

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA  
Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761  
Vol. 84 No 15, August 22, 1981



***"I was sick and you cared  
for me." Matthew 25:36***

# ON MY MIND

## ANY FUTURE FOR STUDENT CHURCHES?

**Keith Farmer**

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Sept 5	Aug 26
Sept 19	Sept 9

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Dr. Keith Farmer is a graduate of the N.S.W. Bible College, now Carlingford Theological College, of which he is Principal. After a long and successful ministry at Epping, during which he lectured at the N.S.W. College, Keith joined the faculty of the College of the Bible, ministering part-time with the Doncaster church. On the unexpected death of principal Rex Ellis, Keith was invited to succeed him.

I seek the help of the Brotherhood in tackling a difficulty which is of major importance to the training of ministers.

### Counter Productive

Those involved in leadership in theological education have been strongly challenged to keep the training practical and relevant. Our three Colleges are, I believe, seeking to do that. However, a very important part of that training is the "student ministry" experience which has been a requirement of ministry training for many years. The experience is often counter productive to the development of a positive, optimistic attitude towards the possibilities of ministry. "Student churches" are often small, struggling, relatively depressed and depressing. It would take great diplomacy, courage, skill, time and experience to be able to lead these churches effectively. Students do not have the time or the experience for the task.

### Not Without Cost

The students often provide a very valuable ministry to those churches but it is not without cost.

If the "student churches" were not available the viability of College training as it presently exists would be severely threatened. It is the payment and often the accommodation provided by "student churches" that allows the student to continue to pay fees and live at least at a manageable level. The Colleges and the students are therefore very dependent upon and grateful to these churches.

My knowledge of some of these "student churches" lead me to conclude that they do not relish that situation. They would in most cases dearly love to be able to support a "full-time minister". As long as they are served by a student with very limited time available, there is little likelihood that they will grow.

### The Answer

In theory the answer lies in taking the burden for effective ministry away from "the minister", so that our churches do not heavily rely on the leadership of a trained person for effectiveness. That is not likely to happen in the smaller churches (or any church) without the leadership of a minister who can help people to recognise and develop their gifts. This would take normally more time than the student has available.

### Some Questions

The experiences the students have in churches during their years of training are vital in laying down attitudes and capacities basic to their continuing ministry. It is important

● Continued on page 9

## The Three Ashwood Sisters

Our story goes back to 1883, when F. J. Ashwood was baptised by John Strang and became a member of the Church of Christ meeting at Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Later the church moved to Campbell Street, to City Temple. Here Mr Ashwood was a deacon. He transferred to Petersham and later to Chatswood. Mr Ashwood was a church officer and Mrs Ashwood served in the women's work.

J. Whelan, the minister of the church, said of Mr Ashwood that he was a man with a phenomenal business ability and had accumulated much of the wealth of this world. He considered this as a trust which must be used for the kingdom of God. He gave much help to Overseas' Missions and to the College of the Bible, Victoria. The family provided funds for the building of the Memorial Hospital at Dhond.

### Three Daughters

There were three daughters, May, Elma and Queenie. They carried on the tradition of their parents. Without publicity they gave sacrificially to the churches. Colleges, missionary enterprises and social service work.

### Elma Ashwood

Elma Lilian died at the age of 83 in 1973. She had moved to Victoria in 1937 and attended the church at Gardiner. Later her membership was transferred to Doncaster. She gave generously to Overseas' Missions. Because of her bequest to the



May Ashwood

Doncaster church it was possible for a meeting room to be renovated to become known as the "Ashwood Room".

### Queenie Ashwood

Queenie was born in 1887 and was baptised at the City Temple, Sydney, at the age of 12. Because of her interest in patients of the Home for Incurables she met John Robertson who used to arrange outings for the patients. The two became friendly and were married in 1935. During 1942 they purchased a home at Narrabeen, on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. They added flats to provide holiday accommodation for ministers and their families and for missionaries on furlough when the Robertsons moved to Bowral in 1948, the house was given to the Social Service Department. Queenie's interest in the mission field in India prompted her to visit "Our India".

## Principal-Emeritus A. W. Stephenson

John and Queenie financed the building of the manse at Bowral. Then they provided substantial funds for the erection of the Bowral chapel. Queenie died in 1975 at the age of 87. John moved to a retirement village. Their Bowral home was presented to the New South Wales Churches of Christ.

### May Ashwood

Florence May Ashwood was born in 1884. She was associated with City Temple until late in life she became a member at Chatswood. She inherited business acumen from her father. Like the faithful servant in the New Testament she added to five talents another five for the Lord.

When women of the NSW Churches were collecting funds for a Home for Aged Women, Miss Ashwood, who was overseas, wrote offering to pay the cost of the Home to make it a memorial to her mother. The Home was called "The Ashwood Memorial Home". It was opened in 1937.

Over the years May Ashwood made generous gifts to Churches of Christ and also to charitable institutions. It was her rule not to allow any publicity for any gift she made. For her "life is giving and giving is life."

Her great love was for the Indian Mission. She made Edna Vawser her special concern and was treated as a member of the family.

One of May's gifts was to the Churches of Christ Bible College in NSW, to assist in raising the standard of

education of students. \$20,000 was given, partly to provide funds for a teacher in secular subjects and partly to provide fees for students attending a University in Australia.

May Ashwood died at 96 years in 1980. Her estate will benefit Churches of Christ in Australia.

May Ashwood, during her life, did not let her left hand know what her right hand did. In her death many will know what a generous person she was and we must add to May's name those of Elma and Queenie.

### Jesus no Sponsor!

A football team made up of local Christians in Derbyshire (U.K.) has been told it cannot wear the name of Jesus on its player's shirts.

The team, which calls itself Christians United and includes Anglicans, Methodists and Baptists, had wanted to emblazon the Lord's name on their backs as a sign of witness.

However, the local (and then the national) football associations said no: Jesus was not the name of the team's sponsor, nor of the team itself.

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—Church Scene

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# A Church Family Album

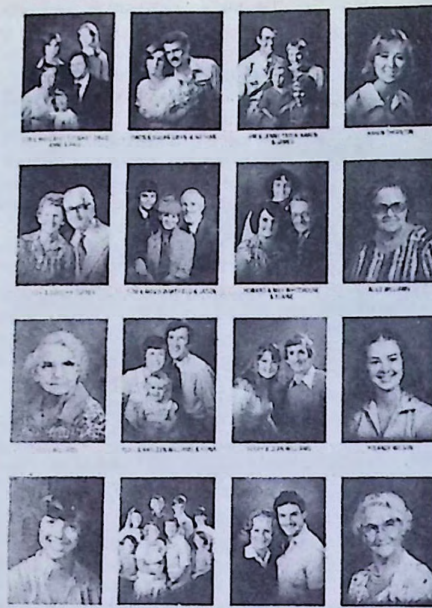
The church at Ipswich has a fascinating church directory called the Church Family Album. It is in three parts.

Part 1 is a picture gallery. On the odd pages there are four rows of four colour photos of all of the families in the church. On the even pages are their names, addresses, occupations, interests and telephone numbers. New members especially are able to learn quickly who everybody is. People can check as they prepare interest group activities.

Part 2 is a comprehensive listing of Brotherhood agencies and their addresses and phone numbers, including aged people's homes.

Part 3 lists all of the departments and activities of the Ipswich church. The names and addresses of elders, deacons and leaders are included.

Visitors to Queensland may like to note the address of the church at Brisbane Rd., East Ipswich. Phone (07) 281 2224.



IPSWICH CHURCH OF CHRIST					
Member	Children	Address	Telephone Number	Occupation	Interests
1010001	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010002	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010003	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010004	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010005	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
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1010009	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010010	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
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1010017	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010018	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010019	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52
1010020	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith	12 Millers Creek	781 9784	PRC. T. Smith Caretaker	21.04.83 22.05.79 22.12.34 23.04.52

## Pax Christi

Pax Christi (Australia), a branch of an international Christian movement for peace, has released a statement of its nuclear disarmament policy.

The statement points out that the global military strategies of the USA and USSR are shifting from "deterrence" to an emphasis on "counterforce," which aims at a successful first strike against the missiles of the other side. New generations of weapons systems are being developed with a capacity to hit missile sites with pinpoint accuracy.

### Super Power Illusion

What is so dangerous about these developments is that they give the superpowers the illusion that they can set

limits to the extent of a nuclear war and actually win such a war. Pax Christi warns that this brings the world into a new era of nuclear instability and acute risk of war.

The statement points out that Australia is deeply implicated in nuclear arms strategies through the provision of bases such as North West Cape, Pine Gap and Omega, and landing rights at Darwin for B-52 bombers. Pax Christi seeks Australia's disengagement from nuclear strategies, in particular through the removal of such bases and facilities. It supports the formation of international zones of peace and also aims to forge links with other groups in their struggles for peace, in whichever countries they exist.

formation of a coalition against nuclear armaments called **People for Nuclear Disarmaments**.

The group is willing to provide speakers for church or community meetings. Further information, and copies of the statement, can be obtained from Pax Christi, P.O. Box 31, Carlton South 3053.

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### Change of Heart

The statement stresses that nuclear de-escalation cannot come about only by a set of political manoeuvres. The most basic changes in people and their communities are needed; in biblical terms, a change of heart.

Pax Christi has begun a number of actions to give effect to its policy. It has submitted to parliament a petition for peace, with over 1200 signatures. It has taken initiative in working with other groups towards the



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Apart from milk sent to some of the worst drought areas, 20 tons were sent to children's projects throughout Kenya, and five tons in slum areas in Nairobi, where various churches helped in the distribution.

## LETTER TO JOSHUA

Greg Pearce, a Uniting Church minister serving in the Port Adelaide parish in South Australia published this open letter in his parish newsletter on the birth of their son, Joshua.

Dear Josh,

Now that we have brought you into the world I had better tell you a little about it.

You are one of over 4 billion people alive today. On the day you were born, I suppose about 40,000 people died due to hunger. I saw one of them on TV, a little boy, die in Somalia. He was as precious as you. If you reach the age of 5, remember that 15.5 million children in the world did not. For 15 million of these it was because of their poverty. You can see how you will need to live in this world if you are going to be true to Jesus, can't you? You will have to take only what you need, not too much, so that you can share with those he wants you to love. But don't be discouraged: he will give you a deep joy as you learn to do this, for you will get to know him better when you meet him in the poor, the naked, the hungry, the sick and the prisoner.

You must also expect to meet a lot of confusion as you try to hear the voice of Jesus above competing voices. The most trivial things will be called "the real thing", and you will be puzzled because so many of your friends will believe it. You will see the world sell its soul for a better prison to live in. Powerful minorities will call their interest "the national interest". The powerless, on the other hand, will need people to stand with them if they are not to be over-run in the head-long rush for material prosperity. When you meet people who tell you "this way's easier", you will be

thankful for those who have heard the voice of Jesus: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me".

When you began your life everyone said you were big and strong. "He's enormous", they said. My prayer is that you will be strong in the ways that count. It was Joshua who led the lost and wandering people of God into the Promised Land. It was Martin Luther King who led the poor towards their promised freedom. When you are baptised into Christ Jesus you are baptised into his death: you die to yourself, and take on the life of Christ. You live to set others free and to lead them out of sin and oppression, and into life with God, the glorious liberty of the children of God.

You can see that if you take Jesus seriously, he could lead you absolutely anywhere, and you will be tested, and challenged, and thrilled with joy, and the road will lead you home.

Be assured of my prayers,  
Greg Pearce

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# Wholistic Evangelism

Bob Smith

Bob Smith is the 1981 Australian Christian Foundation Scholar. Part of his study program took him to our Brotherhood Headquarters for sessions with Dr Bill Hannah who heads up the Department of Evangelism. Bob reports some of what he discovered about evangelism amongst Disciples. Bob is available on a limited basis for study programs for ministers and leaders arising from his overseas experiences.

I found one of the most realistic approaches to evangelism in Indianapolis. Dr Bill Hannah, Director of the Disciples of Christ Department of Evangelism and Membership had invited me to spend time at the Disciples' National Headquarters, and to interview their staff. I was keen to do this, and to see what plans they had to deal with a serious decline in membership.

## Bill Hannah's Wheel

Bill Hannah sees Evangelism as a wholistic thing involving both word and deed; both preaching and caring. He pictures it as a wheel with six spokes. These spokes are: diaspora, the going out; kerugma, the proclamation; didache, the

teaching; koinonia, the fellowship of support and prayer groups; diakonia, the servant and caring ministry; katatismos, the development of people's skills; and so on back to diaspora again.

The hub that holds this wheel together, and around which everything revolves, is liturgia, worship. Bill Hannah believes that something has to happen in the worship experience of a church; and when it does happen the wheel starts to move. The result is a marriage of word and deed. A truly New Testament evangelism that does not polarise preaching on the one hand, and practical caring for people, on the other. It is a Wholistic Evangelism which ministers to the whole person.

Under the leadership of Eddie Stubblefield, this Department has set up four programs that aim at implementing a wholistic approach to Evangelism in Disciples churches.

## Adventures in Evangelism

The first is a training program called "Adventures in Evangelism". It emphasises the need to build caring relationships with people. Part of the material

used is an excellent multimedia presentation called "Experiencing People". I believe that our churches in South Australia already have a copy of the film, and one has been ordered for New South Wales.

## Order of Andrew

The second program is called "The Order of Andrew". Its purpose is to build up a nucleus of people in each church who will actively commit themselves to this type of wholistic evangelism. Each member of the order participates in a three-month intensive group learning experience. Having completed this course, the participant may be formally commissioned into the order. Then, annually, members are recommissioned for another year's service.

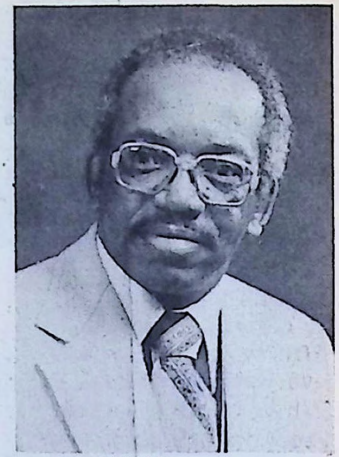
Each member of the Order is deeply involved in developing loving relationships with people on the local church's contact list. Through regular meetings for prayer, fellowship and training, the members of the order maintain and develop their sense of calling.

## Reunion

"Reunion", is the third program. This is designed to help restore lapsed members to fellowship. It majors on personal contact and active caring. A pilot program in Indiana led to a 40% return of lapsed members to active membership. The program draws heavily on psychological and sociological research into why and how members drop out of churches.

## Moving Family

Fourthly, is the "Moving Family". The idea here is to help eliminate the loss of members to the overall movement as a result of people moving house, and not being absorbed into another fellowship. It is based around human relationships and the Church's caring ministry.



Bill Hannah

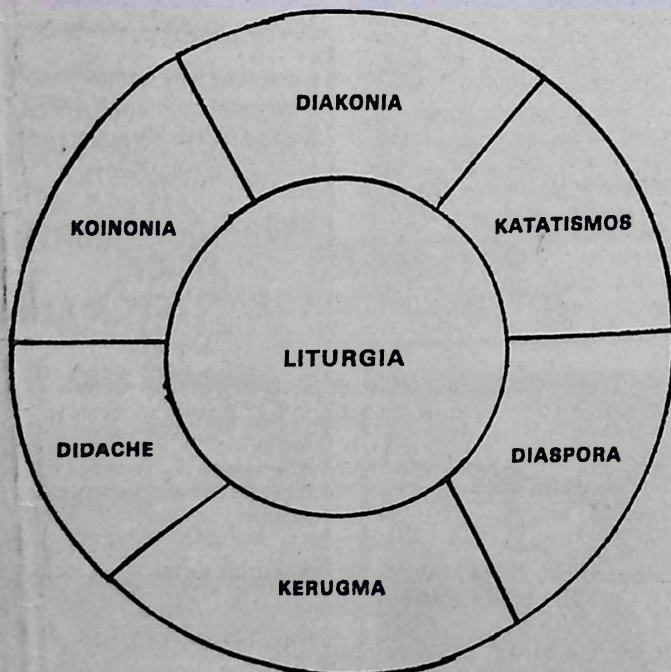
## Cassettes for Sudan

A pilot program of Scripture cassettes will help reduce the 80% illiteracy rate in the Sudan.

The Bible Society in the Sudan, in co-operation with the Portable Recording Ministries organisation, has recorded portions of the Bible in three languages. They are Nuer (Matthew, Luke), Dinka-Bor (Luke), and Tigrinya (Mark).

The recordings in Nuer, which has half a million speakers, offer some variety to the straight forward reading of the text. Some 30 songs taken from the verses of Matthew have been sung to local Nuer tunes.

So far, 3500 cassettes and 636 tape-players are available for use. The introduction will include a demonstration in the operation of the tape-players which run on solar batteries.



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**MINISTER — DON SONSEE**

## THE W.C.C. REPORT ON JUSTICE FOR ABORIGINES

The report of the W.C.C. team on the Aboriginal situation, and its recommendations are available from the A.C.C. Office, 199 Clarence St., Sydney, 2000 for \$3.50.

### Bias?

Thinking Christians will not let their attitudes to the W.C.C. or their political affiliations colour their evaluation of the report. Whatever its failure to recognise the enormous complexities of the Aboriginal problem and however simplistic some of its findings are, it does emphasize again the fact that Aborigines are second class citizens, most of whom are getting a poor deal, and that Christians at least should do something about it.

### Nothing New

There is nothing in the report that we did not know before and there are no recommendations that we have not heard before.

This is not surprising, as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs made a lot of information available to the delegation.

It is also obvious that the Delegation was well briefed before and during its visit by organisations concerned with Aboriginal welfare and justice. However, having done its homework it went around Australia and discovered for itself that what it had heard, and what we Australians all know, was true.

### Something New

The new things that arose from the visit and its report are:

1. that representatives of the church are now seen by the world to have a conscience concerning Aborigines;
2. that once again the matter of Aboriginal Justice has come before the forum of world opinion;
3. that further pressure of opinion will be upon State and Federal Governments to do even more towards Aboriginal justice.

### Missing from the Report

The report only gave scant recognition to the enormous amount that has been and is being done by governments and churches and others. One suspects that this information may not have been made fully available to the delegation. The delegation should have been told that however they saw things, the situation is not as bad as it was.

Also missing from the report is the fact that Aborigines must be willing to do more for themselves in making the most of the opportunities already available to them, especially through personal self-discipline. The report said that the Aboriginal sense of rejection by the white community led to lethargy and alcoholism. This is only too true. But one of the ways of overcoming that sense of rejection is for Aborigines to work on being accepted, by being more responsible, as indeed many are.

### The Report Says

The report raises all of the well known problems. They are white racism, injustice in the penal system, malnutrition, eye disease, squalid conditions on reserves and fringes of towns, bad housing or no housing, unequal educational

opportunities, unemployment, lack of job skill training, the failure of the Federal Government to use the powers given to it by referendum of the Australian people in Aboriginal matters, exploitation, and the gross effects of western materialism.

The fact that the list is not new should not dampen the will of Christians to put pressure upon church and society to do more about the items on it.

### Recommendations

There is nothing new about the recommendations of the report, except that they provide a neat agenda for Christian discussion and action.

Responsible consultation between Aborigines and government on all matters of land rights is recommended. The Aboriginal legal services need strengthening. Aboriginal run health services should be adequately funded. Consultative planning between Aborigines and housing authorities should be applied to housing. Education should cover job training. Aboriginal employment schemes should be re-instituted. The Federal Government should use the powers vested in it to see that justice is done in the states. Aborigines should be given

the same right to self determination as is enjoyed by the white population.

### Encouraging Development

In our view there are already encouraging signs of self determination and self development amongst Aborigines. They are Aboriginal tribal councils accepting greater responsibility, the Aboriginal legal service, the Aboriginal run health services and some Aboriginal co-operatives. These seem to point the direction for government action and community support. And the state of the economy should never be an excuse for failure to fund such self-help programs.

Another encouraging development in self determination is the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, the only truly non-white, self governing, indigenous expression of mission to the Aborigines by Aborigines alone. They do not want us whites breathing down their spiritual necks in any sort of paternalism, but they can use our money and our prayers to do God's work in their way and in his. They are changing lives and no programs of justice towards Aborigines are going to be truly effective without a sufficient number of changed lives.

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YOU WILL HAVE TO MOVE —  
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# OPEN FORUM

## "A.C." AND STEWARDSHIP

To the Editor,

We have just had a Review Planned Giving Program in our church which re-affirmed the place of stewardship in our Christian discipleship. To read the razor gang story on the back page of the "A.C." (25/7) brought home to me the difficult job the Editor and Board of Management of a church journal have to face. The visionary work which you and your team are doing amidst stringent budget limitations needs to be commended.

The comparison of the subscription rate to the "A.C." 50 years ago typifies the gentle gracious manner by which you break the news of this subscription increase to us all.

I believe the "A.C." is a vital communication link amongst our brotherhood offering a forum for news and views which we need to be kept in touch with. I will happily continue to enlist new subscribers and I am

confident that our people will rise to the occasion. Maybe our planned giving visitors could collect a subscription pledge in the future.

— Mark Dunn (Mt. Clear, Vic.)  
SHAW OF "SHORE"

To the Editor,

It was a real thrill to see on the front page of the "A.C." (July 25,) the wonderful work being done by Joe Shaw, who commenced his training (other than his home) in the Kindergarten of the North Fitzroy church. The kindergarten was under the leadership of my late aunt, Miss Elsie Peck who was Superintendent for 52 years. From Kindergarten, Joe was in my class for two years and his work has always been followed with interest and prayers.

— L.M. Smedley (Vic.)  
(Mr and Mrs Smedley have been "A.C." subscribers for 50 years and are thus entitled to a guest subscription for 1982. Ed.)

## C.W.F. — C.M.E. "WILDFLOWER CAMP" HALL'S GAP

25th — 27th September, 1981

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## THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

seeks applicants for the position of

## SECRETARY

to commence duties early in 1982.

Full information and task description may be obtained from South Australian Council of Churches, Box 2108, G.P.O., ADELAIDE. 5001.

Applications marked Confidential should be addressed to the Chairman of the Executive Committee at the above address and should be received no later than Monday, 21st September, 1981.

# THE PROCLAIMERS 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERTS

Kew High School Community Theatre  
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Friday 4th & Saturday 5th September

Ticket Enquiries on 792 2021 (B.H.)  
or 233 7492 (A.H.)

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### THE ELUSIVE "CHURCH OF CHRIST"

To the Editor,

I have been travelling in the country for the firm. I get very homesick alone in my motel room night after night. However I've found a pastime to take my mind off my loneliness. It's trying to find the local "Church of Christ". The game is made much more interesting because hardly ever is there a finger post from the main road pointing it out. It is usually in an awkward-to-get-at back street. Nobody knows anything about it. Usually they send me to the "Church of Christ Scientist". All the other churches have notices in the foyers of hotels and motels and on street guides. I can guarantee about two hours of interesting detective work per night, to find the "Church of Christ". I get so tired searching that I drop off to sleep and forget my miseries.

Talking of church signs, some of the minor sects with big names get a lot of advertising in the main street. The "Seventh Day Adventist" sign is always about four feet out into the roadway. But you should have seen the fingerpost for the "Re-organised Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." It was a positive menace to every semi-trailer that passed.

I suppose the average Church of Christ doesn't have a sign erected because we know that the way into the church is not meant to be easy. Jesus told us that it is hard for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. It's often a whole lot harder to find the average "Church of Christ."

I saw a sticker on a car the other day that said, "we go to the Dartmoor Church of Christ. Why don't you?" The answer is obvious; in most places you can't find the jolly thing!

— TERTIUS

## "Policeman of Christianity"

"Policeman of Christianity" is the name given by journalist Edmund Doogue to Adrian Van Leen, Churches of Christ minister in W.A. "Ambrosia" has referred to Adrian's work in gathering factual material about sects and cults and making it available to interested people. Now "The West Australian" has featured his work. Here are some extracts from Mr Doogue's article.

Agatha Christie would probably have based a thriller on him, if she had met him, because Adrian van Leen brings to his work the alertness and determination of the sleuth patiently following the culprit's trail.

But Mr van Leen is not working with a special branch of the CIB and he is not pursuing criminals. He is a minister with the Churches of Christ and a chaplain-counsellor at a College of Advanced Education.

### Concerned Christians Growth Ministry

He is also the director of Concerned Christians Growth Ministries, a group committed to providing accurate information on the teachings and practices of religious and semi-religious cults.

Mr van Leen says that his association has a positive function.

But what sets the group apart from other Christian organisations is its work detailing the operations of cults in WA and elsewhere.

His self-appointed role of policeman of Christianity has led him to study the gamut of religions available in Australia. In "Take a Closer Look," a monthly news bulletin he edits, Mr van Leen, has examined the beliefs of the Moonies, the Hare Krishnas and many other groups.

### What is a Cult?

Many people would agree that some cults take advantage of the gullible and naive. There have been many stories in the Press of families who have tried to rescue relatives from one cult or another. But how does one decide what is a cult and what is a genuine religion?

As Mr van Leen says, Roman officials regarded Christianity as a Jewish cult. And many people might tell Mr van Leen that they still regard Christianity as a cult, because it is based on a story of a man who was crucified and then rose from the dead.

The standard adopted by Mr van Leen's group in judging cults is their departure from traditional Christianity as represented by the major denominations and as expressed in such statements as the Apostle's Creed.

But even those within the traditional churches can be the object of the group's criticism. One issue of "Take a Closer Look" takes Perth's newly-appointed Anglican Archbishop to task for his views on the resurrection of Christ.

However, most of the criticism of Concerned Christians Growth Ministries is directed towards what it believes is wilful deceit by cults. Mr van Leen insists that it is his job to provide information on the beliefs of the cults for anyone who becomes involved with them.

### Bill Gaunson for W.A.

The W.A. Homes Missions Committee in consultation with the Conference Executive is pleased to announce the appointment of W.J.S. Gaunson as State Evangelist for a three year period from February 1982.

Presently Bill Gaunson is ministering with the North Balwyn church in Victoria. He had a ministry in Western Australia at Northam for 10 years.

## NSW Churches launch pre-election campaign

The Council of Churches in New South Wales has launched what it calls the "first ever" pre-election campaign by Protestant Churches in that state aimed at soliciting the responses of candidates to questions on various social and moral issues.

The questionnaire includes questions on the politicians' personal attitudes to random breath testing, casinos, marijuana, heroin, the age of consent, nude bathing, homosexuality, parental rights over children, abortion, religion in state schools, state aid, and rape within marriage.

It asks the candidates to indicate what support they would give in the party room to the formulation of policies on these issues.

A second section of the questionnaire asks the candidates what their policies would be on the family, poverty, drugs, discrimination, consumer protection, Aborigines, criminal punishment, the environment and the disadvantaged.

The questionnaire groups the second section under the heading of those issues "too complex to be responded to in a yes/no format".

The questionnaires are being sent to every Protestant parish in NSW with an explanatory leaflet encouraging Christians to take an active interest in the policies of candidates seeking election in their local electorate.

"It is often overlooked," says the Council, "that the

combined number of active worshipping Christians constitutes the largest special interest group in the community and that the Churches through their social welfare and caring agencies do more to alleviate suffering in our state than any other section of the community. They are second only to the government in the provision of practical help for the needy."

The Council of Churches in NSW recommends to the Churches that they publicise the candidate's attitudes to the various issues through their local newspapers, make representations to them if their answers are not satisfactory, and invite candidates to public meetings designed to focus solely on "matters that impinge on the Christian conscience".

The Council suggests that replies to the questionnaires be returned to the Council's headquarters so that the actions of individual members and their parties can be monitored during their three years in parliament.

— Church Scene

**COLAC (Ian Smith).** Church purchased duplicator with money donated by Daff family... Evening services held at 5 p.m. during winter months... Mid-week bible study held for secondary school-age Y.P. in leaders' homes... Peter Bryant representing church on board for emergency housing... Church celebrating 89th birthday on September 20. P.S.A. planned.

### ON MY MIND

● From page 2.

that they have positive, supervised practical training. At present this can only happen in a minority of our churches. If we allow students only to have experience in these positive, supervised situations, what would happen to those "student churches" which would be left without ministry leadership? How would the students, who would possibly only have a "student church" responsibility for one or two years of their four year course, survive financially? Does the regional-centre model of the church with students serving with an experienced minister hold some possibilities for the future? How many of our experienced, capable ministers would be prepared to train as supervisor pastors? Supervisor-pastors could spend some time each week guiding the developing potential of students and the churches they serve.

These and other related questions have been on my mind for some time and especially at the moment.

# Letter To The Churches in Australia

From W.C.C. Team Visiting Aborigines



In Alice Springs, Geoff Shaw, secretary of Tangentyre Housing Co-op (left) explains conditions in the Aboriginal camp to Dr Anwar Barkat and Elizabeth Adler. Australian journalist Janet Hawley second from left.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we accepted the invitation of the ACC to come and meet with the Aboriginal people and to consult with the churches here about the most effective ways of combating racism, we knew that we were undertaking a demanding task. But we were sustained by the promise of the prayers of many people and by the generous welcome offered us by both Aboriginal organisations and by churches.

Now that our journey is over, we want to express our deep sense of gratitude to you all for your hospitality, your concern and your patience with us. One major purpose of our journey was to focus attention on the issues

affecting the life of Aborigines in this country. That purpose began to be fulfilled even more promptly than we had expected by the widespread attention given to our visit by the media, which kept up intense coverage throughout our time here. This means that many of you received your first reports of our impressions through extracts in press and radio without the benefit of sharing the full context of our experience. We realise that this must have created difficulties for some, but we assure you that the full report of our journey our assessment and our recommendations will be available to you as soon as possible after we return home.

We are very grateful that through the ready co-operation of Aboriginal communities in each place we visited and the excellent organisation of our travel we were able in a short time to visit a variety of situations and listen to many different groups of people. We appreciated too the opportunity of joining in worship in several places and of beginning the process of sharing our insights in Christian fellowship with many of you.

We would wish for you all the opportunity we have had of sitting alongside and listening to the hopes and fears, the dreams and the pains of the Aboriginal people

living in this land. We shall attempt in our report to give voice to what they have said to us, in order that their words might reach the worldwide Christian community and lead to effective international attention and action. But the primary responsibility must be yours and we feel convinced that there is enough moral will and spiritual resources within the people of Australia to make a clear response to the urgent need to ensure for all the peoples of this land that full and abundant life which is their divine heritage.

We join our prayers with yours that this visit may have called us all to a deeper commitment to combat the evil of racism wherever it appears, so that God's will may indeed be done on earth. May His Kingdom come, a Kingdom of justice and peace for all peoples.

Yours in the service of that Kingdom,

Quince Duncan, Pauline Webb, J. Bena-Silu, Elizabeth Adler, Anwar M. Barkat.

## Mozambique Improvement

Relationships between church and state are improving in Mozambique. Archbishop Jose Maria Dos Santos Maputo says that the ideologies of church and state are different, but both have gained a respect for each other.

The archbishop says that the struggle is the same for an independent and strong mother country. The prelate says that the church is aware of its past that supported the colonialist system, but attitudes have changed.

## A People To Belong To

Stan Stewart is possibly the best known Christian Educationist in Australia.

He has been outspoken in his opposition to the way in which some churches segregate family members in their programs. He has been outspoken in his advocacy of the family worshipping together.

He is an ideas man as far as Sunday School and youth and children's and family programs are concerned, and has already written two books about them.

Now he is the editor of "A People to Belong To." The second quarterly number has come to our desk. It says, "A People to Belong To" is dedicated to helping your church to grow as the extended family of Jesus. This issue deals with "Children in the Church", "Acting Out the Bible Reading", "Moving the Sunday School Into Church", "Single Alive", "Christian Video", "Able Disabled", plus hosts of ideas that work.

It is \$12 per year from P.O. Box 289, North Ryde, NSW, 2113.



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IT BEGAN in the New Testament  
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Department of Community Care  
52 Latrobe Street,  
Melbourne, 3000. Phone (03) 662 1411

# Bridging the Generation Gap at Worship

Traditionally Sunday school life has been independent of the worshipping community. Public worship has been designed for adults, with the only concession a short section "for the children". Many have felt this an unnecessary and disturbing interruption. Others say the children's bit is the most important.

In recent times there have been many attempts to bridge the gap between Sunday school and the worshipping community: family services, church in the round, free form services.

But for most children the worship service, particularly the sacramental life of the church, has been a mystery. There is not the slightest nod in their direction — to gear at least part of the service to their interests and understanding.

The Joint Board of Christian Education's new Living Faith program is the first determined effort to bridge the gulf on a national church basis.

Director Rev. Dr David Merritt said the board's hope was that the scheme would bring the Christian education activity much closer to the worshipping life of the rest of the church.

The new scheme will sink unless ministers, elders and teachers plan together to make it work.

There has been a deep yearning among many in the church to have a wholeness in the Sunday activities of the congregation.

Many have been disturbed that life is fragmented as members of families head off in all directions.

From the beginning of the preparation of "Living Faith"



the plan has been to relate the program to worship.

The program takes the Christian Year seriously and uses lectionary readings whenever possible. This will ensure that the major themes of the Christian faith are dealt with regularly, and at the same time as they are being considered and reflected on in public worship.

It will be possible for the minister to preach on the themes in different ways, and illustrate them further in the children's addresses. The possibility is there for minister, teachers and pupils together to contribute to the worship — planning prayers which have been suggested from the stories, making posters illustrating significant features. The possibilities are almost endless.

But the important aspect is that it will bring together the worship and study life of the church — to the enrichment of both, as the same items are developed and the same passages of scripture read.

Another hope is that four times during the year there will be no dividing at all into groups. On Psalm Sunday, Pentecost, one Sunday in the

Bernard Long

Pentecost season and on an Advent Sunday, the recommendation of the board is for an all-age learning experience. Here adults will learn with and from children while children learn with and from adults.

"Living Faith — 1982 ministers guide" is expected to be out late in August at a cost of about \$1.25. In the guide will be an outline of every theme for every grade and its relationship to the lectionary. Notes to help are also included.

In the teachers' books many hints on participation also will be given.

Ideally, planners in the local churches will meet together at least three months ahead to work out the new system to discover and deepen a "Living Faith".

## Gospel Music Advisory Service

Melbourne based gospel music group "Turning Point" have introduced a free Contemporary Gospel Music Advisory Service.

The members of the team offer specialist advice in the areas of music outreach, music in church family activities, record production (pre and post production as well as in the studio), song writing, musical equipment, artists available, program planning, copyright, etc. The service is available to all churches and groups.

The advisory service can be contacted by writing to "Turning Point" C/- 925 Canterbury Rd., Box Hill or by phoning (03) 877 2167, 89 6606 or 726 4750.

## Don Chipp and Grog Advertising

The Australian Government banned cigarette advertising on radio and television. The next logical step would have been to ban liquor advertising similarly.

It is estimated that \$700,000,000 of our health bill is due to the abuse of alcohol. Half of the 3278 deaths and 90,000 injuries on Australia's roads are attributed to alcohol. So it is time that something was done about alcohol advertising.

Senator Don Chipp believes that the Federal Government should ban such advertising on radio and TV and proposes to move in the Senate to this end. He said recently, "Why do we allow the third largest killer of mankind to advertise night after night in living colour?"

The Senate Committee on Social Welfare and the Australian Medical Association have both recommended a ban on alcohol advertising on radio and television.

We urge members of our churches, whatever their personal attitudes to alcohol and to Senator Chipp, to write to him supporting his stand and intentions in this matter. And it would only take a couple of hours and \$2.40 to let your state senators know of your approval of any move to ban alcohol advertising on radio and TV.

## New Christian Bookshop

The Melton Christian Book Centre has just been opened by the Jones family of Ballarat. They have been operating the Ballarat Christian Book Centre for over 20 years and are associated with the Dawson St., Ballarat and Mount Clear churches.

They wish to share this exciting news with the Brotherhood. To mark the occasion they are offering free postage on all orders over \$15 retail for the first few months of business.

If readers wish to take advantage of this offer they should contact the Melton Christian Book Centre, Shop 7, Regional Shopping Centre, Western Highway, Melton, Vic. 3337 or phone (03) 743 3913.



## Swanston St. Church

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### SERVICES

9.15 a.m., 11 a.m. Communion and Worship  
12.30 p.m. Church Luncheon  
7.00 p.m. Gospel Service  
8.30 p.m. Coffee Hour

MINISTRY TEAM: Allan Webb, Bruce Morton, Ray Haverfield.

# HAPPENINGS

The average woman in the Soviet Union has between six and eight abortions — the main means of birth control. The Soviet Union also has a high divorce rate — one in three couples break up within a year.

The Church of England Synod in England has decided that "there are circumstances in which a divorced person may be married in church during the lifetime of a former partner."

Australian Lutherans and Anglicans have okayed an agreed statement on baptism, each affirming baptisms performed under the auspices of the other.

Rev. Peter Storey, a Methodist minister, has been elected as new

president of the South African Council of Churches, following the resignation of Rev. Buti. The S.A.C.C. represents churches with black and white membership of 15 million. It is one of the few places where blacks and whites can collaborate.

Betty Pulkingham, composer and arranger, whose songbooks "Sounds of Living Waters" and "Fresh Sounds" are used around the world, is coming to Australia for a National Seminar on "Church Music for Today" to be held in Canberra August 30 — Sept. 4.

Scripture Union in Victoria are holding their Training Day on September 12. The main speaker will be Morris Stuart.

The cat is the only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible.

The N.S.W. Attorney General, Frank Walker, has asked the N.S.W. Law Reform Commission to review the state laws relating to de facto relationships.

Robert Schuller recently visited Sydney, to record a series of one minute motivational programs, for use on radio and television. The scripts for the 130 programs will be written by Dr. Schuller himself.

A Christian Brethren missionary from Launceston, Tas., Bert Overton, who was murdered in July. No reasons for the murder are known at present.

A group of 103 missionaries and Japanese Christians have signed a petition to President Reagan protesting U.S. pressure on Japan to increase its military spending.

"Mission in the Student World" is the theme of the 1st national meeting of the Committee for Unity Amongst Christian Students which will be held at Telford near Sydney August 26-28. C.U.A.C.S. can be contacted, C/- 262 Pitt St., Sydney or phoning (02) 267 9615.

The Roman Catholic bishops of Nicaragua have decided four priests may keep their jobs in the Sandanista government — foreign minister Miguel d'Escoto, culture minister Ernesto Cardenal, social welfare minister Edgar Parrales, and youth leader Fernando Cardenal. They are not, however, to function as priests while in those posts.

Kevin Lyne, of Carlingford Anglican parish in Sydney, has been appointed project director, aid and development, for the in-

ternational evangelistic organisation, Africa Enterprise, in East Africa with headquarters at Nairobi in Kenya.

The death of William Chapman, founder of the World Home Bible League, took place recently when a tractor he was driving on his son's property overturned.

The annual Sydney Area Conference for A.F.E.S. will be held on September 12, 9.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. at the Chinese Christian Church, 100 Alfred St., Milson's Point. Details can be obtained from (02) 290 3222 or 662 4155.

The Director of operations for World Vision Guatemala has been bashed and robbed in Los Angeles. Rev. Eduardo Monzon was the first Guatemalan to be ordained to the Anglican priesthood.

## John Williams to oversea Monarto Retirement Village

The Rev. Bob Payne, Chairman of the Board of the Frankston (Vic.) Baptist Centre has announced the appointment of John Williams as the first employee of the Monarto Retirement Village to be constructed on 27 acres at Murray Bridge.

Mr Williams will be initially involved in overseeing construction and co-ordinating sales of the units. He served as Councillor and Mayor of the City of Essendon in the 1960's and early 70's. He has been active in service clubs, Jaycees and Lions in Victoria and is presently a member of Adelaide East Rotary Club. Mr Williams has been involved with Senior Citizens Clubs, Meals on Wheels and Y.M.C.A. activities. He is also a Justice of the Peace.

Mr Williams came to Adelaide five-and-a-half years ago and has been the Executive Officer of "People for Alcohol Concern and Education (PACE)" during that time.

John said "I am looking forward to the challenge of helping people commence a new era in their lives at Monarto Retirement Village. People who choose to reside at Monarto will receive total living care."

Interested people can contact John Williams at the Monarto Village on (085) 32 4190 or write to P.O. Box 145, Murray Bridge, 5253.

# INNER SPRINGS

## UNLESS I SEE

These words belong to one who in after years has been referred to as Doubting Thomas. Yet there is enough of Thomas in each of us to want visible proof before we are willing to say, "Lord I believe". For to trust someone we cannot see requires something above and beyond our physical senses. And this is faith, the substance of things not seen.

Although we cannot see this man who asks that we trust him we can learn all we need to know regarding his character, for the gospels give a clear and vivid picture of his love and tender respect for every man. We see, too, his gentleness with women and children. His unflinching courtesy to rich and poor alike. And always his infinite wisdom and power are in evidence, strengthening, healing, uplifting. Thus he emerges as one to be trusted. Why, then don't we?

We accept so many things without question in our material life, yet find it so difficult in the realm of our spirit. We trust that water will run from the tap, that light, heat, and power will be ours at the touch of a switch. But if these amenities were dependent on knowledge most of us would go cold and hungry, with little light for our darkness.

Our trouble begins when we try to limit God to our physical senses. The Bible says clearly that "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit — "John 4:24. Thus faith is to the spirit what sight is to the physical. Once we learn this trusting God is no more a problem but an ever deepening delight.

Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to thee."

So I go not knowing  
I would not if I might  
I would rather walk in the dark with  
God

Than go alone in the light;  
I would rather walk with Him by faith  
than walk alone by sight.

Dear God, who is all-knowing, save us from wasting our energies on things beyond our understanding. Enable us to act on what we do know and leave the rest with you. Amen.

John 20:24-29

Florence Rosier

## FOR REPORTERS... ... AND READERS

# Page 13

Here is an extract from a letter that came to our editorial desk.

"On several occasions the reports submitted by our reporter have been edited rather severely. This most disappointing when our reporter conscientiously seeks to do her best for the local church and 'The Christian'. When complaints were made she was told that lack of space was the reason. Yet some of the larger churches seem to have bigger reports. We realise your difficulties but would appreciate a little more consideration when actions of this nature seem necessary."

We have received similar letters and verbal messages from time to time.

### The problem

We believe it is bad to stifle the creativity of our reporters. But we do have a space problem and it is compounded by the necessity to limit ourselves to 24 page issues because of the 23% postal cost rise and the 22.5% printing cost rise.

And we do have editorial problems. The item that we think is of little general interest to our readers is all important back at Ettamogon. And the literary "purple patch" that we blue pencil has come from the soul of an artist. We believe that when we have finished with a report it is interesting and easily readable. The local reporter thinks we have ruined it.

### The Solution

So we have decided to let literary freedom and creative expression have their fling . . . for 60 words per report.

We have decided to publish untouched the first 60 words of any report sent in. Anything over 60 words will be edited out.

From September 1, 1981, reports will be confined to 60 words and obituaries to 150 words. Name of churches and ministers in reports and names of persons being honoured in obituaries will not be counted.

### Another Form of Reporting

The ordinary church report is one way of presenting news. The feature report is another. This involves stories of special events and people with good quality black and white pictures.

Fifty words with one or two good action pictures tells a better story than a page of prose.

We invite churches to submit stories and pictures and any printed materials used with such "specials" and if we think they are newsworthy, we will write them up.

When there are special events and people coming up in the life of any church it is often useful to engage a professional photographer. Members can order some of his pictures to help to defray costs and the best pictures can go into church records, to the local newspaper and to "The Australian Christian".

### Some Features

We have dipped at random into some recent church reports and selected some single line stories that could have made good features had the facts and the black and white pictures been sent to us. There was the story of a farm truck doing the rounds of country members for furniture and goods for a Welfare Centre. Some young wives entertained the Superintendent of Police who talked about children and the law. On Pentecost Sunday one church took to the streets for a march. On Palm Sunday at least two churches had donkeys present. A church team door-knocked 800 homes. A church transferred one of its communion services to the beach at sunrise. Another church has an outreach to distant areas by establishing "Little Churches" in suitable homes. One of our churches invited others at the local shopping centre giving out balloons with the message, "Smile, God loves you."

We do not promise to report every feature, but will do our best. Priority will be given to news value and to good pictures. Half of the black and white pictures we receive are unusable and 70% of the coloured ones do not have sufficient contrast between light and shade to make good reproductions.

### Do Not Waste Your 60 Words

Now that reporters have creative freedom for their 60 words, we urge them to make the best use of the space provided by sending concise material of interest to the widest number of readers. Avoid words and phrases and sentences that do not really tell readers anything of news value. We have selected a few of these to show what not to do.

"Boys club enjoys weekly programs." (Don't they all?) "The church has been encouraged by the starting of three Bible study groups and two prayer groups." (With 60 words available one writes, "Three Bible study and two prayer groups started.") "A number of members are on holiday in Queensland." (If it were Greenland it would be news!) "In order to overcome our pressing accommodation crisis a building committee is proceeding with preliminary investigation into replacing our present inadequate building." First prize for literary excellence, but with 60 words available it will have to be, "Building committee investigating possibility of new church plant." "He preached powerfully." (So most of the time his preaching is dead!)

### New Guidelines

Reporters will receive in due course new Guidelines for Reporting, a simple series of helps for those noble people who behind the scenes serve the Lord and the churches in one of the Kingdom's less spectacular jobs.

### An Interesting Fact

We close with a most intriguing fact. Most readers look for and read first, their own church report. This is in spite of the fact that what it reports is at least a fortnight old, and they know about it anyhow because they were there.

## OBITUARY

Typed statements of not more than 200 words, recognising the work and witness of God's faithful servants are welcomed. They should be submitted promptly.

**ALLSOP, Ernest Lionel**  
(14.7.81) Ern Allsop fulfilled his earthly pilgrimage in his 75th year, after a short illness. He joins his wife, Nancy, who pre-deceased him by only five months. Ern had a sparkling Christian personality. His record of service in the church and the community was outstanding, and reflected his deep love of Christ and faith in the church's mission. Ern was the church secretary at Camberwell for a record number of years. During the past six years he served as its treasurer. He was an elder who carried out his responsibilities with deep caring and with a true spirit. Ern was a keen student of the Scriptures. He had a wide vision of the practical workings of the church in the world. For many years Ern served on the committee of the Department of Social Service (now Community Care) of the Vic.-Tas. State Conference; he served with distinction on the executive of the Camberwell Inter-Church Council; he was most involved in the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and the Inter-Church Trade and Industrial Mission. It was characteristic that he gave

great support to the development of the regional church in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, especially in the early days when the ideals were being formulated. Ern was a school teacher with the Education Department of Victoria. He joined the department as a cadet teacher in 1922 and retired as the principal of a large, special-class primary school, after 48 years of service. A true professional, he was one of the first primary teachers to hold a university degree; his colleagues respected him, the children loved him. His five children and their families continue with the good work which their parents handed on to them. Ern's friends are one with his family in thanking God for having known such a man.

— RVL

**THORPE, Rosalie Evelyn.**  
(17.7.1981). After a brief illness in the Warracknabeal Hospital Rosalie Thorpe passed away peacefully. Born in Bet Bet in 1899 she became a member of the church in early life. Her parents were John and Mary Patterson and her brother H. J. Patterson. In 1922 she married Percy Thorpe and moved to Ascot Vale where she entered into membership for over 50 years. In 1975 she moved to Warracknabeal to live with her daughter Evelyn Harmer. During her years at Ascot Vale Rosalie was church organist and was intensely involved in the work of Dorcas. After church on Sunday evenings up to 40 young people would crowd into her home to sing around the piano. During the war many R.A.A.F. men stationed at Ascot Vale found a home away from home. Many years given to nursing her mother restricted her movement but did not restrict her stewardship of time and talent. At the Crematorium in Ballarat and the memorial service at Warracknabeal the writer paid tribute to a lovely and gracious Christian lady. The family Evelyn, Bert (dec.), Ted (her sister's child whom she raised from the age of two) experienced the joys and blessings of a wonderful mother.

R. Will Marshall.

sd

**SALISBURY EAST (S. Curkpatrick).** Youth club first night attended by 17. Leaders are John and Gayle Mather and Jim Davey ...

Combined Elizabeth/Salisbury Good News evening service held July 26 ... Joan Algate appointed secretary. **BROOKLYN PARK** Charles Dow interim minister for July ... Over 100 netball girls, coaches, managers and parents attended special service and tea ... Social evening welcomed interim ministers for next six months, C. Dow, R. Brand and C. Dredge ... 120 attended square dance organised by S.A.M.M.Y. ... Youth group attended morning service prior to grass skiing ... Friday Forums at Community Care and Fellowship Centre. Police talked on security in the home.

tas

**LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison).** C.W.E.F. held exhibition of Glensy Hamilton paintings with fashion parade and stalls in the evening and raised over \$700 ... Singles Club to commence ... The three "Little Churches" reported on their activities at afternoon service ... C.W.E.F. have made knitted rugs for Day Care Centre at Howrah.

wa

**SOUTH PERTH (Kevin Denton, Bruce Eagles).** 75 at men's dinner heard Peter Daniels ... Ralph and Irene Mitchell and family returning to Indonesia ... Women's work led by Carol Bullard — Pres. and Hilda Ballantine — Sec ... Women took service at Joondanna and had bus trip to Mandurah ... Royal wedding re-enacted at church family evening ... Combined family service included B.S., musical items and both ministers and was followed by a family luncheon. **MERREDIN, BRUCE ROCK (D. Good).** Morley

Y.P. Salvation Army Band took morning service at Merredin ... Both churches using Vital Publications leaflets for mid-week Bible study ... Merredin held barbecue to raise funds for church ramp ... Merredin S.S. held South American night to raise funds for Bible Society children's project ... Film "Out There" screened in both churches.

nt

**DARWIN (Peter De Wildt).** Darwin Christians joined together for open-air gospel concert held by Chris Foley ... S.S. expanding new church has moved to new Malak area ... Explorers held three day camp ... Annual meeting held. Linton Fariss new Elder ... Jeff Weston invited to be new minister in 1982 ... Neighbourhood Bible studies cell groups continue to expand ... Saturday working bees on church block. Foundations poured. Stage one now anticipated to open December.

vic

**CHELTENHAM (A. White, S. Wilson, D. Smith).** College for Christians and Crossways meetings being held during August, September ... Pastor and Mrs Wurmbrand told of Christian witness during imprisonment behind Iron Curtain ... Freedom from Hunger service introduced an Asian village ... Patsy Curran returned to Scotland on completion of teaching exchange ... Missionaries Bill and Barbara Adcock spoke on work in Zimbabwe ... Drama Resources Group presented play to Cheltenham North Primary School on disabled in society ... Brenda and Gary O'Mahony presented with "roast" after seven years of counselling C.Y.F.

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## NSW

**CHATSWOOD** (D. Hayman). 67th anniversary held July 12. Morning speaker Gordon Moyes, evening speaker Dr Keith Farmer. 130 attended fellowship tea, speaker Rosalie Rofe, Living Link missionary ... Church saddened by the death of Clarrie Lawson ... C.W.F. Dorcas section forwarding parcels to Aborigines Mission and baby layettes to Social Service Dept.

## WA

**KALGOORLIE** (L. Gibb). Evangelist Ron Baker for "Turning Point" Crusade spoke at Eastern Goldfields Senior H.S. and at Kambalda Senior H.S. He had services at the prison and at Kalgoorlie Nursing Home. Wide media coverage. Businessmen's luncheon well attended. Evening rallies had over 100 in attendance each night ... C.W.F. had Willi Bruining, on Christian Welfare Centre, at "At Home". 85 attended ... George Hook and Jack Tinetti re-elected as Elders ... Parent child dedication service held.

## VIC

**CHADSTONE** (B. Skillicorn). R. Braid appointed church secretary ... Minister engaged to Joy Trump ... Mrs A. Parnell to enter Masonic Homes ... Julie Field fasted for 40 hours for World Vision ... Recent C.W.F. speakers Don Ellis,

Eye and Ear Hospital, and Norm Gibbs, Waverley Welfare Officer ... Three tennis teams made the finals ... Organists from Glen Waverley helping out on a regular basis ... Plans for a mission in near future ... Church camp booked.

**SHEPPARTON** (Greg Deuble). Lyall Williams conducted series of meetings July 16-19 culminating in church family luncheon ... Committees functioning for centenary in Nov. ... Y.P. joined with Shepparton Baptist, St Andrew's and Blackburn Baptist youth for combined rally in Church of Christ Centre ... Snow trip held to Mt Buffalo ... Know Your Bible study groups well attended by ladies.

**NUNAWADING** (P. B. Burnham, C. H. J. Wright, E. C. Keating). "Singles Seminar" an outstanding success. Speakers were Mrs Anne Costello, E. C. Keating, B. L. Robinson and Dr W. Warr. Baby sitters provided for singles with families and tapes were available on request ... Church bus used by most auxiliaries ... Springfield Rd. filled for baptismal service ... The Carpenters People, Minnesota, U.S.A., featured at gospel service ... Other guests include The Master Singers and Parable ... New printing equipment at Pastoral Care Centre ... Paul Burnham spent 10 days ministering at Ulverstone, Tas ... Car stickers being sold to raise money for additional concrete ramps to enable disabled to move to all parts of church building.

**PRESTON, EAST PRESTON** (J. Manallack, C. Jones). Group went to see

film "Joni" ... 30 at C.W.F. music night at the manse. Also night of preparing gifts for Women's and Children's Hospitals ... Over 1,000 copies of special "Christian" distributed in area ... Bark pictures and quilt making at Open Door ... Jim Marshall passed away.

## QLD

**WEST MORTON CIRCUIT** (M. Tepper). Rosevale 90th anniversary year highlight was mission with evangelist John Timms. Rosevale had 13 baptisms with another three a little earlier. Rosewood also benefitted with eight baptisms while two girls from Mt Walker were baptised. 10 rededications during mission ... Four youth groups active in circuit. Two at Rosewood, one at Mt Walker and one at Rosevale ... Mt Walker Choir performed at a number of occasions recently ... Rosevale Country Carnival will be held in Oct. Qld. Social Service Committee to benefit.

## VIC

**IVANHOE** (G. Hall). Midweek dinner with Alex Kenworthy ... July evening services 5 p.m. ... Church fellowship tea ... Morning family service with Jungle Doctor filmstrip ... Guest speakers J. McCormack, I. Tippet, A. B. Withers, A. Niven ... Singing groups from North Balwyn and Werribee.

**MARYBOROUGH** (K. Haythorpe). Minister invited to serve further term ... August board meeting open to

members ... Some members took part in 40 hour famine ... Four prayer groups operating each week ... Keith Skillicorn speaker at Uniting Mission Group ... Parcel for Aboriginal girl ... Attendance at morning service growing with Y.P. attending ... Coffee morning at home of Mr and Mrs Winitish ... C.W.F. meetings in member's homes during winter.

**GEE LONG, LATROBE TERRACE** (Kevin Rankine). It is with regret that the church has accepted the resignation of Kevin Rankine, to take effect from the end of 1981. The church has placed on record its appreciation of his pastoral ministry, and is praying for an able successor. **SWAN HILL** (J. A. Caporn). Church host to Northern and Central District Conf. Party of 40 from Berwick including "Sugar and Salt" and minister Norval Bunch guests for the weekend ... Minister and young adults spent weekend at Halls Gap.

## SD

**NAILSWORTH** (David Althorpe, Ken Wray). Five baptisms this year ... Three "Share Your Faith" teams visit area Monday evenings. Church members involved in prayer support ... Missionary Weekend with nine groups planned ... Second speaker exchange arranged between the five C. of C. in the area ... Y.P. involved in music group "Branu" ... Y.P. visited Mildura for weekend ... Congregational Comment 1981 collated about our witness and suggestions being put into practice.

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## Youngsters taught a thing or two



Leslie Trapp, 13, of Ashmore, takes a few tips from 81-year-old Andrew Oribin on crochet.

The oldies can still show youngsters a thing or two when it comes to school work, as grade eight pupils from Benowa High School have found out.

Each week residents from the Lady Small Haven, in Benowa, take turns to sit in on handicraft lessons at the school and help teach pupils the intricacies of crafts including knitting, crochet, macrame and weaving.

The four-week course, which is part of the students' home economics studies, is called 'Creating with Textiles'.

And according to home economics teacher Narelle

Evans, the lessons have proved to be a great success both with the students and their teachers.

### Opportunity

It gave elderly people the opportunity to be involved with activities at the school and also helped encourage students with their handicraft work, she said.

Residents from Lady Small Haven often brought some examples of their own handicraft work to show students to encourage them, she said.

Lady Small Haven is a home run by the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department.



Resident Mrs Eva Bigelow, 76, shows 12-year-old Jackie Van Lieshout the intricate art of crochet.

## Half Yearly Rally

On August 1 the half-yearly Rally of the Central and Northern District Conference was held at Swan Hill.

Keith Lacy led a bright song service and the president Peter Haylock, Castlemaine, welcomed all and led in prayer. Devotions were given by John Caporn of Swan Hill. "Sugar & Salt" from Berwick entertained in song and dance. Mr and Mrs Norval Bunch, Berwick, were the guest speakers.

The Conference theme was "The Christian Walk. Our Hand in God's Hand". Mr Haylock then led us in a meditation walk in a garden.

At 3 p.m. Mr Bunch held a men's session, and Mrs Bunch spoke to the ladies — Mrs Holly Thomas presided and Gail Owers sang a solo. The children and teenagers session was in the hands of Sugar & Salt. This consisted

of a 35 member team with 15 action singers and dancers, assisted by menfolk with the lighting, staging etc. This outstanding group can be highly recommended, all in co-ordinating costume, playing zither, piano, timbrels, and other cymbals.

Mr Bunch played appropriate piano music and directed the "Israelites" in their walk, songs and dances as they continued their journeyings through the Red Sea, as they listened to Moses' voice.

5 p.m. fellowship time was for mingling and chatting. All were ready for basket tea and hot soup following.

The song leader at 6.30 p.m. chose some rousing choruses to begin the evening session. The President read from Mark 1. "Sugar & Salt" all splendidly attired led us further in their wanderings in the wilderness with song and dance. Before the roll call 20 had gone home but 139

responded. Mr Bunch continued his evening address. Further discourse on prayer was intermingled by tableau, then singing and action by the whole cast, accompanied by subdued music with "Sugar & Salt" climaxing in a reverent kneeling rendition of The Lord's Prayer.

The group was the highlight of the Conference and will long be remembered for their lovely costumes, dedication and sincerity.

— Alice Broad.

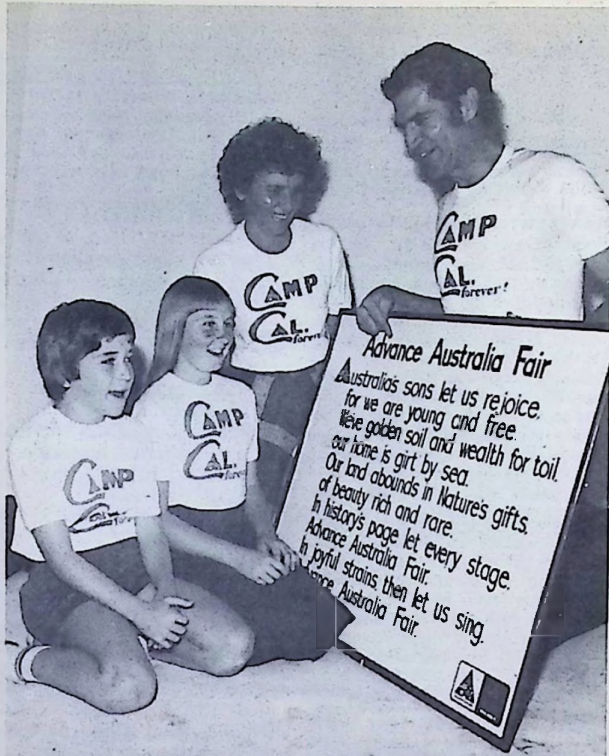
BENDIGO (G. Wegner, L. Mellberg). C. and N.D. Conf. held at Swan Hill . . . Retirement Village had trip to Castlemaine and C.W.A.F. had bus trip to Footscray C.W.F. . . Church extends sympathy to Mrs Perl on death of her mother, also to Mr and Mrs Mudford on death of daughter-in-law . . . Film "At Any Cost" screened . . . N. Thomas, Wycliffe Bible Translators, recent speaker . . . "Flame of Light" singers at recent evening service and P. Phillips guest soloist at morning meeting.

## TRUTH

Through these blind eyes that cannot see  
The source of life's infinity  
From which the crimson leaf has blown,  
The root from which the tree has grown,  
That Sun from which the seed was sown,  
I can but glimpse the broken vine,  
The yielded grapes, the out poured wine,  
The yielded life and make it mine,  
And trace its source to Calvary.

— Athene Franks  
(Southport, Q.)

## Advance Australia:



"C.C.", Claire Cobine, Camp Leader; A.C. Male, Hon. Executive Director; Kerrie White and Stephen Male, Pine Rivers.

The first of its kind in Australia! That's the "Advance Australia" camp at "Camp Cal", Caloundra in the July week of the school holidays. The camp was attended by 120 young people and leaders.

A.C. Male, M.B.E., the Honorary Executive Director of the Youth and Christian Education Department, stressed the need for the young people to understand they are citizens of two worlds — this and the next.

Studies were around these twin principles on the themes: loyalty, pride,

resolution and achievement, as related to Jesus Christ's life, and were prepared by Ruth Coultis, the Youth Activities Organiser of the Department.

The Advance Australia Fair Board was designed by Mr Male and donated by the Apex Club of Caloundra. The National Executive of the Advance Australia Council have given permission to print it this way and copies are available by writing to the Youth and Christian Education Department, 363A Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, 4000.

At the camp, the 120 young people received their T-shirts, the cooks had aprons emblazoned Camp Cal forever! Incorporating the stylised 'A' of Advance Australia.

The program included hikes — walkabout, crafts books on "Discovering Australia" were donated by T.A.A. The dormitory competition was "Keep Australia Beautiful", singalong was "Waltzing Matilda". The Pacific Film

Company's "Pacific, The Colour of Australia" game was used, the "Billy" boiled and damper served on a night of Australiana.

One of the interesting snippets of information the children learned is that the Kangaroo and Emu on our coat of arms were chosen not only because they represent Australia but because they cannot walk backward, so it is "Advance Australia".

— A.C. Male

## New Booklet used in High Schools

Gold Coast Youth for Christ director, Stafford Williams, has produced a second booklet designed for use in high schools. Stafford is an Elder with the Southport (Qld.) church.

During the last two years, Y.F.C. workers have programed to over 2500 high school students in Seminars on Christianity. At the end of each Seminar series, students are asked to complete a reaction card giving an honest comment on the materials covered. Provision is made for students to indicate if they wish to receive a copy of Stafford's booklet.

The new booklet is entitled, "You Can Be Sure," and is written from the position that most students consider themselves to be Christians, but have no adequate reason for believing so. The book then seeks to outline how they can become a Christian and be sure of the fact.

Several factors were kept in mind when preparing the booklet: simplicity, brevity, size, attractive and it needed to include a contact point for

students who wish to gain further help.

Sample copies of the booklet are available from Gold Coast Y.F.C., P.O. Box 5140, Gold Coast Mail Centre, 4217. Quantities are available at 10 cents each for purchases of 100 or more.

## New Executive Director for P.A.C.E.

Ron Saunders has been appointed the new Executive Director of People for Alcohol Concern and Education in South Australia.

Mr Saunders is at present the minister of the Cowandilla church. He is married with a grown up family of four. He has been actively involved in social work particularly among the Indo-Chinese refugees in recent times.

Mr Saunders' interest in social reform has come from his years of service amongst the poor and the oppressed both in Australia and overseas.

Ron will take up his duties in early August and the P.A.C.E. office will be relocated at Epworth Building, 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide. The phone number is (08) 43 4885.

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**BIRTHS**

**BREAR** (Entwistle). Before the world began God chose Sasha Emily to be born on July 28th into the loving care of John and Pam and her sisters and brother Pia, Macaire and Blake of Port Lincoln, South Australia.  
**BROADBENT** Margie, Peter and Jonathan praise God for Simeon Peter, born Warragul, Vic. 3rd August.  
**HEATH (ALABASTER)**. Helen and Colin welcome with love, God's gift to them of a baby son, Jared Robert,

born at 5.33 a.m., on Friday 31st July, 1981. "We love because He first loved us". 1 John 4:19.

**DEATHS**

**LAIRD** Alexander Francis. On 21st July at his home, 194 Bridgewater Drive, Kallaroo, W.A. Dearly loved husband of Vera, loving Dad of Malcolm, Jean, Olive, Ray and Lex and families. In his 83rd year.  
**THORPE** Rosalie E. On July 17th. Dearly loved mother of Evelyn and Wes Harmer, dear Nanna of Beth and Ian O'Brian, John and Colleen, Bruce and Kay, David and Robyn, Lois, Tim and great-nanna to Meridith, Jarrod, Andrea and Ben, Tamara and Amanda, Rachel and Samuel, Sarah, Matthew and Catherine.  
**WARMBRUNN** Dorothy. On Aug.

4th. Died peacefully at Emmaus Rest Home, aged 85 years. Loving wife of Len (dec.). Loved and loving Mother of Doug and Frances, Cliff and Helen. Much loved Gran of Greg, Jenny Shelley and Louise, John, Anne and Andrew. At rest after weariness.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**ALLEN**. In loving memory of James Ernest passed away Aug. 22nd 1957. Treasured memories. Doreen and Freda.  
**WINTERTON** Arthur Mervyn. Passed away 18.8.80. Loving thoughts of years together hold memories that will last forever. Our wonderful husband, father and grandfather Dot, Merrilyn, John, Cheryl, Maurice, Darren and Barry.  
**WINTERTON** Arthur. In loving memory of our dear and much loved son-in-law who passed to a higher life on August 18, 1980. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept. To love and cherish and never forget. Gone are the days we used to share, but in our hearts you are always there. Clarrie, Alice Pedersen.

**HOUSE SWAP**

**PERTH** Church of Christ couple desiring to swap house with Melbourne family for 3 or 4 weeks between 19th November and 21st December. Mr and Mrs B. Trivett, 95 East St., Mt Hawthorn. Phone (09) 444 2554 or work (09) 321 9965.

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**PYRAMID HILL (C. G. Henderson)**. Glen Wegner, Bendigo, guest speaker at anniversary service. Offering totalled \$1717 . . . Minister and family involved in car accident. No one seriously hurt but car written-off . . . C.E. went on walk-a-thon to raise money for disabled . . . At recent baptismal service a young lad made his decision. Since Nov. 1979, 17 baptisms and 18 decisions . . .  
**RINGWOOD (K. & S. Ludgater)**. Come as you work service held . . . 40 hour famine well supported. One member raised \$540 without approaching church members . . . Family concert unearthed top talent . . . Church packed for 62nd anniversary service and lunch. Speaker Ron Brooker. Ron Elbourne spoke at evening service . . . Residents of new estates in North Ringwood visited . . . Three tennis teams won grand finals . . . Recent speakers Chris Ambrose, Peter Breen, Ray McKenzie and Ric Benson.

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8 p.m.

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Cnr. Male and Byron Streets, Brighton

8 p.m.

**Malvern-Caulfield Church of Christ Hall** Sept. 10, 11, 12,

Cnr. Alma and Dandenong Roads, Malvern

8 p.m.

13

3 p.m.

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- Business manager for office in Santo. Accounting experience essential.

### Papua New Guinea

- Adaptable person with agricultural training to act as Consultant in Agriculture for the Monomup Community Development Project.
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Both Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea are wanting skilled tradespeople to volunteer as members of work teams. Small teams of three persons who have previously worked together are ideal.

Would you like further information? Please write to:-

**Mr. Ron McLean, Executive Director,  
Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board,  
P.O. Box 320,  
Unley, South Australia, 5061.**

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

**VIC.-TAS. ABORIGINES' MISSION:** Secretary — Mal Anderson, 22 Goe St., Caulfield South, Vic. 3182. Phone (03) 211 5832 — home; (03) 602 7930 — business. Messages (Mr Hutton) (03) 391 2620.

**SOUTHPORT:** Secretary — Harold James, P.O. Box 974, Southport, Qld. 4215.

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• Kiley Rolls, Rhonda Jensen, Peter Jensen, Das Jensen, Warren Jensen, Mrs M. Jensen, John Boelen, Lindsey Christensen, Kerrilee Christensen, Amanda Christensen, Jonathan Christensen, Robin Christensen, Gavin Griffith, Scott White, Rosevale, Qld. • Denise Turnbull, Ruth Turnbull, Stephen Turnbull, Adrian Wood, Fiona Wood, Rose-anna Wood, Raelene Lacey, Darren Lacey, Rosewood, Qld. • Caroline Mandelkow, Susan Hinrichsen, Mt. Walker, Qld. • Peter Casey, David Beaven, Belinda Bennett, Karyn Rodgers, Joanne Milne, Nallaworth, S.A. • David Winkler, Kerrie Bennett, Wayne Bennett, Stuart Waite, Deirdre Waite, Glen Waverley, Vic. • Judy Wilson, Ken Smith, Lynette Carmichael, Salisbury East, S.A. • Paul Whitehead, Brett Whitehead, Pyramid Hill, Vic.

## MARRIAGES

• Lea Nel to Peter Nelson, Launceston, Tas.  
• Jenny Patterson to Mark Lamond, Chadstone, Vic.

## DEATHS

• Jim Marshall, Preston, East Preston, Vic. • Les Ronalds, Glen Waverley, Vic.  
• Clarrie Lawson, Chatswood, N.S.W.

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### **4. TOUR TO NEW GUINEA & NEW BRITAIN.**

Departing on October 21, this 13 day tour will take us to Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka, Kundiwawa, Mount Hagen, Wewak, Rabaul etc. with good accommodation, this is an excellent value tour. Leader: Rev. W. M. Constable, Director Australian Church Travel Service. Price from Sydney \$1626 and Melbourne \$1804. Act promptly.

### **5. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING.**

Departing October 25, this ever popular 18-day tour visits Christchurch, Tekapo, Mount Cook, Oamaru, Dunedin, Gore, Milford Sound, Te Anau, Manapouri, Queenstown, Alexandra, Haast Pass, Fox Glacier, Greymouth, Picton, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Waitomo, Auckland etc. Price from Melbourne \$1092, Sydney \$1056, Brisbane \$1086. An optional 4 day extension to the Bay of Islands is offered at \$256. Group leader is Mr Sirrell Grimmer of Wodonga, Victoria. Note: this tour will be repeated during January 1982 with Major Jim McIntyre.

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### **10. SEE THE LOVELY FLINDERS RANGES.**

Departing on April 21, 1982, this 10 day tour is ideal for those with limited time. We travel via Mildura, Broken Hill, Wilpena Pound, Port Augusta, Barossa Valley, Adelaide, Mount Gambier etc. All meals except 1 lunch in Adelaide and the price from Melbourne is only \$565.

### **11. A.C.T.S. HIGHLIGHTS WITH REV. CANON KEVIN CURNOW.**

Departs June 1982. ADVANCE NOTICE. In June Kevin will lead a group to Israel (12 days), Greece (10 days) and Norway (8 days). 4 nights in London included. Members can stay over longer by prior arrangement and a number of optional tours in Britain and the Continent are offered. Estimated price for 1982 is \$4568 from Melbourne and Sydney. Registration without obligation now open.

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(Director: Rev. W. M. Constable)

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Qld.: 160 Edwards Street, Brisbane 4000  
South Aust.: 2nd Floor, 44 Gawler Place, Adelaide 5000

Phone: 62 7233  
Phone: 233 8604  
Phone: 221 3922  
Phone: 223 6300

COWANDILLA (R. W. Saunders). Church filled for 4km Rally. Speaker Geoff Fewster and Flinders Park girl's singing group "Ouch". Interview with Vietnamese church members... Minister appointed Executive Officer with P.A.C.E. (People for Alcohol Concern and Education) part-time for rest of year and full-time from Jan. ... Boys' Brigade Section 1 held birthday evening with display of handcrafts with tea and church parade. Two decisions at service... Senior boys (B.B.2) did well at Battalion Physical Training Camp. James Simons champion on night... Prayer session in recent gospel service included prayers in Greek and Vietnamese... Ron Saunders continuing social work and counselling among

refugees... Slides of Vietnamese church baptisms held shown... C.W.F. held meetings in homes during winter. Members shared in Fellowship of the Least Coin. Jubilee Thanksgiving service on August 12... Monthly prayer luncheons continuing.

**GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, K. R. Milne).** 30 representing church groups met for church growth consultation... Ron Elbourne spoke at C.W.E.F... Ian Allsop spoke to youth leaders/executive on Christian education... Elders and deacons participating in special teaching series... Counselling Centre held special seminars on "Difficulties at School" and "Coping with a Disability at Home"... Guest speakers

have been Steve Downie (Box Hill), Geoff Hall (Ivanhoe), Clive Stebbins (Y.F.C.), Chris Gillman, Peter Bennett, Jan Little... Discovery Groups meeting to

study Colossians... Three Y.P. attended Youth Leadership Camp... Junior Church School led worship service... C.W.F. took program and afternoon tea to Nursing Home... Waves group held colonial bush dance.

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## Vision

I was apprehensive as I waited for the anaesthetist, although now resigned to impending eye surgery.

It was not the fear I experienced nearly seven years before, when an optometrist confirmed, on investigation that there was a well established cataract in my left eye.

"Well, never mind about the smaller letters," he said, seeing my difficulty, "just read the large ones at the top."

I could not describe my utter dismay, when on closing my right eye I could see nothing at all, and his anxious reaction conveyed to me that something was terribly wrong.

### Would I Be Blind?

Was it Glaucoma? Would I be blind?

Fear clasped my hand in its own with a grip of ice.

"Cataracts can be treated," he told me kindly, "or removed by surgery. They usually come in pairs, but your right eye is free at present."

I went home and cried for hours.

There had never been cataracts in our family, which

## A. Franks (Southport, Q.)

had a case history of heart disease, high blood pressure and hypertension. But cataracts? never!

I associated them with the very elderly, and I was not old. I read everything I could find on the subject. An authoritative article informed me that they can be trauma induced. That had to be me, having lost three brothers, all suddenly, a nephew at eighteen years of age, and both parents. I had known much sorrow and trauma in my life.

### Could there be a Cure?

But I was not concerned with cause now, only with cure which was delayed by still more bereavement in the immediate family.

My work as a florist demanded perfect vision, and I knew that my sight was not only limited, but was deteriorating daily, to the point of frustration and vexation of spirit.

The fragrance of roses without the full accompaniment of their velvet radiance complete with dew, can be a painful experience.

### As Through a Mist

I was seeing everything as through a mist. The cataract was then mature and clearly visible, and my other eye was also well affected.

I often thought of that portion of scripture. "Now we see through a glass, darkly..."

The embarrassment of passing people I knew without seeing them, and the dangers of traffic hazards were surpassed by the sheer terror of almost walking through a plate glass door one morning, when the person who was cleaning it arrested my attention just in time, sliding back the shining and invisible obstacle from my path.

### Ray of Hope

My first ray of hope came when I heard of the new breakthrough in cataract surgery. The I.O.L. (Intra Ocular Lens) the lens implant pioneered in Europe, and still in its infancy in Australia, but only practised by a select few.

My eye specialist was one of the very best. He was thirty-one years of age, and a microscopic surgeon assisted

by his wife who was also an eye specialist. But would my eye be suitable for the implant? He thought it would, but could not be sure until he actually operated. I was out on a limb of hope waiting.

I was a Christian, a praying one of many years, but this was a different kind of praying... desperate praying.

It was the prayer of blind Bartimaeus, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." (Mark 10)

I was joined by many praying Christian friends. A wardman prayed for me while they waited in theatre. A Christian domestic joined him while the operation was in progress. They prayed that my eye would be suitable, and that the operation would be successful.

### The Reply was Yes

The reply was "Yes" to both requests. The eye was suitable, the operation was successful. I could see, clearly, immediately, and my vision was perfect. It was answered prayer.

Our God, The Father of Light and The Light of the World, who made light to shine out of darkness had restored my sight. The eye specialist was the instrument used.

## Bible Work Continues in Middle East

The heavy fighting in Lebanon has not deterred the Bible Society from its work. Recently, the entire Bible Society team spent two days transporting 1700 Bibles and 6500 New Testaments from a warehouse in East Beirut to a more secure location in the west of the city. These Scriptures were waiting for transport to Syria.

Despite heavy bombardment in the Eastern Lebanese town of Zahle, the Bible Society Distribution Secretary for Syria was able to drive from Damascus to Beirut to pick up these Scriptures and then return without incident.

The United Bible Societies is supporting four major translation projects in Lebanon this year. A new ecumenical translation of the Bible in Arabic is being produced in co-operation with the Middle East Council of Churches.



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## Asian Churches Establish Strike Fund



Strike Fund for Human Rights was a major decision to emerge from the Seventh Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia held in Bangalore, India, in the final 10 days of May.

This proposal came in one of the four section reports presented to plenary sessions. The four sections had discussed the Assembly theme "Living in Christ with People" under the sub-themes Confronting the Structures of Power; A Call to Community; Renewal of the Church; and Meeting Asia's Emerging Challenges.

The report of the section on the Renewal of the Church led to a theological discussion on Jesus' identification with the poor.

Other recommendations that have emerged in these reports include calls for

- a sharing of information and support for the recovery of the role of the local church in Christian mission in the local community.
- the churches to accept disabled persons into the mainstream of church and community life.
- the CCA to take concerted action at the level of religious thought and practice on the plight of India's "untouchables," which was described as "largely the result of the misuse of religious values by the society to maintain the position of the ruling classes".
- the CCA to organize a consultation early in 1982 to review the whole question of ministry to the university world.
- the CCA to appoint a full-time executive staff member responsible for programs for women's concerns especially rural women, industrial women workers, sexual exploitation, and women in the church.

Australian delegates including Keith Ludgater, Ringwood, on the left.

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# Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

## Advertising of Alcohol

Last week I attended a meeting about the advertising of alcohol on television and radio organised by the Vic.-Tas. Conference and addressed by Senator Don Chipp.

Elsewhere in this issue Gordon Stirling has written a piece on his recent call to ban all advertising of alcohol. Since this had received a great amount of publicity Senator Chipp has received vast amounts of information from the alcohol industry. This has caused him to change his mind somewhat from his original call.

In addressing the meeting Senator Chipp said he was interested in making moves in the Senate on a multi-party basis rather than just the policy of the party he represents. What he called for from the churches and those present was support. This support was seen to be in providing information and statistics on the effects of advertising of alcohol plus lobbying of politicians at the appropriate time. Recent figures that he had been given by the alcohol lobby claimed that in Canada states that banned advertising and those that allowed advertising showed no difference in the consumption of alcohol.

The query was raised if all that money spent on advertising does not raise consumption why advertise? The answer is concerned with market shares and brand allegiance.

Real questions were raised as to why we as a country freely allow a

drug that causes so much problems within families, work and medically. It was pointed out very strongly that for many the use of alcohol is the only way that they are able to socially mix. Our human relationships have sunk to the level that very many cannot relate to another person without the stimulus of alcohol. Others use it to escape the deadening routine of the lies which they live. How can we as Christians help to overcome these real issues which help in the consumption of alcohol?

Senator Chipp on the night said that his current thinking ran in two tracks. One of these was to introduce the Swedish model with regard to drink driving. This involves the use of the .05 legislation along with an automatic jail sentence if the driver had a reading of over .14. As well the supplier of anyone convicted with a reading of over .15 also faced a jail sentence.

Alongside this type of legislation he advocated a tax on all advertising of alcohol on TV or RADIO. This money would be used to produce and promote excellent positive anti-alcohol advertising. This approach would not antagonise so many powerful antagonists (e.g. media and advertising interests).

A committee is looking at these suggestions and any comments or facts you have would be appreciated. Ted Keating (Nunawading) is leading this committee and information could be sent via the Conference Office in -Victoria.

# THE LAST WORD

Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until he has something to forgive.

— C. S. Lewis

A household budget's the place you begin

To discover the income you'll live within.

It's also the place where you'll find without doubt

Exactly what things you'll be living without.

★ ★ ★

I was hushing our three-year-old during Sunday morning worship when she leaned close, pointed at the minister and whispered, "Mommy, why can he talk so loud?"

— Dixie Jean Boylan

★ ★ ★

The army oculist asked a reluctant recruit to read a chart. "What chart?" asked the draftee.

The doctor persevered through the test and the draftee was deferred because of bad eyesight. Following the examination, the draftee went to a nearby movie. When the lights came on he was horrified to discover the oculist in the next seat.

"Excuse me", said the recruit as calmly as he could. "Does this bus go to Mobile?"

★ ★ ★

Overheard: "Until love has spoken, nothing has been said."



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