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STARS IN MY EYES

Max Thompson

Max Thompson is President of the S.A. Conference for 1981/82. He has been active in Churches of Christ all his life, and has served in a number of capacities in the S.A. churches at Prospect, Cowandilla, Enfield Heights and Murray Bridge. For four years he worked on Ocean and Christmas Islands, where he helped with the indigenous churches. By profession he is an electronics engineer and is currently employed as a senior engineer by Telecom Australia at Murray Bridge.

When I think of the future of the church of Jesus Christ, I get stars in my eyes. I even get them when I think of the future of the small part of that church known as the Churches of Christ.

Dark Period Over

I share the conviction of many that the long dark period of complacency and acceptance of defeat is now in the process of becoming history, and that we are entering a new era. Our churches as a whole are beginning to respond to the stirring of the Holy Spirit, and we are accepting that the dark days were not due to a lack of stirring by the Holy Spirit, but by our own failure to recognise it and respond. There is a rising wave of optimism and faith since we were challenged by the scriptural principles set out so clearly for us by our Church Growth leaders.

Not Every Church

Of course, not every individual church is experiencing this at the moment, nor can we expect them all to be a part of this revival, at least in the near future.

— some are so small, and seem to have such little potential for growth, that they should perhaps consider "shutting up shop," and using the strength they do have to build up another church;

— some have leaders who stifle growth because of their negative thinking;

— some have leaders who stifle them because, like the Pharisees of old, they resist change: they are so sure they have all the answers that they fail to hear God's voice.

Fantastic Future

Yet, overall, I believe the church has a fantastic future, and my optimism is not just a piece of starry-eyed wishful thinking. It is solidly based on the faithfulness of God and His unchanging promises in scripture. When Jesus says, "I will build my church," I believe Him. When he says, "The powers of death shall not prevail against it," I believe Him. The church as a whole is beginning to accept that when we take Him at his word, and diligently seek his will with an open mind, and seek with the same diligence to apply it, then God can and does build his church in spite of all opposition. No wonder I get stars in my eyes.

When I think of the future of the Churches of Christ, no clear picture comes to mind. It may be that we will grow as a separate entity to become a strong evangelistic force in the cause of Christ on earth. It may be that we will become what our founders sought to establish at first — a strong movement within the church at large, pleading for the acceptance of scripture as the final authority, and the unity of God's people on that basis. I rather feel that we will start growing as a separate church until we mature sufficiently in our understanding of scripture and our acceptance of others to enable us to join with them. Either way, I am not greatly concerned, provided only that we are faithful in presenting Jesus Christ to a needy world.

I get starry-eyed when I think of the future of my own church too. I believe it has enormous potential for growth, and I pledge myself to be available to be used by God to bring that growth about.

Editor in New South Wales

During the August College vacation Lesley and I did some caravanning in New South Wales. After the gentle winters and mild summers of Ferntree Gully it was interesting to have to wipe the frost off our car each morning in Katoomba and to be literally rocked to sleep as gales buffeted our van on Stanwell Tops where we enjoyed the hospitality of the N.S.W. Brotherhood. We had a surfeit of sunshine. They need rain east of the Divide. Out west it was like a beautiful park for hundreds of miles after rain that followed four years of drought.

Churches

The main purpose of our tour was to visit the churches, speaking to them about "The Australian Christian" and giving free samples to non-subscribers. We were encouraged by the real interest shown in our national journal. We visited nine churches on three Sundays and in all of them the ministers had graciously invited me to preach as well as to have a short "Christian" commercial.

General Impressions

Our first general impression was how these people can sing both at morning and night services. Organists and pianists seemed to lead the congregations rather than the other way round. Our second impression was a warm sense of acceptance and friendship. If these churches welcome

and accept outsiders as they did us, their future growth is assured, and I believe they do.

A Good Mix

The first two Sundays were spent in growth areas and industrial centres. Penrith is the "capital" of the rapidly growing west and we have a fine church there, led by Don Norling in his third pioneering venture in newer areas. There was a packed morning service.

Mt Druitt administers a Pre-school Centre erected and owned by the Government. It has free use of it for church purposes over the weekend and at nights. This involves the delicate task of being totally Christian in relationships with pre-school leaders and parents, but it is a great way to be involved in mission without heavy involvement in real estate. Ron Kennedy is minister.

We arrived at and left Doonside at night. But we saw enough to know that our pre-conceived picture of babbling brooks and dewy dangling ferns and sequestered nooks no longer applied in an area bursting with development. And what a versatile and dynamic character is their minister, David Rodger!

On the second Sunday we were at Wollongong, Warrawong and Campbelltown in the booming industrial south and south west.

Our impression of the six churches was that all had a good mix across the age range and across the trades and professions. Blue and white collar workers, small business people, and managers and laborers worked and worshipped and gave



Inside Wollongong Worship Centre'

leadership side by side. And it was good to hear many British and some European accents from people who had obviously found in their adopted country warmth and acceptance by our people.

Outreach

Most of the six churches visited on the first two Sundays have outreach programs, working through elderly citizens', singles' or "Creative Living" groups. Doonside has three Creative Living days a week. Campbelltown has theirs on Tuesdays, one of the many electives being a Bible study with the discussion related to daily life situations. It is proving to be the most sought after group, even by outsiders. Minister, Ken Bond reports positive responses to the gospel through the Creative Living Program, and we would add through his imaginative evening services.

Wollongong with a quarter of a million people presents a big challenge to the Brotherhood. With Ian Richer moving from Warrawong only Barry McMurtrie will be left in full time ministry. One gets the impression that a co-ordinated approach to the whole South Coast might be a fruitful project for the N.S.W. and A.C.T. Conferences.

Worship

All of the worship that we experienced was alive and the lay participation was good. Women were used in worship in some of the six churches.

We believe that Wollongong is giving real leadership to the Brotherhood in its approach to worship. They have turned their older chapel where worshippers sat in serried ranks breathing down one another's necks, into a Christian Service Centre. They have trans-

o Continued on page 15.

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Historic Church Building Burnt Down

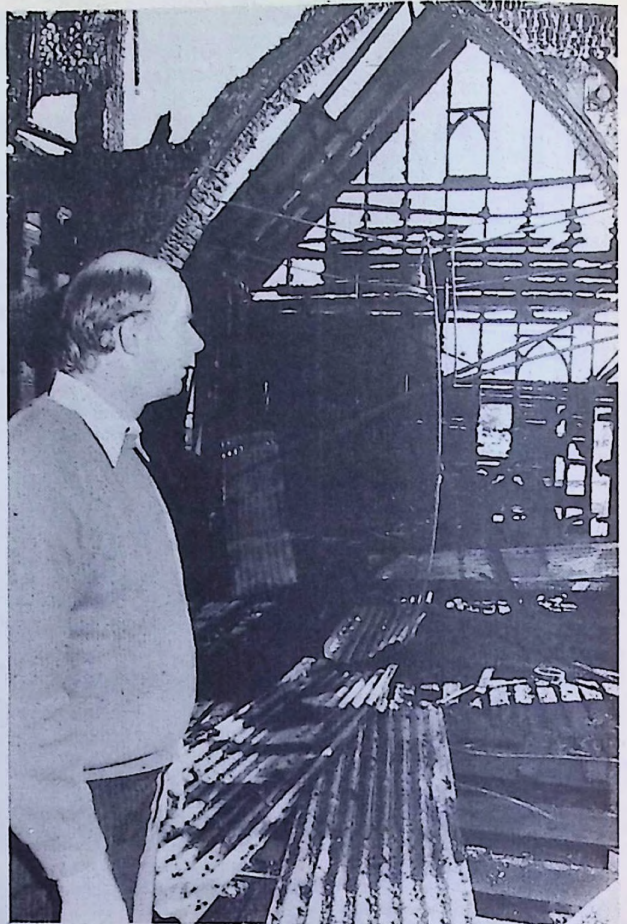
At 6.30 p.m. on July 4 the historic Bundamba chapel was gutted by fire. The building, opened on October 12, 1889, had previously survived two floods. In 1893, the building was completely submerged, and in 1974, water came up to the window-sills.

The fire destroyed the rear section of the building which was used as a kitchen and kindergarten area, together with all the contents of that area. The chapel area received less damage, and seating and pulpit furniture were able to be removed following the fire. A piano and organ received some damage. The organ had only been installed two weeks previously, and had a number of keys melted with the intensity of the heat. This damage is repairable.

At 4.15 a.m. on July 9 a further fire destroyed the remainder of the building. Both fires were the work of a 15 year old arsonist school boy who lit a total of eight fires in the one street, causing the destruction of an unoccupied house, and \$8,000 damage to another house. On Saturday, July 11, a team of volunteers demolished the ruins of the Bundamba chapel in five hours.

Plans for Future

Earlier this year the Bundamba congregation had received a gift of one and a quarter acres of land valued at \$45,000 opposite a new College of Advanced Education being built in the area. Plans had been drawn



Ipswich minister, Barry Rice, surveys what is left of the Bundamba chapel after an arsonist's work.

Photograph by courtesy of the Queensland Times, Ipswich.

up for a new building, and an application is currently before the Ipswich City Council for rezoning.

The Congregation has been steadily growing over the past few years, and the building was often full of a Sunday morning, necessitating larger facilities.

The Principal of the Bundamba Primary School has been most helpful to the Bundamba congregation, and has given the church the use of school facilities for our various activities until a new chapel and facilities can be erected.

— B.A. Rice

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REFUGEES AT THE CROSSROADS

Bob Smith writes again of his experiences with outreaching churches during his travels as the Australian Christian Foundation Scholar for 1981. The Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship is another project of Christian Projects Limited.

One of the most exciting and effective ministries to Asian refugees is taking place at the Crossroads Bible Church in San Jose, California.

The Asian ministry started with a young woman named Margaret Gandrun, who came to America from Malaysia. (She had previously lived in Melbourne for a year). Margaret had been converted from Buddhism 15 years ago and was instrumental in winning her family to Christ. When she arrived in the U.S.A. she prayed for God to show her what her mission was to be in the new country, and she had felt a strong sense of call to the Asian refugees. She started by just calling on them and showing friendship. Later as friendships developed she shared her faith with them. She was quite overwhelmed by the responsiveness of the people, and many accepted Christ. During the course of time she found herself with quite a sizeable group of new Christians, but with no established church to belong to.

The Crossroads Church

So she began to look around for a church that would accept them. She found it as the Crossroads Bible Church. The ministerial staff have backed her fully,

Bob Smith

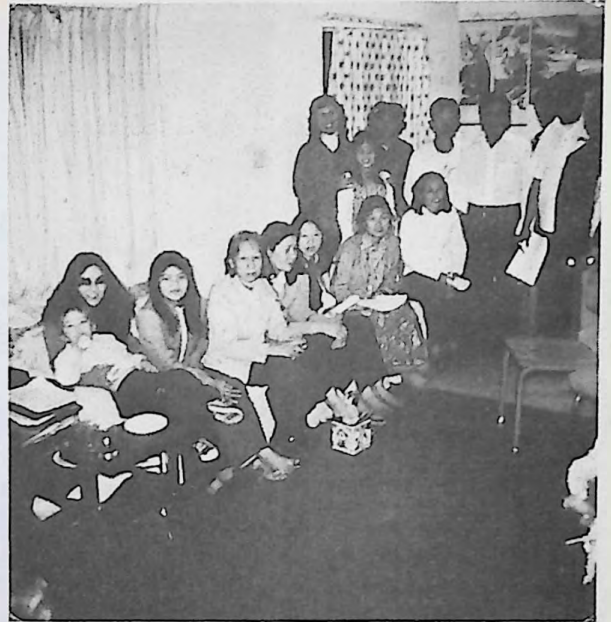
the church provides facilities for them to meet both separately and as part of the whole, and the congregation have provided a lot of material and financial support to help refugee families establish themselves in San Jose.

Margaret is still the key person in the whole program. She is supported by her husband, who is an American, and by a small number of interested and concerned church members. But the real thrust comes from her. She works on a purely voluntary basis but in terms of time spent she is just about full-time. She and her helpers visit families, offer friendship and support, assist people in the process of adjusting to a new culture, teach them English, help them fill in forms, get jobs, get social security. Through the church they provide furniture and clothing to help the refugees make a start in their bare apartments. The evangelistic outcome of this is that Margaret runs several home Bible studies as well as a large study group of about 100 people in the church.

A Hundred Asian Members

Jan and I went visiting with Margaret and attended some of the Bible studies. We also witnessed a whole Vietnamese family being baptised into Christ. During the past few months 100 Asians have become members of this church.

Willard Black used to teach urban ministry at San Jose Bible College and the



Home Bible study in refugee family's apartment

Ozark Bible College. He is a member of the Crossroads Bible Church and therefore has a unique insight into this ministry.

He sees the work amongst Asians at the Crossroads Church as being by far the most effective ministry of its type in the San Francisco Bay Area. Its success is due to:

- (1) A young ministry team who is flexible and very supportive of this ministry.
- (2) A key lay person who can communicate with both the ethnic group and the dominant culture. In this case it is Margaret Gandrun who is sophisticated, international, married to a successful, middle class American, and therefore

relates to both the Asian and the dominant Anglo-Saxon culture.

Crossing the Culture Barrier

Willard believes that the practical, caring aspects of this outreach have been vital to its success. He believes that the type of service at the Crossroads Church is probably culturally unintelligible to the Asians, despite the interpreters translating the service into Cantonese. But the practical support (the friendship, the material assistance) has been the point of contact. Through Margaret and her helpers the church has demonstrated love and acceptance for these people who are anxiously seeking it.



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TODAYS WOMEN

CATERING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

As Catering Convenor of Marion Church of Christ, it gives me pleasure to tell you of the work being done by our catering committee and women of our church.

June 1979 our new Marion church complex was completed, after many years of planning. Our catering committee and women of the church catered for tea which followed the grand opening service. We catered for 600 people.

Our new complex lends itself to catering for Wedding Receptions, Special Birthday Celebrations, Wedding Anniversaries, Church Dinners, Christmas Parties, and Suppers . . . to name a few of the functions we have been asked to cater for.

Our Menu ranges from Smorgasbord luncheons to Afternoon teas, and three course Hot Chicken dinners. The women of our church and C.W.F. do all the cooking, most of the food is donated and women wait on the tables, serve the meal, and wash up. Our men folk work as drink waiters. It is a great way to get to know people, especially in a fast growing church like Marion.

Proceeds from our catering help people in need, both at home in the local church and overseas. We have been able to help many worthy causes such as Churches of Christ Overseas Missions, Local and State Social Services, All Brotherhood departments, Save the Children Fund, World Vision, Kampuchea, Vietnamese Refugees. During our building program, we completely furnished our lounge room, purchased chairs for the halls, and gave towards bitumening the tennis court and carpark. Donations have amounted to over \$7000.

At Marion we are happy together in service for our Lord and Master, and those needing our help.
Joy Bibby. S.A.



THE SUSTAINING POWER OF CHRIST

To sit on the grassy hillside where Jesus fed the multitude is something one dreams about, but that joy was mine, and I was aware of Christ's sustaining power in my life.

We walked the Via Dolorosa, Street of Sorrow, and jostled with the crowd; some were rushing on their usual way, some were tourists come to look, some came to worship and cast their burdens on Christ their Redeemer; echoing words on a plaque, "Give me Your Cross, I will gladly bear it". Christ died for the deserving as well as the needy. It is as true today as yesterday and will be tomorrow, Christ still bears the Cross for our sins. He bled and died for our transgressions.

We visited Gethsemane and saw eight gnarled and weathered olive trees, over 2,000 years old. Olive trees are one of the longest living trees known to man. They were in the Garden "that night"; witness to the agony of our Lord. Today in many parts of the world there are venerable and faithful witnesses to the life and death of Christ.

M. Conning, Vic.

HANDICAPPED??

He was a severely crippled spastic. He was a doctor, he operated at the hospital, drove his car, and lived a normal life.

He was a good doctor, and a fine Christian man. He was dedicated to his family and church.

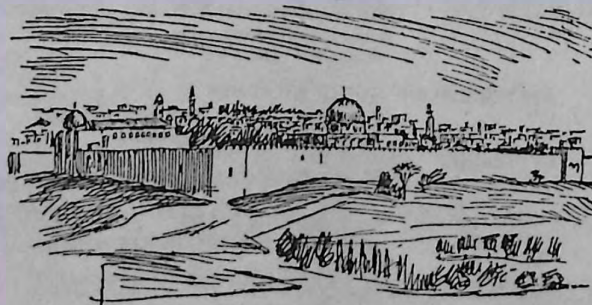
It would have been easy to become a helpless wheelchair case, because as a spastic, every movement had to come from an act of will, and not automatically. He disciplined himself to cope with his physical disability, so that it was no longer a handicap. He was never a man we could feel sorry for, he was so much in control.

For some years now, he has used his skill and dedication in rehabilitation of handicapped people. Not only has he enabled them to live 'normal lives', but he has been able to be an inspiration to others.

Years ago, a man who was badly crippled and active in a rehabilitation workshop, was talking about the Centre where he worked and how disabled people negotiated stairs. I never forgot his closing remarks. He said, "People say that we are disabled and handicapped, this no longer applies once we have mastered the art of climbing the stairs, or living independently."

Our doctor friend was a crippled spastic, but not handicapped.

L. Stirling.



THINK ABOUT IT

"It is clear that Paul has faith in these men and women, he believes in them and relies on them." There is nothing more important or encouraging than to know that somebody believes in and trusts us. Romans 16:1-8.

MINISTRY OF AN ELDER

Four years ago, after much prayerful consideration, I accepted nomination as an Elder at Magill. I knew that, if elected, God would enable me to serve His Church in ways that I had not imagined . . . and how right I was. I have become much more involved in visiting: the elderly, the sick, young mothers, people with problems, people with sorrows. Very often the people I visit minister to me and inspire me . . . so many of them are beautiful souls. Elders' meetings are great experiences as we share our concerns for the Church and its people pray together and encourage each other. It is very interesting to observe how the six Elders complement each other as we strive to achieve God's Will for His Church.

The responsibilities of eldership are extensive and varied as the needs of the local Church are attended to in areas of family, worship, prayer, teaching and so on. No one Elder can expect to act effectively at all times in all spheres, but by making myself available to God and His people He is able to channel my efforts into ways which may be helpful to others. The privilege of taking Communion to those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to meet in this way is a great joy to me. It has also helped me to develop an ability to think more clearly "on my feet" than before.

I am convinced that each period in a Christian's life is but a preparation for the next. I shall never cease to be grateful for the experience that has been mine during the last four years . . . grateful to God and to His people. Sharing and caring are two very important words in this Church and it is great to be part of such a congregation.
H. Morrow. S.A.

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

When the history of Australia in the 1980s is eventually written, two things should stand out starkly: the worsening of the poverty of the poor and the great increase of the wealth of the rich.

At a time when virtually all indicators point to a major boom, when Australia should have abundant resources to alleviate hardship, the gap between the rich and the poor is growing alarmingly.

Readers will no doubt recall the recent payrise (ranging from eight to thirty-two percent) awarded to politicians and senior public servants to maintain parity with booming incomes in the top level of the private sector. Somewhat less publicity was given, however, to the rise in pensions (4 percent for six months, a drop in real terms) or the rise over the past five years in unemployment benefits for young people (nil!)

Telephone charges were altered recently. Although most services were increased to some extent, certain long-distance calls became cheaper, benefitting most those businesses and individuals who make regular interstate phone calls. Public phone users, however, which includes most of our poor, are to have the charge doubled.

Arguments can perhaps be raised in defence of some of the many recent moves which economists have observed taking from the poor to give to the rich. These are fair enough provided moves are made at the same time to offset the disadvantage to the poor, such as through reducing the hefty tax bite.

There has been little compensating action. In fact, in last month's budget, indirect taxes, which the Federal Government itself has condemned in the past as hitting the poor hardest, were increased!

Taking all recent economic moves by the Federal Government into account (the above being just a few examples),

the conclusion economists are reaching is clear: the rich are being made richer at the expense of the disadvantaged.

The Age newspaper's senior economic analyst Kenneth Davidson, for example, wrote recently that "one of the central tenets of Fraserian supply-side economics" was the policy of "redistributing income from wages to profits and from those who consume (the poor) to those who save (the rich)." (July 16, 1981) He concluded from figures released by the Bureau of Statistics that the Government "has had considerable success in widening the income gap between the rich and the poor."

Dr Phyllis Rosendale of the Institute for Applied Economic and Social Research agrees. She has been researching the present economic boom and believes that, of the various courses open to the Government, it has clearly chosen one that will increase the wealth of the rich by disadvantaging ordinary wage-earners.

"The Government seems to be putting all its money on one or two approaches that will have the effect of concentrating the burden of the boom on certain sections of the community," she said. "It could work out differently if they took another line."

Mr John Dickson of the Victorian Council of Social Services agrees that it does not have to be this way. A 6.6 percent rise in the total welfare budget, according to Dickson, would bring all Australians above the poverty line. This is equivalent, he says, "to about one fifth of the windfall gains the Federal Government is making through the petrol tax on motorists."

The resources for the alleviation of the widespread hardships in our community, it seems clear, are available. We are now paying much higher levels of total tax that at any time in our history. What appears to be missing is the desire to distribute our resources equitably.



If you make gifts to rich people or oppress the poor to get rich, you will become poor yourself," says the Scriptures in one of many declarations of God's mind on the subject of the distribution of national wealth. (Proverbs 22:16)

"You are doomed!" says Isaiah, "You make unjust laws that oppress my people. That is how you prevent the poor from having their rights and getting justice." (Is. 10:1-2)

"Give the king thy justice, O God," writes the Psalmist, "... May the king judge the poor fairly; may he help the needy and defeat their oppressors." (Psalm 72)

In the New Testament Paul affirms clearly that the Christian's goal with respect to disposable incomes is "that there may be equality" — even, from the context (2 Cor. 8), across national boundaries!

On this subject of the distribution of wealth and incomes, where the Scriptures speak so forcefully, shouldn't evangelical Christians be in the forefront of those seeking reform and justice?

When the history of Australia in the 80s is written, will that be recorded?

Finally, by way of encouragement ... Events in July following the proposed 20 percent pay rise for politicians demonstrated that our representatives are amenable to pressure from the electorate. Protest can be effective. Real immediate changes in policy will eventuate if enough people demonstrate their concern.

This is not, however, to be our motivation. We are not, I believe, called to achieve certain 'results', measuring our efforts by whether or not success is achieved. Rather we are called to be faithful and obedient, speaking up for the poor and powerless who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31). If we do that in God's strength, then He will take care of the results. (Psalms 113, Luke 1:51-53).

Your correspondent recently met with the National Country Party's federal committee of review into taxation (which included fellow C of C member, Mr Evan Adermann MP). Copies of the submission are available on request.

JASON'S HOUSE

INFLATION... NO JOB...
TAXES UP... HIGHER
HOUSING COSTS...



THE WAY THINGS
ARE GOING I'M
STARTING TO
FIND IT HARD...



...TO MAINTAIN
MY APATHY!



OPEN FORUM

W.C.C. AND ABORIGINES

To the Editor,

As I read in the article "True People of the Future" in "Missionary News" of over 1000 Christian Aborigines meeting at the A.E.F. Pt. Augusta Convention, and the "A.C." article on Looma, the first Aboriginal Church of Christ, I thought how much better it would have been for the W.C.C. delegation to have visited these "sacred Christian sites"!

Political pressures will not save Aborigines. If the A.C.C. lived up to its name it would be out bringing Aborigines into the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Only then will they give up all of the evil habits taught them by whites; and their health and physical welfare will be revolutionised.

Bob Williams who was rescued from alcoholism through the gospel and many others who have responded to the gospel through the work of Churches of Christ are living examples

of this. The W.C.C. will never produce such results through political pressure. Did any one of the delegates whilst in Australia preach Christ and him crucified?

— Dr.G.J. Hall (Perth, W.A.)

TEENAGE MATURITY

To the Editor,

One of the saddest stories I have heard was of the young Perth boy aged 15 sentenced to life in prison for the murder and sexual assault of a girl aged 8. To me this seems a logical extension of a world that forces adult pressures onto teenagers and claims they mature quicker in this "modern age." Modern technology is fantastic, but when, oh when, will there be voices colling a world back to sanity, among other things to allow teenagers to be teenagers and valued as such? Surely that 15-year-old lad must be so confused about what life is about, having missed it by having to survive as an adult at 15! I wonder is the church that voice?

— Greg Shaw (Balwyn, Vic.)

Ministry in S.A.

As the following advertisement indicates the S.A. Conference is now putting into effect its recent decision in the way it should assist churches in their call of ministers.

It will supply lists of qualified ministers known as such to State Board to those churches in S.A. which are seeking the services of a minister. Each minister listed and each church wishing to receive the list will supply to the Pastoral Advisory Committee a completed dossier form giving relevant information.

The services of State Board are offered to churches and ministers to confer about the nature of the ministry sought or offered. Pastoral Advisory

Committee's Chairman Charles Dow or Secretary Jack Brooker or State Ministers Ed Roffey, Ted Heard or Gerald Rose are available to discuss ministries.

We now seek information for January 1983 — or if needs have become apparent for ministry during 1982 the Pastoral Advisory Committee would try to fulfil those needs. Letters have gone to each S.A. minister and church secretary explaining the procedure and enclosing the appropriate dossier form to the College Principals and State Advisory Committees. Interstate ministers who feel called to South Australia should note the following notice.

MINISTRY IN S.A.

Ministers open to a call to serve in Churches of Christ in South Australia from January, 1983 (or even in 1982) are notified that Dossier Forms for Ministry Appointment (Ministers) with a letter describing their use are available.

Please request forms from Secretary, Advisory Committee or from State Minister, Churches of Christ Centre, 104 Grote Street, Adelaide S.A. 5000.

A CONFERENCE

'World in Crisis: The Cross or the Bomb' organised by Pax Christi, Social Justice Division of the Uniting Church, and Clergy for Peace. at Peace Memorial Unitarian Church, Grey Street, East Melbourne. (registration \$2)

Chairperson: Terry Lane

Speakers: Professor Max Charlesworth 'A New Look at Violence and Non-Violence'.

Dr John Hinchcliff 'Our Response to the Nuclear Arms Race'. Respondents: Fr Antony Campbell, S. J. and Dr J. A. Camilleri. General Discussion

Afternoon: Workshops and Panel on the theme: 'Grounds of our Hope in Faith and Action'.

Lunch: Bring your own.

For further information: Phone (03) 654 2488 (03) 211 4328

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

A MATTER OF BELIEF

To the Editor,

Our minister preached on "Belief" on Sunday. He sounded perplexed. Not about his belief of course, but about the current belief in all of the wrong things.

He said that people believe in their horoscopes, in the occult, in good luck charms, in transcendental meditation, in fortune telling, and the like, but not in God. He said that he didn't know why!

I'm not as brainy as he is, but I know why. It doesn't cost a thing to believe in horoscopes and the occult and lucky charms and other modern fads. They set you off into a fantasy world and free you from facing reality. But believing in God rubs your nose in reality.

If the signs of the zodiac have some strange influence upon us there is nothing we can do about it. But if God exists we are crazy if we don't do something about it. And that something is wrapped up in words that our minister uses like commitment and obedience and judgement and service and grace and forgiveness.

And as for the occult and transcendental meditation, they can take you on a mental high right outside of practical action. You don't do a thing but relax and enjoy the trip. But God has a way of getting me right down to realisty and action in such things as how I treat my wife and kids, and going to church, and tithing, and standing up for those who are getting it in the neck, and sharing faith and a lot of other hard things.

I know very well why people believe in all of those other things rather than in God. Sometimes I wish that I could do the same. But I can't. Commonsense has me stuck with God. And even though it is hard and often straightout inconvenient, I'm glad.

Your reluctant Christian friend,
TERTIUS

Aboriginal Baptisms at Wodonga

On Saturday, August 8, over 300 people crowded into the small chapel and hall of the Wodonga church. Most of the crowd were aboriginals who had come to witness friends and relatives commit their lives to Christ in baptism. There were 34 candidates.

The event took on the celebrations of a festival, beginning with sporting activities in the afternoon. This was followed by a barbecue tea and a two-hour service. The Army and local Rotary Club assisted by providing tents and equipment free of charge.

Special guests at the day were Sir Douglas Nichols (former S.A. Governor) and Evonne and Roger (Goolagong) Cawley, who had come from the U.S.A. Evonne's mother had recently been baptised in the Murray River, and on this occasion her brother Gary and his wife, and her stepfather and sister were all baptised.

Most of those baptised were converted under the ministry of Cecil Grant, who works with A.E.F. (Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship) from Lavington, N.S.W. Cecil has just returned from a successful mission to Arnhem, N.T., where approx-

imately 80 aboriginals were baptised by him.

The Wodonga church was honoured that Pastor Grant chose their new hall and baptistry for the witness service. The church there has had 30 baptisms in the four years since affiliation. Bob Brown, aboriginal pastor from Adelaide, took part in the baptismal service, and stayed on for the Wodonga services on the Sunday. Other recent speakers have been Cecil Grant, Jeff Deuble, Pat Kavanagh, and Major Stelstra.

Ann St. on Radio

Unfortunately we received advice too late that the Ann St. church was featured on the A.B.C. on Sunday, August 30 on the Radio 2 network at 5.30 p.m.

The service was led by Norm Watson and the readings were by Noel Neumann and Jeff Wattson. Allan Male, M.B.E. preached the sermon. Keith Davies directed the music.

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HALF-TIME POSITION in CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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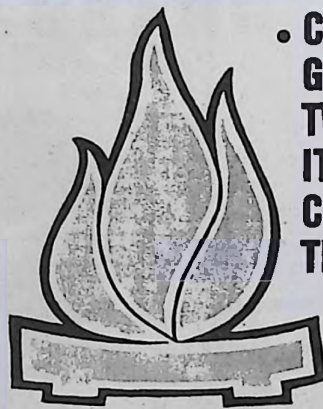
This position provides an opportunity of initiating Ecumenical Action in Christian Education and providing a link among the various denominational Christian Education agencies. It also involves the administering of the V.C.C.E. office.

Applicants would need to provide evidence of some background and experience in Christian Education and 'theology'.

Write for information, job description and an application form to the V.C.C.E., 100 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000.

Applications close November 1, 1981.

FIRE IN THE HEARTH ...



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17th OCTOBER 4 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. — Graham Bradley — Prahran
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SUNDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER 1981

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Write to Box 164, P.O. Henley Beach

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YOOHOO — Rod Boucher (Seven MCF 7430)

I don't think there's many Australians who haven't heard of Rod Boucher. He is a unique home grown talent. He went through the rock band bit by playing in Adelaide's Buffalo Drive. But since those days, he's been "one man's band", a kind of wierdo that pops up in strange places singing about his Australia, B.O., and his Daddy (God). Most of the songs of this, his first commercially released album were on either of his two privately produced cassettes. This time round they gain a little bit of production quality — but it's still Rod, thankfully! When I first heard he was doing a commercial I-p I wondered if he'd get lost in the wonders of a 64 track studio, but no, his brilliant musical spontaneity is still there. This is a fun album, but one with serious implications. There is much more to Rod than a superficial hearing will give. Buy it, "enjoy" it, pass it on to your non-Christian friends. Best tracks: Rag & Bone, Somebody loves me, Joy and Sorrow.

ACROSS THE BORDER — Peter Campbell (Newworld NWS 251280)

Peter Campbell has been singing Christian music in the singer-songwriter idiom for a long time. He has recorded before, but the different thing here is that the tracks were put down in Maine, U.S.A., with production credits going to Noel Paul Stookey (remember Peter, Paul & Mary?). It is therefore a

better produced sound than we generally find in Australia. Peter's music is enjoyable, with lyrics that usually require some thought and reflection (but there's nothing wrong with that!) The songs are about life, the wholeness of life, and concerns that we as Christians should have use of Bob Dylan's "Too much of nothing" is interesting but successful. He darily sings unaccompanied on one track (Once Upon a Time) and it is one of the standout songs. The backing musos on the other tracks perform very capably, although I wonder if Peter's voice isn't better suited to accoustic work, rather than a band backing him. All in all though, it is a good album, definitely worth a listen.

LIVE AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE — Robert Colman (Seven MLF 433)

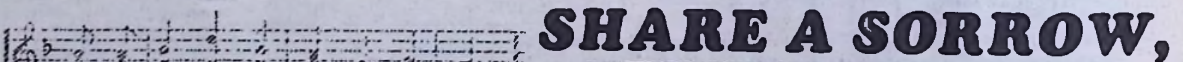
There is not doubt that Robert is the most well-known and talented gospel singer in Australia today. This album was recorded at the 2CH/Rhema Inspirational Music Concert last year. Robert's voice can't be faulted — not that I've ever wanted to fault it. The backing is precise and capable, although rather sparse at times. All the well known songs are there, and they are performed excellently. This is a lovely family album — although it is definitely middle of the road and not really contemporary music. Recommended.

HE RESTORETH . . .

by David A. MacLennan (Baker)

A small booklet with stories and prayers and scripture selections designed to bring comfort and encouragement to those who are sick. The author encouraged in such areas as sleeplessness, fear and calling the elders to visit those who are sick.

BEAR A BURDEN,



SHARE A SORROW,

And with all who will trust and obey

**Not a burden we bear,
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But our toil He doth richly repay. . . .**

For one of these children



. . . . Then God will richly repay you by

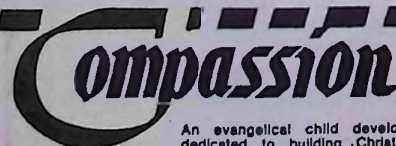
giving to you in "Good measure, shaken down, pressed together & running over".

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AC581

Aldgate Valley Concert

The Aldgate Valley (S.A.) church recently held a concert at which groups and individuals shared their talents and gave those present a night to remember. The Ladies' Bible Study Group put on a short play written by Alan Rowe, the youth group did a couple of skits while the male members of the board paraded in a beauty contest. They were dressed according to their occupation. The winner was Phillip Oinn, a saucy blonde in a gay plastic outfit complete with a large hat and flowers, and Kath Dow crowned Miss Polly Plastics complete with a gown to the cheers of the audience. Trevor Harvey acted as master of ceremonies. To conclude the night the ladies put on an excellent supper.

Christians can be happy and those present at Aldgate Valley that night were very happy. A social is planned for August 29.

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Luis Palau Family Counselling

One of the key thrusts of the Luis Palau Newcastle 1982 Crusade will come from the Family Counselling Centre which is directed at people who have in-depth problems ranging from marital relationships and divorce to sexual and personal problems.

The Newcastle, N.S.W. Crusade is scheduled for March 12-28, 1982 at Newcastle Showground, the site of the 1979 four day crusade, where Luis Palau preached to 23,000 people.

The Family Counselling Centre will be established at the Salvation Army's new administrative headquarters in Newcastle and will open daily during the entire 17 day crusade. People will be invited to telephone the Centre for an appointment with one of the many counsellors, who will man the Centre on a roster basis. Training and supervision of the in-depth counselling will come from Jim Williams, Vice-President of the Palau Team.

In conjunction with the Centre, negotiations are being held with the local television station for a series of late night call-in programs, where Luis Palau invites people to telephone him with their problems and concerns. He then counsels them on-air from the Bible, while thousands of Newcastle viewers are watching and listening.

Churches Support Job Creation

Job creation schemes and a more careful look at the effects of technological change were identified as two key actions to overcome poverty in a national survey of church views. The survey was sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches Church and Society Commission at the request of several major church social welfare bodies.

50% of those surveyed, which included church leaders, church welfare agency workers and local church congregation members from 11 denominations, concluded that there were over 2 million poor in Australia. Four out of every five respondents agreed that many Australians live in poverty.

Structural Change Surprise

One surprise to emerge from the survey was the belief apparently held by a majority of church leaders that structural change in society is required to eliminate poverty.

Exactly half of those surveyed were parish clergy, 20% worked in welfare (either paid or as volunteers) and 1 in 5 were lay members of the church.

Little doubt about who was poor was shown in the survey, with unemployed people with dependents, Aborigines in Australian cities, and families living on social security incomes being identified as particularly needy groups.

Challenge to Churches

The two priority tasks for the church in its fight against poverty identified in the survey were support for self-help groups and the undertaking of

a public education program about poverty in Australia. Over 90% of respondents gave top priority to these two tasks.

The development of community based welfare services and the need for the Church to make representations to Government about the causes and effects of poverty in Australia were also ranked high as necessary actions on poverty. 58% supported the proposal for a guaranteed minimum income as a means to eliminate poverty.

The national conference of Church Social Justice Commissions from the Anglican, Uniting and Catholic churches with observers from the Lutheran Church and the Salvation Army, on receiving the results of the survey agreed to undertake a national education program on poverty within the churches and to work towards an agreed statement on minimum goals for a just Australian society.

Mistakes

"Church Scene" (Anglican) printed the following examples of some of those awful mistakes that occasionally sneak through.

* The bulletin board announced that because of the secretary's holidays, the church's office schedule would be "somewhat erotic this week and next".

* Handbills announcing a five day New Life Mission with a "nightly worship service at 7.30 p.m."

* A British parish magazine commented, "During Lent we will tackle the Seven Deadly Sins one at a time on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in church".

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HAPPENINGS

Over 100,000 people in Latin America are benefiting from old glasses of Americans and Canadians. The glasses are freely dispensed by Christian eye-care missions to the Caribbean. The projects are co-ordinated by the Christian Medical Society.

Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania, told a gathering of over 500 Lutheran pastors that any act barring religious activities deprives people of their humanness.

World population will stop increasing in 130 years, according to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The population could be as high as 14 billion or as low as 8 billion by the time it levels off. The UN body claims that Europe will be the first continent to reach zero population. Next to stabilize will be North America. Probably the last section of the world to reach zero population will be Africa. It is the only region so far to show no slowdown in population growth.

As many as 5 million Christians are worshipping in more than 50,000 "house churches" throughout China according to Hong Kong based organisation Chinese Church Research Centre.

Iran's High Court announced that mere membership in the Baha'i faith justified the execution of two Baha'i members in Shiraz.

A recent meeting of African Anglican theologians has recommended that polygamous men not be forced to divorce any of

their wives before allowing communion. Urging pastoral sensitivity in areas where polygamy is widely accepted they affirmed monogamy as God's ideal husband and wife relationship.

Soviet scientists say relics of three Russian saints are really bones of 14th century Mongol invaders. Their findings are to be included in a new atheism museum in Suzdal.

As a minister began his sermon it began to pour. "Isn't that just like the Lord?" he said to his

congregation, "here we are sitting and relaxing, and he's out there washing our cars for us."

The total cost of food and medicines shipped to Poland under the auspices of the German Diakonisches Werk agency was expected to be about \$1.1 million U.S. by the end of August.

The New York Governor has signed a law making parents or guardians liable up to \$5,000 for vandalism committed by juveniles against religious property.

ESSENDON THEOS (Vic.)

requires a full-time Outreach Worker in the Essendon area. The person will be part of the existing team which presently runs a Drop-In Centre on Wednesday nights.

For further details please contact John Wilson on (03) 375 1967.

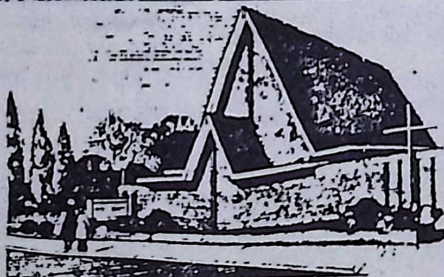


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Requires the services of a Minister. The congregation is looking for a person who will minister to family and community needs and provide positive leadership and creative ideas.

North Turramurra Church has been established for 18 years and has strong potential for growth. It has an active membership of 85 and is in contact with more than 100 families through a varied program including several active youth groups and other auxiliaries. The Church buildings are modern and the manse is on an adjoining property.

It is the only Church in North Turramurra, an area of largely middle-class and professional people and situated about 20km north-west of Sydney on the Upper North Shore. The Church is in close proximity to the local shopping centre, schools, transport and other facilities.

Enquiries invited — salary negotiable.

Further information may be obtained from

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WAHROONGA, 2076.
(PHONE (02) 48 6010)

New Chairman for Properties Corporation



Ralph Lee

Brotherhood, 22 years as Trustee and 17 years as Chairman.



Arthur Haskell

The Vic.-Tas. Properties Corporation announces the appointment of Ralph B. Lee as Chairman following the retirement of Arthur R. Haskell as Chairman and Trustee on August 5, 1981.

Mr Lee is a member of the Doncaster church and has been a Trustee of the Properties Corporation for 24 years and Treasurer for 13 years. He is the General Manager of The Melbourne Stock Exchange, a Trustee of The Campbell Edwards Trust, The Austral Charitable Trust and The J. M. & A. W. Cleland Trust.

John E. Bailey a member of the Doncaster church has been appointed Deputy-Chairman.

The Properties Corporation expresses its gratitude to its esteemed retiring Chairman Arthur R. Haskell for his dedicated service to the

Warming up in Khartoum

Steve and Val Warwick and their children have had it up to 45 degrees Celsius every day of their first six weeks in Khartoum where they have been grappling with unpacking, settling in and learning Arabic and a bit about their Arab neighbours. That sort of heat must be why they call Sudan United Mission people SUMers and Sudan Interior Mission workers SIMers.

The Warwicks live a couple of hundred yards from the desert and close enough to the local mosque to be awakened daily by the 3.30 a.m. call to prayer. It can't be easy to convert people who are praying to Allah four hours before most Christians struggle out of bed.

THE MISSION OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Page 13

An Interpretation

There is no doubt that in the first century church strictures were placed upon the ministry of some women in the public life of the church in some places. 1 Corinthians 14:34

In verse 34 Paul exhorts women to keep silence during the church services. However verse 35 explains what is meant by silence. The women were not to ask their husbands audibly concerning the meaning of certain things that were being said. They were to wait until they got home.

It needs to be understood that with few exceptions Jewish, Greek and Roman women were uneducated. Much of what went on in the services was "over their heads". Hence the disturbing talking in church. 1 Timothy 2:12

This is really the only passage in the New Testament supporting those who desire today to restrict the ministry of women. However it is an important statement and Paul backs it up with a comment from the Old Testament about man's precedence over woman.

The verse quotes Paul's own practice of not permitting women to instruct men or to have authority over men in the church, in the sense of telling them what to do.

It needs to be understood that in the first century secular world women did not instruct men or tell them what to do. Thus it would present a scandal to outsiders if it appeared that the church was breaking tradition in this matter. It would have done serious harm to the church's evangelistic thrust, especially amongst men, and probably amongst women as well!

Obviously the position of the outside world in relation to women has changed radically. Today any apparent discrimination against women by the church may be considered by outsiders as a scandal, thus militating against their evangelisation.

Also it is questionable whether a woman who reads and prays and presides in services is really teaching men or being in authority over them. Even if a woman becomes a minister her preaching is not (or should not be) giving her personal instructions to men . . . or women. Surely she expounds the Word of God in life situations. And let's face it, no minister in Churches of Christ, male or female, has authority over any one, male or female.

Scriptures referring to the ministry of women in the church

There are N.T. passages that seem to indicate that a few gifted and qualified women did take public part in services and were in leadership positions.

Acts 21:9. Philip's daughters prophesied. Prophesying was a form of public preaching, directly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 16:1, 2. This refers to Phoebe, a deacon. Some versions translate the word as deaconess. But in the Greek it is simply the feminine form of the word deacon. Both verses reveal that she was a very important person on a special mission.

Romans 16:3-5 (and elsewhere). Priscilla was obviously a noted leader in the church. In this passage Paul significantly steps out of line and puts her name first. 1 Corinthians 11:5, 6, 13. Obviously at Corinth it was in order for women to pray and prophesy publicly in services of worship.

Matters of Expediency and Matters of Principle

Some practices of the early church were determined by the local culture and circumstances of the day, and were expedient then, but were not meant to be permanently binding. For example, Paul did not ask Philemon to free his slave Onesimus, but rather to receive him back. This was the only expedient way of handling the matter both for Philemon and for Onesimus. But this is not taken by us as a precedent in support of permanent slavery. So the question is whether the strictures placed upon women in 1 Timothy 2:12 were meant to be permanent.

The context of any passage of scripture is always a good guide as to whether eternal principles were being expressed or whether they refer to a matter of expediency for the church in a first century culture.

A New Testament Principle Concerning Women in the Church

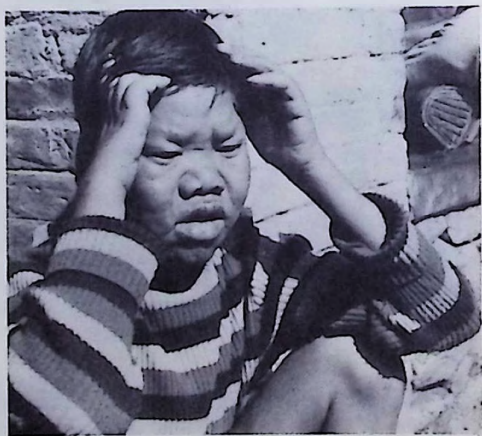
There is no doubt that Paul was enunciating a permanent principle when he wrote the words of Galatians 3:28, including "there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." In the light of this principle it would be hard to condone any apparent discrimination between male and female in the church, unless with the consent of women, it was expedient to do so for the sake of winning to Christ those of a culture who found a stumbling block in the principle. For example, in some cultures it is still advisable to have men and women sitting on opposite sides of the village church, to avoid local offence.

Looking at the Question in Contemporary Australian Society

So the question is whether in a society which has lifted strictures from women, the church should be placing ancient strictures upon them. Insistence today upon discrimination against women in the church could very well be seriously detrimental to evangelism in our kind of culture. If the church becomes the last bastion of sex discrimination its credibility is likely to suffer as much as it has in the past when it has been the last bastion of support for slavery and for race discrimination.

We invite contributions to "Open Forum" on the question of the mission and ministry of women in the church.

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**THE GREAT
DISABLER**
(leprosy)





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paralysis and loss of feeling occur which result in deformity.

Drugs are available to deal with the leprosy germ, but not where they are needed most. **We know enough, but we are not doing enough!**

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The average cost of treating a leprosy patient for one year is \$20, and most of them require a minimum of 5 years treatment before they are cured.

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Address

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Please tear off this response form and place the completed form with your gift in the envelope provided.

I enclose \$100 to help cure a leprosy patient

\$20 for one year's treatment of a leprosy patient

\$... to help a disabled leprosy patient return to a useful life

Please send me more information about The Leprosy Mission

P.T.O.



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The Leprosy Mission was founded in 1874 when an Irish Presbyterian schoolmaster saw the tremendous untouched need of leprosy sufferers in India.

Today it is an international and inter-denominational missionary society working in over 30 countries where leprosy is a problem.

Because of the specialist nature of its work, The Leprosy Mission co-operates with many other churches and missionary societies around the world.

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Ph. (002) 44 4054

OBITUARY

Typed statements of not more than 150 words, recognising the work and witness of God's faithful servants are welcomed. They should be submitted promptly.

EGGLETON — Edward Robert (Bob) James

(23.7.81) Passed away peacefully at "Cole House" Pendle Hill, aged 68 years. Born in Junee, N.S.W., Bob lived an active early life in the country. He saw active service during World War II and in 1943 returned home to be married to Bess McMann by P. E. Thomas at the Marrickville church. They set up home in Belmore and attended the church where Bess was a member. In 1953 they moved to Epping and in 1959 Bob made his commitment in the Billy Graham Crusade. He was baptised at the Epping church and entered into the fellowship. In 1976 Bob retired, and with Bess moved to Hornsby Heights becoming involved in the work at the Asquith church, including assisting his wife in the organisation of Senior Citizens work in the area. Bob was a good husband, a devoted father and grandfather, also a trusted friend to all those who knew him. In the church he was not a person who pushed himself to the front but was always there when needed. The service at the Asquith church was conducted by the minister, David Eagling, assisted by Dr Keith Farmer, and was

attended by a large number of friends and relatives. To his wife Bess, his daughters, Robyn, and Janet, sons-in-law Trevor and Peter, grand children Bret, Leanne, Timothy and Andrew, we express our Christian love.

— D.J.E.

GRAHAM, Dulcie Zemba (7.8.81) Dulcie became a Christian in the Grote St. church, Adelaide in 1907. Her life for the next 74 years was an expression of commitment to people and faith in Jesus Christ. She had no family of her own, but raised her brother's children from Infants, as well as caring for her father, and in later years her sick husband. Yet she had time to be involved in many endeavours, and for outstanding service after the war, received a "Certificate of Merit" for her contribution toward the returned soldiers and their wives. For the past 10 years, Dulcie has served at the Edwardstown church, and through her faith and commitment, saw her family baptised and welcomed into the fellowship of the church this past year. Dulcie was an active and vital part of the women's work at Edwardstown. We celebrated Dulcie's 90th birthday in May, and even though she was not physically well, her spirits and mind were still vital and strong. She was an inspiration and blessing to us all, and we thank God for her life and witness.

— Rob Cambridge

NEIGHBOUR, Mrs Ivy (18.7.81) The church at Goolwa has been saddened by the death of Mrs Ivy Neighbour. Mrs Neighbour was born and educated in Goolwa and baptised in the Goolwa church on 15/10/1911 at the age of 16. She met her sweetheart, Arthur, in the church, married him and brought up her family to love Christ and the church. Keith, Mary, Betty and Fay were all baptised and joined the church in Goolwa. Mrs Neighbour was one of the

hospitable hostesses of the church in the years when visiting speakers and sometimes groups came to Goolwa on Sundays. Many friendships have been maintained through the years because of the loving welcome they received at the Neighbour home. Mrs Neighbour battled on courageously after the death of her husband 9 years ago, but Parkinsons disease and a stroke at the time of the death of her brother-in-law, Stan, 2½ years ago forced her to become an invalid. Her quiet dignity and vibrant faith were a benediction to all who visited her. A well attended funeral service in the Goolwa church bore eloquent testimony to the esteem held in the community for this gentle lady. We especially commend Keith, Mary (Mrs Bowey), Batty (Mrs Spencer) and Fay to the love and comfort of our Heavenly Father.

WQ

NORTHAM (M. Randell). Church preparing for missionary emphasis later in year ... All study groups using "Operation World" as basis for prayer ... Day of prayer held first Wednesday each month ... Heartenders centred on physical frolics ... C.W.F. supplied outfit for boy at Carnarvon ... Also entertained Over 60 club ... Wembley youth group visited in July.

SCARBOROUGH (Leroy Randall, Fred Hay). 25th anniversary celebrations commenced with a dinner for 250. Christian ventriloquist, Kit Bergen, entertained. Peter Maiden presented humorous history of church. Past ministers L. Donaldson, T. D. Maiden and K. J. Duffy participated. Scarborough's first full-time minister Jack Bond spoke at gospel service ... John deKock presented a China special ... Val Wright from C.W.C. and

Helen Davey of W.E.C. addressed C.W.F. ... Bible Studies based on Pilgrims Progress recommenced.

VIC

YARRAWONGA (K. H. Pitt). Visit of Covenant Players ... Ladies attended K.Y.B. leaders seminar at Tocumwal ... Combined churches fellowship day speaker Mrs Frances Pitt ... \$360 collected for World Vision 40 hour famine ... Cake stall raised \$195 for piano fund ... Films "Whatever happened to the Human Race" by Francis Schaeffer screened ... Recent guest speakers Marion Lakey, A.P.C.M., Neville Thomas, Wycliffe Bible Translators.

MT EVELYN (Brian J. O'Grady). Numerically outgrown Melba Centre Hall. Sunday services now held at Lilydale High which seats 800-850 ... Assistant pastor, three more elders and another deacon recently appointed ... B.S. students had live-in seminar over weekend ... Visiting speakers have been Rev. Olga Robertson (Philippines) and Jeff and Gloria Emmrich (U.S.A.).

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The Smith Family, Community Food Fund

Eight Sydney Welfare agencies are now looking for volunteers to help repeat the miracle of the feeding of the multitude.

The annual Community Food Drive, now called the Community Food Fund, intends to deliver letters to every mail box in Sydney. The letters are an appeal by The Smith Family, and seven church welfare agencies, for donations to the Community Food Fund. The money will be spent by the eight organizations on food vouchers for Sydney's growing population of hungry families. One of the

organizations involved is the Churches of Christ Social Service Department.

For nearly 30 years concerned people from Sydney's major churches have knocked on doors to ask for tinned food. However, the cost of distributing tinned food to distressed families has increased enormously. Food vouchers are now the most economical way of providing the maximum food value to those who need it.

Target date for completing the delivery of the envelopes is Sunday December 13.

Right now the big need is for volunteers. In the past

most of the helpers have come from church youth groups. In its new form the Community Food Fund expects that many other groups will also participate.

The Community Food Fund urgently needs your help. You don't have to collect money. All you have to do is deliver letters to mail boxes in your area. Even one person delivery for a couple of hours will add significantly to the total.

Will you help too? For further information please contact The Smith Family Community Food Fund Secretary on (02) 331 4022 during office hours.

Meetings Commence at Bathurst

We have been advised that meetings commenced at Bathurst on August 9 with 3 families meeting for communion and fellowship. The meetings are in the home of Jenny and Warwick Gilbertson, 3 Cangora St., Wyndradini Heights. Meetings are to be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 3 p.m. Further information is available to interested people by phoning (063) 31 3398 or 37 1226. Prayers for this new work would be appreciated.

Editor in N.S.W.

● From page 3

formed the great barn of a newer basketball hall into an attractive Worship Centre. Carpeted throughout, the dais is by the centre of a side wall. Comfortable stackable chairs radiate in a semi-circle around it, in five blocks. People can see their brothers and sisters across the family table to which the Lord has called them all. Behind them are book tables, fellowship areas and displays. From one end at a servery they receive their after-church cup of tea and can sit or stand in comfort in fellowship with each other.

The service we attended was the nearest thing we have experienced to the ideal of true worship without being dreary, dull and boring. We have asked Barry McMurtrie to write it up for us in a future issue. In the next issue we will tell readers about Caringbah, Hurstbridge and Beverly Hills, and other things!

Correction

The August/September 1981 issue of the Australian Christian stated on page 16 that the Watermans Bay Camp (W.A.) "had to be sold". This of course is incorrect. The land is still owned by Churches of Christ in W.A. Inc., and has been leased to the Administrative Secretary of Churches of Christ in W.A. Inc. (Miss Merle Peacock) to develop the Kum Ba Yah Christian Conference and Recreation Centre.



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Service held in Coffee Shop

The Hamilton church (Vic) held their 7 p.m. Gospel service on Sunday, August 9 in their newly-initiated "Drop-In Coffee Shop."

The service included items, singing, a family focus, testimony, scripture workshop and message.

The Drop-In Coffee Shop has been initiated by the Hamilton church under the leadership of their minister Russell Wesley. The Coffee Shop is located a block away from the church in the Temperance Hall which is also the home of the Community Youth Support Service. Each Friday night when the Coffee Shop is open 8 p.m.-12 midnight a team of 6 unemployed young people are employed by the Coffee Shop team to work in the kitchen to provide hot food and drinks. This has been a way for the church to reach out to the unemployed, providing employment and

work experience and a reference when required. The profits from the sales of the food and hot drinks, which has been averaging \$60 a night, is divided equally amongst the kitchen staff.

On the opening night of the Coffee Shop 85 young people from the district supported the evening and on the following Friday nights each of the 13 tables have been occupied with over 50 young people in attendance.

Entertainment and stage spots have been provided by the drama group Covenant Players, Brian de Gruchy from Portland and local Christian artist, soon to be appearing is Timmy Williams a comedian recently returned from Hollywood.

This Christian Outreach Venture initiated by the Church of Christ now includes a team of young people from the Church of Christ, Baptist church and



Russell Wesley

the Uniting church with the support of all other churches, the local council, newspaper and radio station.

It is hoped that in the future the Drop-In Coffee Shop will be open during the day for the lonely and elderly of Hamilton and for another church service in the Coffee Shop.

Christmas Bowl receives Increased Support

The Christmas Bowl, the annual appeal of the churches to assist world development and fight poverty and suffering, has received over \$1.4 million so far this year. "We are pleased with this increased support from the churches which represents a 21 per cent increase on last year's income," said ACC Projects Officer, Thelma Skiller.

Up until June 30 over \$543,000 has been allocated to development projects and emergency assistance in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific. Major projects supported included the Churches' Auxiliary for Social Action program for small scale farmers and tenants in Tamilnadu State, India; a training program for the landless in Bangladesh, the WCC/CCA rehabilitation program in Kampuchea; assistance for refugees in the Horn of Africa and in Namibia; the Churches' relief program in El Salvador; and assistance to the pre-school program of the YWCA in Fiji.

El Salvador

A special appeal by the Australian Council of Churches in support of the work of the combined Protestant-Catholic relief agency in El Salvador has raised over \$10,000. The money has been used to purchase food, medicines and clothes to assist the 150,000 uprooted people inside El Salvador and the more than 100,000 who have fled to neighbouring countries.

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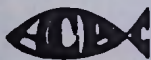
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WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1 How many people catch leprosy each week?

- a) 100
- b) 5,000
- c) 750

(It's surprising how many people think leprosy is a rare disease)



2 Which of the following statements is false?

- a) Leprosy can now be cured
 - b) Modern vaccines can prevent leprosy
 - c) Leprosy patients can become non-contagious
- (Think hard — medical research still has a long way to go)



3 How many people who have leprosy can get treatment?

- a) 50% of them
- b) Nearly all of them
- c) 20% of them



4 How many leprosy victims did The Leprosy Mission minister to last year?

- a) 300,000
- b) 8,000
- c) 105,000



5 How much does it cost to treat a leprosy patient for a year?

- a) \$720
- b) \$20
- c) \$1



6 Which is the best way of helping Christian outreach to leprosy patients?

- a) Turn over and forget about leprosy
- b) Use the enclosed envelope and send your own financial gift, asking for further details
- c) Regularly pray for the work — perhaps with a local group
- d) Arrange for a Leprosy Mission film or A/V to be shown at your church.

ANSWERS:

1. b) 5,000 — there are 15 million leprosy sufferers around the world today.
2. b) Unfortunately no effective vaccine has yet been discovered, but leprosy can be cured, and if treated in its early stages no physical disability results.
3. c) Only 1/5th of leprosy sufferers are receiving treatment despite the world-wide work of the UN, various government health units and The Leprosy Mission.
4. a) The Leprosy Mission treated over 300,000 patients in 1980 — but there are still many million untreated.
5. b) The average cost of treating a patient including provision of drugs, staff, and facilities, is \$20 per year.
6. Any of the last 3 answers is correct — please choose to act on at least one.



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MARSHALL Kathleen and Bill of Warracknabeal announce with pleasure the 40th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated at the Chown Memorial Chapel, September 20, 1941.

GOLDEN WEDDING

PERL — THOMPSON. Ray and Thelma married Sept. 12th, 1931, at Golden Square Church of Christ by Dr. James Cook. We give thanks to God for 50 years of happy married life.

DEATHS

BRIGGS, Hilda Florence. Passed away at the Home for the Aged at Bendigo on 15th August 1981. Aged 92 years. Loved sister of Ida (Mrs Ingham), sister-in-law of the late A. J. Ingham, loved aunt of Charles and Joy, Dorothy and Max and families. "Only memories now, until He comes".

LANGLEY. Arthur Howard. On Aug. 18th at Gisborne Hospital aged 77 years. Loved husband of Vi. Loved

father of Don, Colin, Elsa (Mrs Williams), David, Gladys (Mrs Wills), Shirley (Mrs Phillips). Father-in-law of Isabel, Jean, Barry, Barbara and Garth. Grandpa of eighteen grandchildren.

PAUL — Winifred. On August 24th at Fred Combridge House, Northcote. Win dearly loved wife of Ern, loving and devoted mother of Myrl and Colin, Hugh and Olwyn. Much loved Nana to Andrea and Greg, Michael and Lyn, Paul and Lyn, Ross and Pam, Glenda, Louraine (dec.) and Bruce, Jennifer and Peter, David and their families. Aged 86 years. In God's loving care.

RASMUSSEN Ada. On 15-8-81 at Mirridong Home for the Blind, Bendigo. Wife of Herbert George (Dec.). Loved mother of Herbert and Pat, Nathalie and Bob McDonald, Alda (Dec.). Grandmother of Alda and Russell Drever, Bruce and Nancy McDonald and Julie Rasmussen. Great grandmother of Luke, Cassia Drever, Jenelle, Scott, Grant McDonald. Forever with her Lord. On her 99th year. Late of Coburg.

TIPPING William (Jim) James. Aged 64. Passed away peacefully on the 28th August 1981 at Prince Henry's Hospital. Loving husband of Kathleen. Loving father of Evelyn (Mrs Duff), and James. Father-in-law of Roselyn. Grandfather of Craig, Cameron, Mark and Paul.

IN MEMORIAM

LEE Horace. Cherished memories of my beloved husband called home 3rd September, 1967. "In God's care". Edna.

THANKS

GRENFELL. Ted and Eileen Grenfell and family would like to express heartfelt thanks to our many friends who shared our bereavement in the passing of our brother Jim.

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YOUTH MINISTER

The Southport Church of Christ is expanding its Ministry Team and would welcome applications for the above position. Commencement date is negotiable. However, due to a rapidly expanding Ministry on the Gold Coast, an appropriate commencement date would be the end of '81 to early '82.

Preference will be given to applicants who are experienced in all facets of youth work including co-ordination, counselling, leadership training, teaching, pastoral care and visitation in youth areas as well as camping programmes.

The successful applicant will join our already vital Ministry for our Lord. Liaison with our present team (Minister, Asst. Pastor and Chaplain) will be essential.

Applications in writing stating personal details and experience should be forwarded before 1/10/81 to: The Secretary, Southport Church of Christ, P.O. Box 974, Southport, Qld. 4215.

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- Carpenter/handyman to assist in maintenance tasks on a voluntary basis.
- Suitably qualified minister to assist theological training at the Banmatmat Bible College.
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Papua New Guinea

- Adaptable person with agricultural training to act as Consultant in Agriculture for the Monomup Community Development Project.
- Suitably qualified ministers to assist in a teaching/pastoral ministry.
- Mechanic to maintain vehicles and outboard motors.

Indonesia

- Two married couples to work in partnership with the Churches of Christ/Christian Churches in establishing a program for the training of Indonesian pastors. Applications from Bible College graduates with initiative, leadership qualities and a gift for Bible teaching are invited.

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Mr. Ron McLean, executive Director,
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MARRIAGES

- Helen Zile to Garry Russell, Kedron, Qld.
- Bethwyn Donaldson to Brian Smyth, Scarborough, W.A.

DEATHS

- Reg Sparks, Box Hill, Vic.
- Mrs Ivy Sprake, North Essendon, Vic.
- Mrs Irwin, Mr Moore, Berwick, Vic.
- Mrs Dulcie Graham, Edwardstown, S.A.

OAKLEIGH

65th Anniversary
Sunday October 4th

- 11 a.m. Worship Service
Speaker Mr R. Brooker
- 1 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon
- 2.45 p.m. P.S.A. "The Glenaires"
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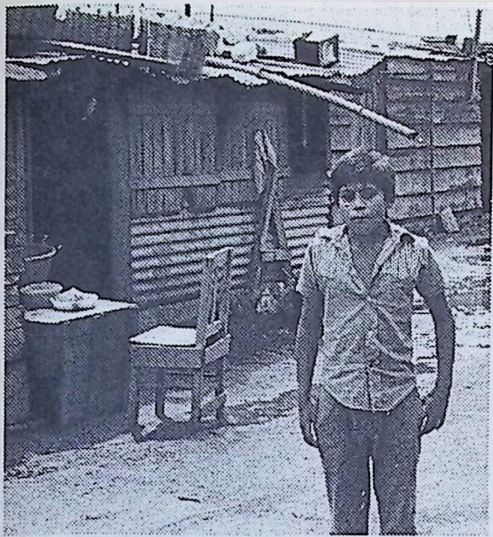
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SO

OWEN (Linc Rayner). Evening worship recommenced... Local people spoke to S.S. about their disabilities, for I.Y.D.P. ... S.S. teachers shared in seminar with Gerald Rose and Dawn Benjamin ... Church involved with Con Stamos teaching mission ... S.S. students took morning service using the "Search" theme... Planning underway for centenary celebrations ... Ladies at Northern Districts Women's Conf. in Balaklava. Rosalie Rofe and Marnie Pearce speakers ... Linc Rayner recently appointed full time ... J.C.E. held rally with Balaklava group.

MARION (G. Agnew). Mark and Celeste Pieratt of Covenant Players farewelled on return to U.S.A. and have been replaced by "O'Toole" and Laureli Boseman ... Evening services have had record attendances with July average over 140 ... Graham

Agnew speaker at both services during church's second anniversary ... Children's Choir formed called "Kids of the Kingdom" ... Adult choir continues ... Young man made decision ... Organ recital and family games night held ... Mrs Minter celebrated 93rd birthday ... Two members, Reg Brand and Colin Dredge, part of Brooklyn Park's interim ministry team ... Church hosted seminar for S.A. Ministers' Wives Assn. Guest speakers Dr. Rob Wight and David Marr ... Wednesday night family dinners have featured Kevin Harvey speaking on the future of marriage plus two performances by our drama group.

EDWARDSTOWN (Robert Combridge). During July mission to celebrate anniversary led by John Bond from W.A. Many commitments made ... Six baptised this month and seven welcomed into fellowship ... Claude

Cunningham agreed to stay as assistant minister for 1982 ... Church looking forward to Ray and Margaret Smith taking up ministry in 1982 ... Church saddened at the passing of Mrs Dulcie Graham.

VIC

NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn Schaefer). Jim Spiker (Strathmore) exchanged pulpits with Robyn Schaefer ... 55th anniversary held. S.S. presented items at service ... Seats padded with cushions from gift from late Vera McGregor ... E.W.F. guest speaker Syd Wheller an expert on native plants ... Mabel Reardon had coffee morning with A.W.F. to celebrate her 91st birthday ... Showbag packing again started this year ... Church saddened by the death of Mrs Ivy Sprake.

ECHUCA (A. V. Symes). 22 travelled to Swan Hill to attend Central and Northern District Conf ... Youth group

enjoyed night bowling at Shepparton ... K.Y.B. group begun under leadership of Lola Bailey ... Guest Speaker at Men's Fellowship tea Arthur Dunstan ... Gospel Sounds singing group featured at evening service ... Rev. Norm Long, Bible Societv. screened film and spoke of work in Australia.

REDCLIFFS (W. L. Keddie). Mission August 3-9 with Phil Stevens (Ern Stevens as song leader) an inspiration. Good contacts made ... C.W.F. street stall raised \$150 ... C.W.F. Bible Study held each week in home of Mrs L. Chislett ... Prayer breakfasts in members' homes on Saturday mornings.

NOBLE PARK (K. Clinton, L. Mayes). Annual meeting held ... 27th anniversary held. Ian Bunnett guest speaker ... Three elders appointed ... \$180 raised at C.W.F. street stall ... Letter-box drop in progress ... \$950 Temple Day offering ... Ken Clinton travelled to W.A. on College deputation.



COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE
ANNUAL OFFERING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th

VIC

HORSHAM (Wally Gibney). Evening Fellowship ladies held "bride parade" night. Dresses dated from 1922 to 1981 ... Brian Powell, Aust. Director of Middle East Christian Outreach, spoke at both services ... Ladies stocked local hospital shop July 30, 31. \$165 raised ... Open Air Campaigners shared regular church meetings for one week ... Working bee held to clean up chapel and S.S. hall ... Members helped with money and household goods for resettlement of Vietnamese families in Horsham. Members now helping mind Vietnamese children while parents attend English classes each day.

SUNSHINE (F. B. Alcorn, G. Payne). Prayer group shared in inter-church Bible study ... Nine attended Change the World School of Prayer ... C.W.E.F. held lamington drive ... \$50 sent to Darwin building appeal ... \$100 sent to African Enterprises ... W.R.O.C. seminar on The Caring Church ... \$130 raised by Pearl Alcorn and Nancye Aghan for 40 hour famine ... Chapel open for a day of

prayer ... Church begun 13 week W.L.C. Journey of Power in morning services ... Y.G. had lesson in carpet bowls with Bill Bruce ... Ladies sent off Aboriginal parcel ... Uniting Church baptism held in chapel ... Bill Burgess (Footscray) guest at C.M.F. tea ... Guest speakers Frank Richards, O.M., Andy Brown, slides of W.A. missions and Peter Brobell, Open Doors ... Ladies working bee made toys for Hospital Visitation C'ttee ... \$400 sent to Voice of the Gospel for radio broadcast to Russia.

QLD

GATTON (Ron Wilson). 26th anniversary celebrated in July with tea at 5.30 p.m. followed by inspirational rally. Over 100 attended. Musical program presented by Joy Tones and Jean Hawck and Jenny Green. Graham Hyman, Burleigh Heads, guest speaker. Ma Ma Creek combined with Gatton for all services. Visitors attended from Toowoomba and other churches.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks). S.S. anniversary on August 2. Theme was "Bullfrogs and Butterflies" based on musical of that

name ... Church conducted stall at local Lawnton Show. Christian, family and children's books on sale and information on the church given ... Cell groups on evangelism conducted over past five weeks in various homes ... Experimental contemporary service held Sunday evening August 9. Young Adults organised the service on "Christian marriage". Well attended.

TOWNSVILLE (R. Wall). Additions to membership by transfer of five people and three baptisms ... A number of visitors from the south included Ron Sansome (Conf. Pres.), Bruce Scott (President-elect) and Col Smith (Hospital and Prison Chaplain) ... Steve Sellers, Ozark Bible College U.S.A., spent three months working with minister. He shared in preaching, religious education in schools, Y.P. work, visitation and camps ... From 37 campers at June/July camp there were 32 decisions (many primary) ... S.S. shows enthusiastic growth ... Ladies work includes Bible studies, women's camp and creche ... Attendances have risen

steadily through the year with July averages of 71 in the morning and 44 at evening services ... Minister and family complete ministry in December.

VIC

BOX HILL (S. Downie). Keith Skillicorn speaker at gospel service and showed film "Lesotho" ... C.W.A.F. speaker, Jill Aldred from Gas and Fuel Co., Dam Atkinson, macrame ... Prayer and evangelism committee, C.W.E.F. ladies visited Glenalwyn Private Hospital ... Y.P.C.E. visited Oakleigh Guest Home ... Y.P.C.E. speaker Ed Ots, chaplain ... Artists "Carpenters People" — U.S.A., Dulcie Gray, Melbourne Children's Choir, Bond Servants, Helen and Don Skilbeck, G. Wigney.

EAST BENTLEIGH (J. Keatch). 21st birthday celebrated. Speaker W. Tabbernee C.O.B. Principal at 10 a.m. service followed by lunch. Mrs Myrtle Tomlinson celebrated her 95th birthday. P.S.A. included hymn singing and slides. Film "Cliff Richards ... Flip Side" screened at night.

39th FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

During 1980 the Family and Children's Ministry Committee in Victoria conducted a survey of Sunday Schools. This was done to find the state of Sunday Schools in the 200th year of the Sunday School movement. Recently I finally managed to compile the results of the survey for the committee.

Fifty-nine churches replied from all over Victoria including large and small. Of the replies 52 conducted Sunday Schools, 42 noted clubs for children either mixed or by sexes. 32 churches recorded the fact that they had time for children in services. Other activities such as playgroups, Christian Endeavor (4), Calisthenics etc., were also reported.

Most Sunday Schools operated at what would now be the traditional time of Sunday morning (originally they were held on Sunday afternoons). There were a couple of churches that were operating their Sunday School equivalents on weekday afternoons. Maybe some churches should consider altering the times of Sunday School to meet needs. The only problems with times that are during the week is the availability of many of the current teachers who are workers.

Interestingly most (33 out of 52) Sunday Schools were not operating in conjunction with any church service. Those that do reported that the whole church worshipped together for some 10-20 minutes and then the children were separated into classes. Current attitudes in Christian Education circles are more in favour of children being an integral part of any worshipping community and not separated. We need to do some research and closely look at this separation and whether it is for the best.

The statistics revealed that from those with Sunday Schools there were 2,150 pupils with 400 teachers. This is an excellent teacher/pupil ratio but probably only because in many cases the number of pupils are lower than hoped. I do not think the low pupil/teacher ratio is planned by many if any of our Sunday Schools.

Proportionally there were 470 children under the age of 5, 560 aged 5-8, 650 aged 9-12 and only 470 over the age of 12 (ages 12-15 — 190 pupils, 180 over 15).

The trend of falling off of numbers once children attend high school is noted. This is the age we have had problems retaining children for years and it is still the problem time. Do our Christian Education leaders know of ways to arrest this decline?

THE LAST WORD

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life.

—Sophocles

Now laser scans add grocery bills
Will millisecond timing ...
But never fast enough to match
Food prices' upward climbing!

—Marie Boehringer



An absent-minded professor was straphanging in the bus, with several packages under the other arm. A great look of apprehension came over his face.

The young man beside him said quickly, "Can I help you, Sir?"

"Yes, please," said the professor, with relief. "Hold on to the strap while I get my fare out."



"How long must a citizen live here before he can vote?" asked the new resident.

"What party" hurriedly replied the politician.



On the outdoor bulletin board of Riverdale Congregational (UCC) Church in Dayton, Ohio: "The minister told me to change the sign, so-I did!"



Wherever you are going, just be careful not to trip.

Remember that your tongue is wet, and liable to slip.

—Mary Hamlett Goodman



From a church worship bulletin: "Postlude: It Is Well With My Sole."



"One thing about our church; it comes right to the point!"



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