch Maree Ave., Thornleigh, N.S.W. 2120. Phone (02) 84 1120.

KEDRON: Secretary — C. Stafford, 62 Araluen St., Kedron, Qld. 4031.

BAMBRA RD., CAULFIELD: Secretary — R.F. Goodman, 18 Bent St., Caulfield, Vic. 3161.



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- BEST OF TASMANIA WITH TRANS OTWAY** — This popular 11 day tour departs March 29th and visits all important places. Most meals are included. Fares from Melbourne \$779; Sydney \$886; Brisbane \$988; Adelaide \$877.
- SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN** — Our March Tour is now full, but we will repeat this 18 day tour of both Islands departing on April 29th. Fares are from Melbourne \$1029; Sydney \$994; Brisbane \$1016. A 4-day tour to Bay of Islands can be arranged at supplement of \$256.
- LANDS OF BIBLE TOUR** — Departing March 17th for 11 days in Israel, 9 days in Greece (with a Greek Island Cruise); and 6 days in Rome. Fare from Sydney or Melbourne \$3146.00.
- VISIT U.S.A. & CANADA** — Departing April 29th with Rev. Hector Dunn this 37-day tour takes us on a comprehensive tour through U.S.A., the Canadian Rockies, Niagara Falls, Grand Canyon etc. Price from Melbourne is \$3605.00.
- A.C.T.S. GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE WITH ISRAEL & GREECE** — Departing on June 23rd we spend 10 days in Israel, 4 days in Greece, take a 15 day tour of England, Scotland & Wales, 25 days touring on the Continent in 7 countries, 12 nights paid accommodation in London, and free time at own expense. This tour is well priced at \$5889.00 from Melbourne or Sydney.
- VISIT CHINA 1981** — Our 23 day tour departs 8th June for Hong Kong then China with 18 days based on Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Soochow, Nanking and Peking. Our Leader is the Rev. Alec Hilliard and the price from Sydney is \$2360.00.
- VISIT BEAUTIFUL CAIRNS** — Leaving on June 27th this 26 day luxury coach tour travel via Princes highway Sydney and Brisbane to Cairns, returning with little duplication of route. Numerous cruises to nearby Islands included. Fares from Melbourne \$1449; Sydney \$1149; Brisbane \$817.
- MIDDLE EAST ADVENTURE TOUR** — This tour visits Bangkok (4 nights), Jordan (3 nights), Israel (10 nights), Egypt (9 nights), and Singapore (2 nights). Unusual and most interesting. From Sydney or Melbourne \$3093.
- GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN** — See Britain in depth. Leaving on August 1st this 37 day tour gives 29 nights in Britain, with a 4 day stopover in Kuala Lumpur/Singapore. A value tour at \$3485 from Melbourne or Sydney. Group Leader is the Rev. Les Hatton Chaplain St. Andrew's Hospital.
- SAY IT WITH ORCHIDS** — A.C.T.S. holidays presents a 36 day tour to Africa to coincide with the 10th world orchid conference in Durban. Leaving on 5th September we spend 25 days in South Africa, 9 days in Kenya, and 3 days in Mauritius. Our group leader is Tom Paterson (former Director Road Transport with Commonwealth Department of Transport) assisted by Miss Val Stewart of Sydney. Fare from Sydney or Melbourne is \$4250.00. Arrangements can be made to take the South Africa section only at \$3016.00.
- ALICE SPRINGS & RED CENTRE** — Departing 16th September this 12 day tour travel to Alice on the NEW GHAN and then returns by air-conditioned luxury coach via Coober Pedy, Flinders Ranges, Mildura etc. Our Leader is Mrs Pam Bartlett of A.C.T.S. Melbourne Staff, and fares are from Melbourne with 1st class on Ghan \$872 or Economy class \$835; Sydney \$946 (\$909); Adelaide \$721 (\$684); Brisbane \$1094 (\$1057). Pensioner concession is available.
- WEST AUSTRALIA AT WILD FLOWER TIME** — Our annual 18 day tour to West Australia departs on October 19th by luxury air-conditioned coach. Two nights are spent on the train on the return journey. Prices are from Melbourne 1st Class Rail \$1231, 2nd class rail \$1186 Sydney \$1308 (\$1236); Adelaide \$1093 (\$1048); Brisbane \$1450 (\$1378). Pensioner discount is available.
- CRUISING WITH A.C.T.S./SITMAR IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRSTAR** — departing from Sydney, July 12 — Brisbane, Whitsunday, Cairns, Ambon, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Darwin — 29 nights/8 ports. Fares from \$1525 - \$4703. October 21 — Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu, Apia, Pago Pago, Vavau, Nukualofa, Noumea. 19 nights/8 ports, Fares from \$1045 - \$2645. January 31st 1981 — Milford Sound, Timaru, Picton, Wellington, Auckland, Bay of Islands. 14 nights/6 ports with Rev. & Mrs W. M. Constable. Fares from \$855 - \$2030.

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Qld.: 160 Edwards Street, Brisbane 4000 Phone: 221 3922
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FRANKSTON: Peninsula Singles Club (03) 783 3235 or 781 4257.

WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.

BRISBANE: Queensland Social Service Dept. (07) 379 9122

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

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

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Devote yourself to the reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. (I Tim. 4:13)

OLD

MACKAY (Norm Flett). Church aiming for "80 in 80" goal ... Annual meeting elected Bruce Cann-Elder, Ian Fettel — Deacon, Doug Sands — Sec. and Debbie Dodds-B.S. Super ... Youth group (Yurana) held camp at Eungella National Park ... 43rd anniversary service featured Covenant Players ... Girls' Brigade commenced with Kearry Smith as Captain. First Church Parade and Commissioning Service of 2nd Mackay Company held ... 185 at gospel service for screening of Jim Jones' film "Deceived" and music group 'Doulos' ... Weekly cell groups functioning ... Planning Seminars held.

HARLAXTON (R.K. Sansome, G.R. Charles). Special series when six leading Brotherhood men spoke on "If I Had One Sermon To Preach". Three decisions during series ... Encounter Group Safari team held reunion followed by church family tea and screening of safari pictures. Evenings proceeds towards new piano ... Men's Society speaker Don Cranston spoke and showed slides of overseas visit to inspect aged peoples' homes. Offering towards new Hi-Lo bed for Mylo Home ... End of year functions included progressive night for E.W.F., family squash night for C.M.S. and a camp for Encounter group ... Girls' Brigade held parade and award presentation.

SO

STRATHALBYN (H. Prime). H. Prime to begin another 3 year term in 1981 ... Four Y.P. made decisions. Baptisms and youth service on Nov. 30 ... Gerald Rose, D.C.E., preached and held luncheon with S.S. staff ... "Planning our Church Life" night held.

GAWLER (R.L. Oke). 61st anniversary held with Kevin Harvey speaking in morning and State Youth Choir presenting evening program ... Quarterly family service held ... "He Leadeth Me" screened at youth service. One young man made commitment ... E.W.F. progressive supper held with husbands also involved ... Annual meeting held.

BLACKWOOD (T. Giles). This Is Your Life program honoured work of Jack and May Searle ... Open days in Primary and Kindergarten section of B.S. enjoyed ... 3000 attended presentation of "Joseph's Technicolour Dreamcoat" by B.S. ... \$575 raised for Overseas Aid by C.W.F.



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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BIRTHS

ALLSOP (White). Jan and Ian are proud to announce the arrival of Louise Jan on 15-12-80 at E. Melbourne. A sister for Jenelle and Mark.

CARMEL Glenys. Ian and Michael welcome with love, Dean Robert, born 14th December at Morwell.

HICKS (RISSON) John, Berniece and David praise God for the safe arrival of Simone Anne, born 12.1.81 at Nollamara, W.A.

KILNER (BAINES) Wendy and Mark announce the arrival of Steven Jay on the 7th December, on Wendy's birthday. Second grandchild for Dorothy and Ian.

My name is Belinda Kate MacKenzie and my parents, Chris and Pamela, are ecstatic about me! I came into their lives on the 5th Dec. 1980 about 6 weeks too soon, but thanks be to God I am progressing very well.

PROELLOCKS (McANENY) Neale and Kerry praise God for the safe arrival of Michelle Cathryn; sister for Rebecca and Michael, born 14.1.81 at Queen Victoria Hospital, Adelaide.

SCHUBERT (SNIBSON) Glenda and John thank God for the safe arrival of Carl Jonathan, St. George's Hospital, Kew 16.12.1980. Brother for Catherine (Present address 42 Ballantyne Crescent, Kilsyth, 3137).

VAN HAAREN Rob and Melanie (ex New Guinea) praise God for the gift of a son, Joshua Robert, born Darwin 17th November, weighing 8lb 11oz.

ENGAGEMENTS

MARCHANT - WATERHOUSE Julie and Michael, together with their parents Merle and Brian, Joan and David, have much pleasure in announcing their engagement to family and friends.

GOLDEN WEDDING

GREENWOOD Harold and Millicent Greenwood (nee Whitby) celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 28th January. The marriage took place at Kaitangata, N.Z., with the late E. P. Aderman officiating. They express thanks to friends and relatives for cards and gifts.

DEATHS

BARRENGER, Thomas William. On 18th January at the Alfred Hospital, son of the late Anne and Tom Barrenger. Aged 78 years. Loved husband of Win and father of Gwen and Keith Bishop, Grandpa of Winston, Debra, Jennifer, Ross and Cathryn. In God's care.

KIRBY Phyllis Edna of Red Hill, Victoria, on 5th December. Dearly loved wife of Jack, mother of Joy, Robyn and John; sister of Ron Holmes and Betty McKenzie. "With Christ whom she loved".

McCANN On December 13th, John McCallum (Mac). Dearly loved husband of Olive, loving father of John and Virginia; Catherine and Peter, devoted grandfather of John and dear Uncle Mac to Rheita. Luke 8:15 N.E.B.

McCANN John McCallum. On 13 December 1980, dearly loved husband of Olive, loving father of John and Virginia, Catherine and Peter, devoted grandfather of Joan, and dear Uncle Mac to Rheita. Ps. 84:5-7. Living Bible.

WITHERS, Leslie Herbert. Died at home on 12th December, 1980. Husband of Georgina (Georgie), father of Josie and Valda, Pa of 7 grandchildren.

WITHERS Leslie Herbert. On December 12, Les, loved and honoured brother of Arthur, Elsie (Mrs White) and Min (Mrs Cheal), son of the late Frank Blackmore and Agnes Jane. In grateful remembrance, both ours and our children's.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Middle age couple require accommodation during the week in any of the following areas: — Kew, Balwyn, Nth. Balwyn, Hawthorn, Camberwell or Burwood. Reply to Mr and Mrs Genet, 2 Burns Rd., Dromana, 3936. Phone (059) 87 3218, Bus. Hrs: 861 5321.

SOUTH YARRA CHURCH OF CHRIST HOME COMING SERVICES

(Cliff St.)

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY, 1981

11 a.m. WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

Speaker: R. V. Longthorp B.Sc., B.Ed., Dip. R.E.
Soloist: Jim Lawry

3 p.m. PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Speaker: A. E. White B.A.
Music: Tirriki Group

7 p.m. GOSPEL SERVICE

Speaker: P. Nelson
Soloist: Graeme Price

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- ★ Suitably qualified minister as Principal of the Gokto Bible School.

VANUATU

- ★ Double certificated nurse (male or female preferably single) for the Ndui Ndui Hospital.
- ★ Business Manager for the Santo office. Accounting qualifications necessary.

Write for further information to:

Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board
P.O. BOX 320, UNLEY, SOUTH AUST. 5061

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS CHURCH

Official Opening Meetings
Of The New Christian Centre

Sunday February 22nd 1981

- 11 a.m. Worship Service and Communion
- 2.30 p.m. Official Opening Fellowship Meeting.
- 7 p.m. Celebration and Worship Meeting (with the Bible School Musical "Zac Junior")

All Welcome.

CHAPLAIN

A Chaplain is required for Swinburne in Hawthorn, Victoria, commencing second term 1981.

Swinburne consists of two teaching divisions: a tertiary college of advanced education (Swinburne Institute of Technology) and a Technical and Further Education college (Swinburne Technical College); with more than 9,000 students and 1,000 staff in total.

Intending applicants are requested to write to the Secretary of the Chaplaincy Committee, Swinburne Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 218, Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122 by 28 February, 1981.

PARTNERSHIP IN INDONESIA

WORKERS NEEDED

On behalf of the Australian Churches of Christ, the Federal Overseas Mission Board continues to financially support the Institute Oikumen Indonesia in its leadership training programs.

With the approval of Federal Conference the Board now wishes to extend its involvement in Indonesia by sending two married couples who will work in partnership with the American Churches of Christ/Christian churches in establishing a program for the training of Indonesian pastors.

The board, therefore, is seeking applications from Bible College graduates with initiative and leadership qualities and a gift for Bible teaching to minister in Indonesia.

If you have the required qualifications and after prayerful consideration would like to make further enquiries or offer for missionary service in Indonesia, please write to:

Ron McLean, Executive Director,

**Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board,
P.O. Box 320,
Unley, South Aust. 5061.**



DIRECTOR OF NURSING

The Wesley Central Mission invites applications for this position at our 33-bed private hospital at Ashfield. The hospital is registered medical and post-operative and has an excellent reputation for its high standards of nursing care.

Preference will be given to a person with psychiatric and general nursing registration. Experience on modern techniques of psycho-therapy and group counselling would be an advantage but not essential.

The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate an ability to lead a staff team who are dedicated to the task of caring for people in body, mind and spirit.

Because of the nature of our work, applicants must have an active association with a Christian church.

Excellent conditions, live-in facilities are available for a family if required. Apply in writing outlining full details of experience and qualifications, and enclosing copies of recent references to:

REV. COLIN WOOD,
Director of Community Services, Wesley Central Mission,
210 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000.

PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

● Rodney Bauer, Manifold Heights, Vic. ● Kerry and Ian Tisell, Noble Park, Vic. ● Hazel Holten, Tina Maloney, Wendy Scott, Parkdale, Vic. ● Kerry Waters, Tracey Williams, Les Johannsen, Ruth Johannsen, Mrs Trebbin Snr., Melinda Long, Jenny Linderberg, Avenell Hights, Qld. ● Mrs Kathy Ports, Sheri Tipper, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. ● Bruce and Linda Strahl, Suzanne and Natalie Irvine, Redcliffs, Vic. ● Richard Seales, Joy Seales, Maryborough, Vic. ● Ron Deppeler, Debby Deggering, Leanne McCutcheon, Julie McKay, Neil Pigdon, Tim Black, Joanne Goyan, Warrnambool, Vic. ● Grant Buck, Mark O'Leskin, Peter Combridge, Springvale, Vic. ● Sandra Moore, Carnarvon, W.A. ● Rick Ward, Horsham, Vic. ● Philip and Christine Cornish, Bordertown, S.A., ● Alan Meakin, Mary Hawkesford, Pat Christou, Trevor Kerr, Terena Hemsley, Jason Hemsley, Nollamara, W.A. ● Sue Walker, Paul Michael, Mrs Aitkin, Sharon Quartermaine, Kalamunda, W.A. ● Gaynor Mitchell, Linda Whittaker, Steve Watson, Beverley Wilson, Norman Baty, Heather Quayle, Albany, W.A. ● Daryl Edwards, Debbie Moore, Jacki Moore, Dandenong, Vic.

MARRIAGES

● Clare Scholfield to David Peters, Wyoming, Berkeley Vale, N.S.W. ● Joy Barnett to David Lambourne, Manifold Heights, Vic. ● Olwen Grailey to Graham Chigwidden, Fullarton, S.A. ● Kerri Bartlett to Rob Hercus, Maryborough, Vic. ● Renee Robinson to Ron Black, Beverley Morton to Mark Housenloge, Lynda Bell to Doug Nichols, Thornleigh, N.S.W. ● Janine Law Davis to Tracey Hall, Carnarvon, W.A. ● Carol Nash to John Pearson, Kaniva, Vic. Beth Marshman to Many Tsvoglow, Lyndell Butler to Michael Tucker, Horsham, Vic. ● Elizabeth Kaye to Wayne Kirk, Bassendean, W.A. ● Anita Walson to David Bourke, Nollamara, W.A. ● Brownwyn Daniel to Ashley Phillips, Long Plains, S.A.

DEATHS

● Mrs Phoebe Meyer, R.W. Rowe, Kaniva, Vic. ● Mrs Lil Orr, Mrs Doris Vine, Essendon, Vic. ● W. J. Cunningham, Redcliffs, Vic. ● Austin Oliver, Maryborough, Vic. ● Lauriss Fleming, Charles George Gordon Clowes, Warrnambool, Vic. ● Mrs I. Smith, Thornleigh, N.S.W. ● Les Withers, Coburg, Vic.

IN MEMORIAM

ACLAND. In loving memory of my beloved husband Roy called to higher service 6.1.75. Sadly missed by his wife Connie.

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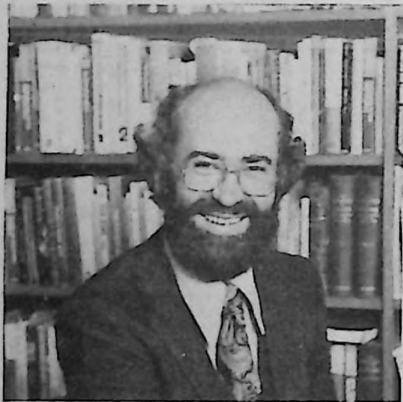
COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

Friday, February 20th, 1981, 7.45 p.m.
Blackman Hall of the State College of Victoria
442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn.



RECOGNITION OF GORDON STIRLING

for 12 years as Vice-Principal
and 45 years of ministry



INDUCTION OF DR BILL TABBERNEE

as Principal of the
College of the Bible

The service will include a welcome to new students and a recognition of the ministry of Dr Keith Bowes, Principal 1974-1980.

The College year begins on Tuesday February 17th, but note that there will be no opening ceremony on the day and no Garden Party.

WO

MERREDIN BRUCE ROCK (D. Good). Merredin held celebration to commemorate 200th year of S.S. Dora Bray and Donna Chapman (eldest and youngest) cut birthday cake; there were old songs, play, old mementos and decorations and an old-fashioned morning tea made up the morning . . . Eastern Wheatbelt Family Camp held with 140 campers. Dennis Hughes, Hamilton Hill, guest study leader . . . Members attended Wheatbelt Conf. at Narembeen . . . Robert Taylor (Home Missions) visited both churches . . . Merredin held progressive dinner . . . Bruce Rock joins Uniting Church for dedication of church renovations . . . Mr. and Mrs. Percy Butler gave talk with audio-visual of World Convention . . . Mrs Ruth Arnold improved in health.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (J. Somerville). 15th anniversary held . . . Bible study and share groups meet Wednesday afternoons and Youth Club meets Friday evening . . . District held combined church social with an international flavour . . . Ken Vawser and John Penrose appointed to officers board . . . Church saddened by the death of Mrs Gladys Stabe . . . Visit by Graham Laycock, blind physiotherapist, and his three teenage musical children . . . Y.P. held picnic at Hancock's Hideaway at Moore River . . . Music Hall evening held . . . Large group saw film and then shared in Chinese meal at Perth market.

WARWICK (G. B. Carslake). Letters came from all Australian States in appreciation of broadcast of morning service on the ABC. A recording has been made of the church's singing to be broadcast on Community Hymn Singing on January 11 . . . Working bees held to prepare the grounds for the new Aged Persons Homes complex. 30 units are now occupied and the contract will soon be let for the nursing home and hostel. Members are providing pastoral care . . . Attendances at the two morning services now total over 200 . . . Following study leadership training attended by 30 it is planned to have 15 home study outreach groups in 1981.

nsw

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS (K.A. Mason). Board planning for future using community survey and books "Time Out" and "Growing in the 80's" . . . All age Christian Education program to start on three month basis early 1981 . . . Ladies coffee evening talk on Carnarvon Missions . . . Sympathy extended to Norm Matthews on death of his wife.

CHATSWOOD (D. Hayman). Family service conducted by S.S. teachers and scholars at recent a.m. service . . . Three baptisms recently . . . 365 Friendship Centre held exhibition and sale of handcraft raised \$1,500. From this a cheque for \$700 was presented to North Rocks Deaf and Blind Children's Centre during the Centre's end-of-year luncheon, at which 100 attended.

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VIC

BERWICK (D. McLeod, N. Bunch). Sugar and Salt performed musical "In Every Way Rejoice" three times . . . For Children's Week children's choir Little Lanterns participated in evening service . . . Audio visual on Somalia by World Vision screened . . . Daryl McLeod presented children's sermon using gunpowder and fire crackers . . . Eric Walters leads secular music segment . . . Men's trio participating in worship . . . Annual meeting held. Board of Elders created. Ben Crowden, Ron Hurrin and Gill Handasyde appointed as Elders . . . Church family picnic at Rosslyn Park . . . Group attended gospel concert by Christian Radio at M.L.C. . . . Five baptisms . . . Graeme Burgess and John Marshall led song service . . . Study on Nativity commenced . . . New Women's study attracts 15 on Tuesday mornings.

SHEPPARTON (G.S. Deuble). Greg Deuble has returned after Missions at Grote St., Adelaide and Stawell. Speakers during absence I. Tippett, J. Deuble, D. Smith and G. Warren . . . Y.P. from Youth Group, and girls of Good Companions featured in recent evening services . . . Kick-off meetings held for Bill Glass Crusade to be held in Shepparton March '81, sponsored by local churches . . . Members took part in Bible Society Read-a-Thon to raise money for Pidgin Bibles for P.N.G. . . . Ladies made two Christmas hampers for needy families . . . 99th church anniversary featured B.S. Picnic lunch and activities followed at Stone's property.

BELMONT (B.K. Ryall). Anniversary meetings with Dean Hamilton. Aggregate attendance for week nearly 1,000 . . . New \$100,000 hall complex damaged by car. Estimate of \$5,000 covered by insurance . . . Ministerial student Stan Mott and family farewelled. To take up a position at Dalkeith Road in 1981 . . . Fete held towards Building Fund, \$2,000 raised . . .

1,000 Encounter leaflets distributed in community . . . Board and spouses shared in planning weekend at Ballarat . . . Puppet group being used in Inter-Church functions and special services.

CAMBERWELL (V. Longthorp, A. Tanner). Many former members at 64th church anniversary with Robyn Haskell, speaker . . . Ian Allsop gave talk on visit to India . . . Dot Reynolds and Rita Roberts honoured with presentations after long service with Good Companions . . . Joy Warren recovering after recent operation . . . Table Tennis club repeating successes of last year . . . Church family camp at Mt Martha.

RED HILL (A. Pigdon, D. Wallage). As from December 7 church reverts to one only morning service, 10 a.m. Gospel service continues at 7 p.m. . . . Church saddened by death of Miss Dorothy Evans . . . Mrs Fran Wagmodi and G. Warren speakers at B.S. Anniversary . . . Church plans for budget for two years and to hold special luncheon and stewardship meetings . . . Arthur Pigdon concludes ministry December but to stay on Peninsula . . . I. Cartmel commencing February 1981. D. Wallage continues until January . . . Ladies' monthly Market day for Missions and other causes . . . Ruth Grant joins Covenant Players (Adelaide) in January . . . Operation World continues focus on Mission. Over \$1000 given since commencement.

THE PATCH (Tom Frazer). Recent speakers Ian Allsop and Chris Ambrose . . . Ladies' coffee morning held. \$50 raised for Community Care Temple day . . . \$118 was result of recent stall at Kallista market . . . Stewardship campaign with Ian Tippett . . . Series of working bees held to renovate the manse and grounds.

ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe). Fair raised \$3510 towards home care units . . . Men completed renovations to church property after six months' work. Tenant moved in immediately . . . Y.A.F. held camp at Wilsons Promontory over long weekend . . . Ron Elbourn recent speaker. Caulfield Mayor and Mayoress and Councillors pre-

sent . . . Jack and Edna Gundry showed slides of trip . . . Members praying for extra hour for work of church . . . L.L. Smith, fed. Conf. Sec., spoke at morning service and evening service conducted by Christian Theatre Group . . . S.S. held anniversary service . . . Good Companions held coffee and dessert evening. Girls showed audio-visual they had made . . . Four attended C.M.F. annual dinner.

BENDIGO (S. Curkpatrick). Anniversary held. M. Humphries guest speaker . . . Representatives attended C.O.B. graduation service when S. Curkpatrick graduated . . . Family camp held at Epalock . . . S. Curkpatrick concluded ministry on Nov. 23. At final service young lady made decision. Supper and fellowship time held and presentation made by V. Symes.

BORONIA (Harvey Miller). Annual meeting elected Bruce McIntosh as Elder and Jennie Nichol and John Bird as deacons. Bev Jeffrey new sec. Gerald McLeod resigned after 13 years as sec. Peter Collyer resigned after 27 years on board . . . Iris Lawson commencing in 1981 as second minister . . . 45 attended C.O.B. graduation . . . Explorer service walk-a-thon raised \$187 . . . Christian Education program conducted during November . . . Lending library commenced . . . Good Companions conducted evening service on Girls' Sunday . . . Election day fete raised \$800 . . . Tennis team won 3B premiership . . . C.W.F. making Christmas gifts for children in hospital.

LA TROBE TERRACE, GEELONG (K. A. Rankin). Church returned to 7 p.m. services following winter trial of 5 p.m. services which showed increased attendances . . . Church entered float in Geelong Hospital Gala Day parade featuring Girls Brigade. Children distributed 1500 pamphlets. Parade filmed to be shown at church break-up . . . 1000 calendars featuring chapel and activities to be distributed . . . Young marrieds play reaches full dress rehearsal after five months of practice . . . Church saddened by deaths of Sid Blyth, Mrs Rankin — ministers mother and Mrs Oliver.

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39th CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE, OCTOBER 19-24, 1982

COUNT IT ALL JOY

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

MISSION

Over the Christmas-New Year period Mary and myself were involved in mission work. For the first time in several years we were involved in a C.S.S.M. Beach Mission. The one we worked on was actually in a caravan park at Port Fairy — in fact the first one held in Port Fairy for some 30 years.

Many of us have a mental picture of the missionary as the person (mostly a woman) who is dressed out of fashion, who lives with natives and who puts on terrible slide shows at church which are boring and go for hours. This is not the typical missionary. (Unfortunately some like this still exist).

Each of us as Christians is called to be a missionary and involved in mission. One of the few clear commands of Jesus to his disciples is what is called as "The Great Commission" (Matt. 28:16-20). We are called to go and make disciples of all people and to teach people of the truths of God and Jesus.

To fulfill this command does not necessarily mean we have to go overseas or to a different type of people to be involved in mission. Some people are called by God to go and serve overseas or in a different culture (e.g. Aboriginal missions). These missionaries need our support. They need to live and they need our financial, prayer and friendship support to teach others of the new life that we as Christians have gained.

For Mary and myself our recent two weeks stint as missionaries involved playing games with children, acting out some of the familiar Bible stories, explaining the truths of the Christian life in our own words related to the

average Australian home today and just being there and taking an interest in people. We talked to parents — we tried to show that Christians are ordinary people who enjoy themselves and yet who have something special in their lives.

Nothing dramatic happened. No one made any commitment and yet seeds were sown that could well grow and be reaped by someone else at some time in the future.

Going away somewhere from our friends and workmates and neighbours made it easier to witness. In my case, being known as a minister, it is expected that I will talk religion anyway. Most people find it difficult to talk naturally about their real faith in God to their friends and contacts. They are either too timid to, and expect some adverse reaction to their declaration of faith or they are afraid of being seen as a "Bible basher" and so the matter is let slip.

Why is it that we can be involved in mission only if it is a special effort at the church? This is especially so if we do not have to have person to person contact. It is always of interest to me that new converts to Christ are the ones who are most often sharing their faith with friends. Maybe they still have non-Christian friends whom they can disciple or maybe the new life they have found just has to bubble out in all their contacts whilst we older Christians are happy to be more concerned with the proper way to worship God in good order.

How much am I and you involved in sharing (in mission) the good news of new life in Jesus Christ?

THE LAST WORD

In the Bible, God is shown as having a divine bias for the losers — those who have a raw deal. Jesus got his hands dirty. So should we.

— Bishop David Sheppard

The Toad

The toad is an uncomely creature Green and warty in appearance, Who plops along the garden path, Or squats without a sign of clearance.

As a pet he's not attractive With eyes protruding from their sockets, But then he isn't fondled much Except by small boys in their pockets.

Marion L. Miller

★ ★ ★

A tourist was travelling through the mountains and stopped for gas. In the back of the station was a mountaineer boy shaving himself with a bowie knife.

"My," said the tourist, "that looks dangerous. Did you ever cut yourself?"

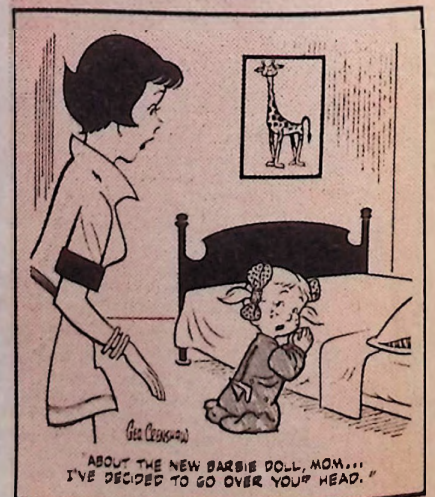
"Well," said the mountain boy, "I have been shaving nigh onto two years now and I haven't cut myself either time."

★ ★ ★

Don't worry if you start losing your memory. Just forget about it.

★ ★ ★

Give the average husband a few tools and in no time at all a dripping tap will become a running stream.



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