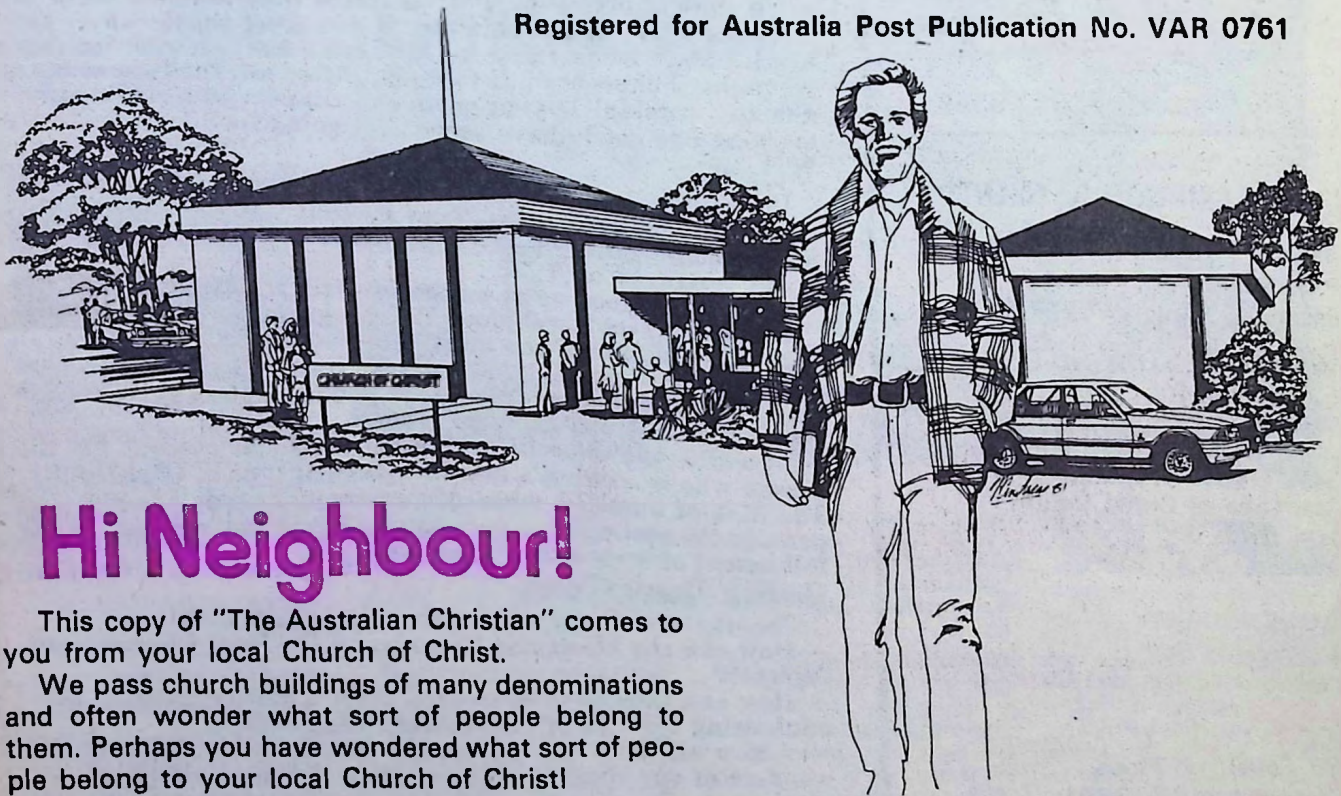


THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

August/September 1981

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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Hi Neighbour!

This copy of "The Australian Christian" comes to you from your local Church of Christ.

We pass church buildings of many denominations and often wonder what sort of people belong to them. Perhaps you have wondered what sort of people belong to your local Church of Christ!

So we thought that one good way of letting our neighbours know what we are on about was to let them have a look at our Australian church paper. To get to know one another better is, of course, the essence of good neighbourhood.

We hope that you will do us the honour of sitting down and relaxing and reading this gift copy of "The Australian Christian" right through.

If you are active in one of the churches of the community you will no doubt enjoy reading the magazine of another church. We have the magazines of all of the main denominations coming to our desk and get many bright ideas from them.

If you are not particularly active in any church, maybe you will be curious enough to enjoy reading some of the things that Churches of Christ are doing and thinking as part of the world-wide Christian church.

In any case, we would like you to know that because your local Church of Christ is a Christian church, it is committed to care about people at the point of their need. Their minister is only a phone call away.

God bless you!

THE EDITOR

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ON MY MIND

CAN TV BE THE CHURCH?

Graham Agnew

Graham Agnew is a graduate of the College of the Bible and until recently has been minister of the Brooklyn Park (S.A.) church. He served there for four and a half years before moving to the Marion church. He is married to Bev and they have two children.

I was absent from Church recently, due to illness, and on that morning I took the opportunity to watch some of the religious T.V. programs which are beamed across Australia each week.

What a variety of styles and formats there were — from the traditional "sock it to 'em" preaching of Jerry Falwell to the emotion-charged atmosphere of Clarke Taylor's "New Way of Living." As far as I could see just about every theological viewpoint was being catered for.

Positive Reaction

My overall re-action was positive, but I don't mind admitting I am yet to fully make up my mind about the value and long-term effectiveness of these programs.

On the one hand there is no doubt that some of them are fulfilling a worthwhile ministry by reaching people where they are (in their homes) and by attracting the attention of those whom local churches fail to reach. After all, the idea of being able to "worship" in your gown and slippers on a cold winter's morning has got to have something going for it!

Vitality

In addition to this, some of the shows have a vitality which is lacking in some churches. They present Christianity as being joyful and purpose-filled — a positive alternative to other lifestyles portrayed on T.V.

But is it all good news on the Electronic Church scene? For one thing, as I see it, religious T.V. programs have the potential of reinforcing one of the most heretical aspects of Australian folk religion — namely, that one's faith and religious beliefs are a very private matter. (And what could be more private than the seclusion of one's lounge room?)

Secondly, the church on T.V. is the ideal cop-out for the person who is seeking a non-involvement type of Christianity. The flick of a switch when one's personal needs are met and perhaps the posting of an occasional gift cheque may well be the full extent of a viewer's "discipleship."

Some Questions

The questions on my mind at the moment are these:

— How can the Electronic Church and the local Church work together?

— How can they be used to each other's mutual benefit, thus minimising the risk of unnecessary competition?

— Above all, how can we ensure that television, one of the wonders of our time, is being used in the most effective way possible to reach people with the message of Christ and His church?

Salvation . . . not by ritual,
ceremony, assent to a creed, or
denominational affiliation . . .
but by the liberating power of
the ever-present Christ.

**CHRISTIAN
PROJECTS
UNLIMITED!**

This Special Neighbourhood Issue of "The Australian Christian" is being paid for by Christian Projects Limited, a trust whose members are Christian business men and women, all members of Churches of Christ. They are also trustees of the Christian Building Trust which was set up many years ago for the investment of insurance commissions, the interest being used for special Christian projects including static building programs.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The trustees of Christian Projects Limited administer funds made available to them for special Christian Projects that would not otherwise be able to be undertaken. These include the "Neighbourhood Special", an annual overseas Scholarship in Christian Leadership, special equipment for aged persons' homes, the funding of regular in-service training for ministers and leaders, a publicity bureau, and experimental outreach programs in high density housing areas. While the name Christian Projects Limited satisfies legal requirements, in some senses the name should be Christian Projects Unlimited!

A MILLION DOLLARS

Christian Projects Limited is well on the way to a capital fund of a million dollars. It plans to support the mission of Churches of Christ all over Australia. As churches from across the nation have sent in their orders for the "Neighbourhood Issue" they have expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the vision of Christian Projects Limited.

**CHRISTIAN
PROJECTS
LIMITED
MAKES
CHRISTIAN
PROJECTS
POSSIBLE**



Playgroups are a vital part of the life of our church family at Mt Clear. Five groups with a total of 60 families provide a unique socialising opportunity for mums and children once or twice a week.

Each group has a convenor who is a church member and young mother able to fully identify with her group. Children up to 4 years learn to play and share with friends in a safe, happy environment under the supervision of their own caring mums who are always present. New items from the local toy library are borrowed regularly for the children to enjoy. Our tiny church hall has never known so much activity and good use!

For Mums too

Playgroups also provide an opportunity for busy mums to share a couple of hours away from home in a relaxed atmosphere. Our Mt Clear mums particularly enjoy the

chance to chat and "swap notes" at an adult level. Unending toddler-talk becomes a bit demanding without some variety and stimulation.

Bi-monthly night meetings for all the mums are organised by each group in turn as a further opportunity for learning, sharing and friendship. Guest speakers have included a dentist, kinder teacher and our minister. Group outings with the children to farms and playgrounds are always popular.

The Church at work

Through this dynamic link with the community the church is developing a healthy, caring and relevant image. Our convenors keep on their toes being sensitive to any special needs or sickness within the families.

Copies of our weekly church journal are always available for mums to read. Increasingly this playgroup program, which is our biggest church auxiliary, is helping people to discover a sense of belonging in the life and work of the Mt Clear Community Church.

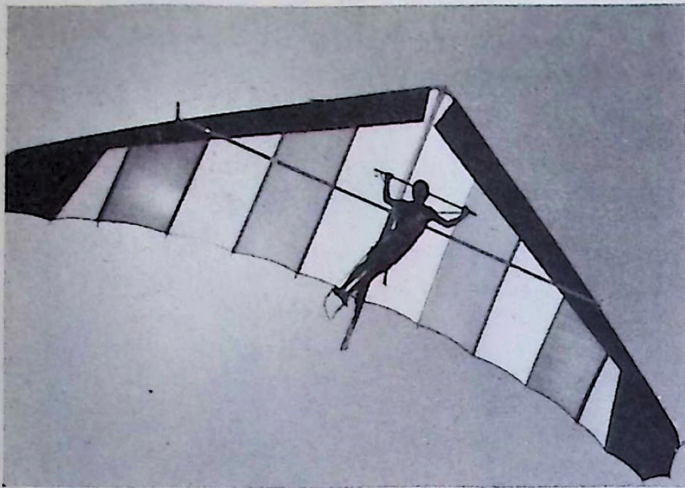
FREE COPY

This Special Neighbourhood Issue of "The Australian Christian" is larger than usual.

If any reader would like to receive a free copy of one of our usual issues we are happy to supply one.

Simply write to The Editor, P.O. Box 101, Essendon North, Victoria, 3041, requesting a sample copy and providing your name and address for mailing.

Hang Glider in Church



It was the evening service at the **Maylands (W.A.)** church. A fully equipped hang glider had been assembled to over hang the platform.

Glider Pilot

18 year old Mark is the glider's pilot. He described his love of hang gliding, the feeling of freedom, the beauty all round from 500 metres up. He shared how the glider works and "what keeps you up." He showed film taken from the glider's wing tip.

Meaning

As the service proceeded the congregation discovered

ways in which hang gliding provides a modern parable.

As the wings lift on invisible air currents so the invisible God upholds those who trust in him in life situations.

As the hang glider pilot is attached to his machine by two slender nylon ropes in which he must trust implicitly, so implicit trust in God ensures the survival of the person of faith.

As the pilot in launching off from cliff or hill commits himself totally to the wind current, and there can be no turning back, so the follower of Christ commits himself totally to the wind of the Spirit of God.

**In essentials, unity.
In non essentials, liberty.
In all things love.**

COME TO THE GOLD COAST AND WORSHIP AT THE TWEED HEADS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Florence St. (Phone 36 4231)



9 a.m. Junior church

10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Services

Cell groups, Kids Klub, Care 'n Share, Singles Club, Women's Fellowship.

Four telephone prayer chains for prayer requests.

C.O.C.O.A. IS SHARING

Famine relief, medical care, agricultural and other educational programs are part of the work of Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (C.O.C.O.A.)

Working through churches and Christian agencies C.O.C.O.A. enables you to share with others overseas.

Become a partner in sharing.

Cut out and send to:-

Aust. Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Bd.
P.O. Box 320 UNLEY, STH. AUST. 5061.

To show my deep concern for others overseas

I am enclosing \$..... for C.O.C.O.A.

Name

Address

Postcode

Kindly make cheques and postal money orders payable to the Overseas Mission Board.

Mark and Celeste

Last year we were doing a Good News Program at our **Marion church (S.A.)**. A young couple who shook our hands warmly at the door had an obvious American accent. In answer to our curiosity they said, "We are with the **Covenant Players**."

National Director

They were being very modest, for we learned that **Mark and Celeste** are the Australian directors of this world wide Christian theatre movement.

We have seen **Covenant Players** many times and they have been on programs with us. They ran the very successful **Drama Workshop** at the **Melbourne Federal Conference**. We like their work. Especially do we like the way that they create the most elaborate and colourful sets ... in the minds and imaginations of the audience.

Living by Faith

Only when asked will **Mark and Celeste** tell you that **Covenant Players** really live by faith. They get a pocket money minimum of \$20 per week. Income is what churches and groups

contribute, and sometimes that is precious little. But they pool their resources and on tour receive a lot of hospitality. Somehow the Lord gets them fed and clothed and housed and keeps their second hand mini-buses on the road.

How Did it All Start?

It all goes back to **September 12, 1963** when **Charles Tanner** a Christian actor and playwright decided to make his talents available to God in a special way. He found some other Christian actors who were non-materialistic enough to wander the countryside without guaranteed security. Since 1963 the **Players** have given over 500,000 performances in every continent and in the Pacific. There are 300 players in teams around the world ... covenanted to tell the story of Jesus to a world looking for the way. They have a repertoire of 900 plays from a minute long to 20 minutes.

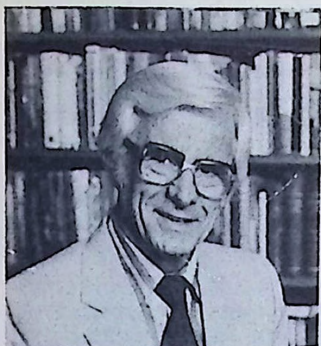
Mark and Celeste were members of one of our American churches before coming to Australia, where they are now active in the new **Marion church**.



Mark and Celeste Pieratt (left) with David and Sarah Kitch their deputies.

THE CHURCH IN ACTION

Christian Projects Ltd. and Christian Building Trust.



Gordon Stirling, Editor of "The Australian Christian" says that the partnership between Christian Projects Limited and "The Christian" in the Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship is one of the best things that has happened to our churches. Each year the Scholarship makes it possible for one of the best of our leaders to go overseas for special research, and to return to give the rest of us the benefit of that research and experience.



Jay Bacik was the first Australian Christian Foundation Scholar. His special field of research was in the area of singles and single parents.



Bob Smith is the current A.C.F. Scholar. His particular interest and research in the U.S.A. was the church's outreach to people in need in such places as the Bronx. He has studied the question of bringing the whole gospel to the whole person.

CHRISTIAN PROJECTS

Annual Overseas Scholarship.

1979 Jay Bacik (NSW). 1980, Graham Carslake (WA). 1981, Bob Smith (NSW) 1982, applications in hand.

In-Service Training

1980, the first leadership seminars held in Perth and Melbourne. 1981, Dr Ray Stedman and his team from the U.S.A. conducted leadership seminars in most states and included mainline churches. C.P.L. assisted by making it possible for Churches of Christ ministers and leaders to attend.

Community Services.

Accepted responsibility for \$18,000 for reconstruction of ovens in Victorian Churches of Christ nursing homes to effect annual savings of \$15,000 in catering costs.

Publicity Bureau

1980 made available copies of "The Australian Christian" to public libraries throughout Australia. 1981 accepted the cost for 45,000 copies of the Special Neighbourhood issue of "The Australian Christian" being distributed all over Australia.

Kensington Experimental Ministry

\$1000 a year for two years to support Ian Corlett's specialist ministry amongst the 6,000 residents of the Kensington high-rise complex.

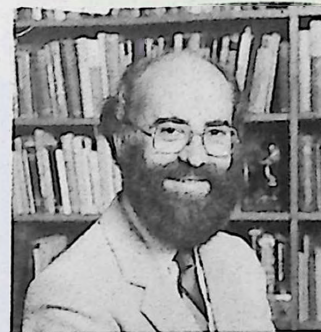
Memorial Projects

First annual grant of \$520 made available in 1981 to the College of the Bible Library.

Miscellaneous

\$9000 have been made available to other approved projects.

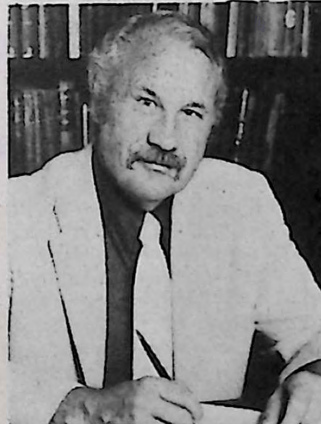
Between them the Trusts administer \$200,000 with an annual income of \$21,000. This year Christian Projects Limited accepted responsibility for the administration of a gift of \$4,000 for a continuing memorial. This will be part of the future pattern. The ultimate objective is a fund of \$1,000,000. The income derived will ensure that approved projects apart from normal Departmental activities, and thus not otherwise financially possible, can be undertaken. The thrust of the Trust adds a new dimension to the mission of Churches of Christ in the community. It welcomes your participation.



Dr Bill Tabbernee, Principal of the College of the Bible heads up a partnership between the College and Christian Projects Limited in making In-Service Leadership Training possible all over Australia, and in co-operation with faculty from our other Colleges. He says, The Trustees are doing a splendid job in providing much needed finance for creative enterprises in our churches, especially in In-Service Training for Ministers and Leaders. It has made the vision of in-service training a reality.



Graham Carslake was the second Australian Christian Foundation Scholar. His work was done at Fuller University in the U.S.A. He specialised in Church Growth and Small Group Dynamics.



In-Service Training programs have been held in W.A. and Victoria in 1980. The 1981 project helped to bring Dr Ray Stedman and his team from the Peninsula Bible Church in San Francisco for leadership training in several states and most denominations.

FRIENDS OF ALL NATIONS

Thursday 11-3p.m.



Friends of All Nations is the way in which the Hobart Churches of Christ reach out to migrants and refugees who are struggling to find friendship and acceptance
Thursdays, Eleven to Three

It all happens on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At eleven, English classes are held. From one to three there is shared lunch round a common table with chatting and friendship making, followed by crafts and other activities.

Help and Friendship

The voluntary workers are led by Bev Holland with craft instructors such as Elaine Tree. Assistance is given to migrants and refugees in finding employment, finding accommodation and furniture and household goods, in shopping, medical visits and in general integration into community life.

Meet Irma

Irma is a Czech who has been in Australia for three years. Shirley Morrow writes of her, "A concerned person asked us to visit Irma as she was very unhappy and depressed. Visits followed and she was invited to the Thursday programs. Those first weeks were traumatic for her. Lack of language, inability to cope with the group, even relating one to one, provided such terrible barriers for her. But Irma badly needed and wanted friends and she persevered. Over the months Irma has just blossomed before our eyes.

No Pressure

No pressure was put on Irma in any way whatever to come to church. Our caring is unconditional . . . no strings attached. But Irma believed that she saw Jesus in the people around her, and that was how she began to learn that Jesus loves her and that she is important to him and to us.

Irma and her husband Carl, and their teenage son, now regularly share in the church family, are members of a small group, delight us with their music, and generally enrich us with their beautiful company.

From Admiralty House

Admiralty House, Darwin, is the residence of the Officer in Command of the R.A.N. Northern Division. The present occupants are Captain Ron McKenzie and his wife Margaret.

Ron and Margaret are members of the Darwin church. Ron writes: "Margaret and I moved to Darwin early in 1980. At our first Sunday morning service we were warmly welcomed. Although small in numbers the warmth of the welcome and the love made us feel immediately at home.

Over the last 18 months the congregation has steadily increased and plans are now completed for the church building. It is not by accident that our church members have many of the talents necessary to plan and build something worthy of Christ in

the Capital of the North. Our Church has risen to the challenge.

We thank all members of

Churches of Christ throughout Australia for their continuing encouragement and support."



Linton Farris and Arthur Heyhoe taking levels on the Darwin church block.

"I Put it Off for a Month"

Christine Cameron is a severely physically handicapped spastic in the Seven Oaks (Q.) Spastic Centre. Christine is a very keen Christian. A couple of years ago she gathered some other interested people together at Seven Oaks and in a circle of wheel chairs they set themselves up as a Bible study group.

Hard Questions

Inevitably the studies raised questions which were fired at Len Jelaco, a staff member, who was known to attend the Centenary Church of Christ nearby. But the questions got too tough for Len and he sought out Wal McDowell, one of the Centenary elders to help.

Wal says, "I put it off for a month. How could I talk to a group of spastic people?" In the end he went, and has been going once a week for the last two years, and is having the time of his life.

Sharp and Alert

Wal reports that most of the people in the group of over 25 cannot walk and most cannot speak very clearly, although they understand each other very well. Yet they are sharp in their thinking, alert in their minds, eager in their desire to learn and vigorous in their discussion.

Christmas and Easter

At Easter and Christmas, at their request they are

conveyed to the Centenary church, wheel chairs and all, for a special service that they arrange and in which they participate. Traditionally Christine Cameron, their leader, prays the opening prayer ... with much difficulty. Here is her recent Easter prayer.

Jesus, you walked with us on earth for such a short time, and your teaching life was even shorter. However, in those few short years you had so much to show us. You proved to us as no one else could, that there is another world waiting for us. We thank you for spiritual healers through whom your work and continued love for us is ever present. Please help us not to run in fear of what we do not understand. As we have faith in you and trust in your love for us, your pure spiritual beauty will reach the soul of man and he will see that shining light which lights the path to your kingdom. And thank you God for caring for us. AMEN.

Wal McDowell writes, "To me it is inspiring to talk with these intelligent, uncomplicated people whose minds are open to the truth, and to note their appreciation of anyone who will take the trouble to show that they care, and who will have the patience to listen while they struggle desperately to say something hidden deep in their hearts."



At the service.

It Took Him 64 Years



Dick Kyrwood left home at 15 into a life of work, soccer, weight lifting and speed car racing, and some problem drinking! But he thought that life was pretty good ... except that underneath he knew he was looking for something and did not know quite what.

Death

His wife's death drove him into intense activity in trying to forget. The "looking for something" continued. He married again happily, but the "inner longing" was still there. He did the rounds of churches and sects and then decided to try Buddhism, which worried his wife. She rang the Bible Society for help and they referred her to Graham Carslake at the Warwick (W.A.) church.

Discovery

Dick tells it this way. "The name of Graham Carslake from the local

Church of Christ was given to her and she rang him. Graham called on us and shared his own faith as well as the Christian faith as a whole. No pressure was applied but after a few visits I had a strong desire to go along to his church. This was the turning point in my life. Here was a body of warm hearted Christians, practising Christianity. I then attended a home Bible study where over a period of many months questions and doubts were resolved. I felt the call of Christ, and after about 12 months I answered that call. At the age of 64 I became a Christian for the first time.

Light

I thank God for that little phone call that changed my whole life. Sometimes I feel sorry that this did not happen years ago. However the plumbing of the depths has allowed me better to appreciate the light."

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Every local Christian congregation is a Church of Christ, whatever its denomination.

All the local Christian congregations in the world make up the world-wide Church of Christ.

Those churches calling themselves Churches of Christ do not claim to have any exclusive right to the name Church of Christ. They simply call

themselves what a local Christian congregation is, a Church of Christ.

They would be very happy if every local Christian congregation called itself a Church of Christ and said so on its notice board.

It might be a bit confusing for church people, but a lot less confusing for the rest of the community!

The will of Christ ... That Christians live together in unity.

The Story of the Little Leather Cross



Henry Butcher making the crosses.

It was a balmy Honolulu evening and I was entering the large hall where the night meetings of the World Convention of Churches of Christ were being held. A young man placed round my neck a leather thong that held a little leather cross. I found the other 5000 Conventioneers who were there that night were also each given a similar cross.

Rough Cut

With the cross was a little "flier" that told me "this cross was rough cut by hand as a reminder that Christ did not die on a gold plated cross between two candles on an altar, but on a rugged cross between two thieves on a hill." It went on to say the little leather cross was an "empty cross," reminding us Christ is not dead but alive and giving his life to all who want it.

The message went on to tell me the cross round my neck was not mine to keep. It was to be given to the first person who commented on it. That first person was a grandson of mine back in Australia.

The Henry Butcher Story

I thought there had to be a story behind the little leather cross, so I wrote to the Henry Butcher whose name appeared on the flier. And there was a story.

Henry Butcher is now 70 and a member of the Bakersfield Church of Christ in California. He was an insurance officer and his hobby was leather work.

One night he was reading in his Bible the story of the cross, and again was deeply moved by what it meant to him of the love of God. A strong urge came to him to make some leather crosses, that being worn, might help to spread a little wider "the story of the cross." He made a rough pattern from a piece of jam tin and cut out the first 50 crosses, and then wondered what to do with them.

The New Generation

He remembered the next Sunday the New Generation Youth Choir was to be singing in his church. So

Henry presented each member of the choir with one of his crosses, inviting them to give them away to the first persons who commented on them. He encouraged the young people to remind those who received the crosses they represented the love of God. From then the idea caught on and Henry Butcher has made over 300,000 little leather crosses.

All Over the World

He now uses an old press he found in a junk yard and the Men's Fellowship in his church supplies the fine quality cow-hide he uses. The crosses have gone to every continent and some have gone to Russia. The Bakersfield radio station posts them free of charge to any who write for them.

Henry Butcher has retired now and spends all his time making and mailing the crosses and reading his incoming mail that tells a thousand stories including some about people who have come to know God because first of all they asked the innocent question, "What is that little leather cross you are wearing?"

Do You Want a Little Leather Cross?

Henry Butcher has sent us a hundred of his crosses. They are for the first readers who write for them. Please send a stamped and addressed envelope with your request to Gordon Stirling, 79 Underwood Rd., Ferntree Gully, 3156.

The way to church union is for Christians to come together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discover from the New Testament what is the intention of Christ for the contemporary church.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

FACES IN CHURCH

To the Editor,

Our church has just started a library, mainly from books given to us by our previous minister, wanting to lighten the load of his interstate removal costs. So the wife and I joined. Most of it is too high-brow for me, but I was attracted by one title. It was "South India Diary" by a Bishop Lesslie Newbegginn of the Church of South India. It sounded more like action, which I can handle, than theory, which I can't. And it was.

In the book he tells of an experience of baptising 25 families in a large concrete tank, used as a village cattle trough. That was interesting. But I was more interested in his comment about the people who were baptized. He describes how they came together later in the day for a service. He says, "The glow of their baptism was still on their faces". Then he goes on, "The apostle's words, 'We are buried with Christ in baptism,' struck home to every heart. How thankful I was that we gave them the full act of immersion, that like as Christ was raised from the dead, so we also should walk in the new life."

I thought about that glow on their faces and then I thought about my face in church. I began to wonder what my face says to the preacher. Sometimes I think it says, "Come on interest me if you can!" Then I thought about Peter Swinsen's face. It would buck up any minister discouraged by a sea of faces like mine. Peter drinks it all in as though he had paid \$1000 for the privilege. At least that's what his face looks like. Perhaps it still has the glow of his baptism on it.

Hoping you are the same,

TERTIUS

Children Mix it with Elderlies at Mayfield



An interesting partnership was created in 1978 at Mayfield (N.S.W.) to set up a Senior Citizens Friendship Centre. It includes 50 elderlies who are handicapped, need rehabilitation, who are shut in, or who have variously been brought to the attention of community social workers.

A more interesting partnership is that which has developed between the senior citizens and children from the Mayfield East Primary School. The children visit the Senior Citizens Friendship Centre, and once a year present a concert. Some of the senior citizens return the compliment by making weekly visits to the school to help with remedial reading and English, especially with migrant children. The elderlies feel useful again and the children get an extra set of grandparents.

Church in Trades Hall to Celebrate Centenary

The Congregationalists sold their building to the Trades Hall, way back at the turn of the century in Toowoomba (Q.). It was not until 1929 that the sound of Christian worship was heard in it again. That was when it was bought by the Church of Christ.

Centenary

The Toowoomba church was founded in 1882 and celebrates its centenary next year. Since 1929 two other churches have been established in the city and there are five ministers. Between them and with the co-operation of the Social Service Department they run Mylo House a home for the aged.

The Madang Gang

The Toowoomba churches have recently sponsored a work party to build a chapel in Madang, New Guinea. They call themselves the Madang Gang.

The churches conduct an annual family camp at Caloundra. This was the first family camp in Australia.

The Open Door

Another "for-others" program is the regular Thursday "Open Door" when 60 elderlies and shut-ins are brought to the Centre for fellowship, talking, crafts and other creative activities. Some of them heard of the churches' "Know your Bible" program held in the afternoon and elected to stay on to it.

A Stall in the Flea Market

The Flea Market at the Annual Show saw dozens of volunteers handing out helpful literature to passers by; some 5000 pieces produced and printed by the church. Many stopped and chatted because they were "Fans" of Bruce Armstrong, minister of the Margaret St. church whom they hear regularly on the 4WK Talk Back.

Toowoomba churches have sent 21 young people into the ministry and missionary service. The longest serving of them is Aileen Draney (22 years in P.N.G.) granddaughter of one of the founder members.



They Were Boat People



Today Huyhn Van Thiet has a secure job and his children are assured a good education. Two years ago, Thiet and his family were four of the world's millions of refugees. They had decided to take the risk of a perilous escape, not knowing what the future would hold. Danger and the threat of death dogged their way. Having spent some months in a refugee camp off the coast of Malaysia, they were accepted by the Australian Government for resettlement, sponsored by the **Canberra Churches of Christ**, through the **Indo-China Community Resettlement Scheme**.

A new country, a new language, a new way — a new home. The Huyhn family had

not been beaten by their experiences. Learning English, filling forms, enrolling young Thach for school (Kim is still patiently waiting), the search for employment, negotiating accommodation — all these Thiet and his wife, Van, took in their stride. They also made many new friendships with the people of the **Canberra Churches of Christ** who were assisting them.

Thiet shares a deep conviction that it is God who has helped his family — first through enabling him to have courage through the ordeal of his family's journey from his homeland, and then through the support and encouragement of those who assisted in his resettlement.

What is Fellowship?



Care and Share Group, Darwin.

Fellowship is an often overworked word and sometimes used as a rather poor and superficial substitute for the real thing. But Dianne and Peter Feenstra discovered the real thing in the rapidly growing **Darwin Church of Christ** which they joined just a year ago.

They write:

Fellowship means caring.
Caring enough to listen.
Caring enough to speak.
Caring to welcome strangers.
Caring enough to say we missed you.
Caring enough to encourage you to be a real part of the church.
Fellowship is caring for one another.
Fellowship is the Darwin Church of Christ.

People Need Friends

Trevor Giles



We all need friends!

This was the basic thought which initiated the concept of the "Friendship Centre" at the **Church of Christ, Blackwood, S.A.**

The centre launched its program in 1980 with the motto, "Somewhere to Go, Someone to Meet and Something to Do." Tuition is free. There is a minimal cost for materials, depending on the activity and a donation of 25¢ is charged for tea, coffee and biscuits. A trading table where people donate and buy goods meets the necessary operating costs.

The idea of low costs arose from the theory that many people pay high registrations for courses when all they want to do is to get out and meet friends. Others want to get out for the same reasons but cannot afford the costs.

We, as a church, had a goldmine of talented people who have been very willing to offer their services freely.

The centre includes activities such as indoor bowls, darts, card games, scrabble, macrame, wool spinning, crocheting, patchwork and leather work. A 15 minute break for afternoon tea mid-way through the program gives opportunity for announcements, birthday greetings and a 'thought for the day'.

Two highly successful one-day bus tours have been features with the bus being filled to capacity on each occasion.

Beyond the organised program a vast army of caring people give support to members who face ill-health, bereavement or other needs.

The age range is from young mothers (and a young father) to people in their eighties.

The program runs from 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. each Wednesday at the church. Numbers have doubled from 30 to 60 in less than a year.

People need friends!

You cannot "go to church". We are the church. The church may gather for worship. But the people are just as much the church when they are getting ready to drive or walk to worship, and when they are having lunch afterwards. Church does not only happen on Sundays. The church is scattered during the week in homes, offices, shops, factories, schools and hospitals. On Sundays the church gathers for worship, fellowship, learning, and inspiration. This makes the church more effective when it scatters.

“Amazing Grace”



As I am writing our family is awaiting the birth of another child, Dianne and I have a boy, Christopher (six) and a girl, Fiona (two).

Searching for answers

Looking at the world as it is, we were concerned about our children's future. We wanted them to gain the most out of life. This fact, plus the loss of our second child, sent us searching for the answers to life and to coping with life's problems.

I was employed then as a representative of a wholesale company. In this position I came into contact with the Churches of Christ Homes on the Gold Coast, and with a very dedicated team who worked in them, with Phil Kennedy as Administrator.

Needs not met . . . at first!

About 18 months ago I was becoming involved in what was called "New Age Meditation". This did not meet my needs and only confused me. In search of truth, I started asking questions. I spoke to Phil, who introduced us to his wife Lyn, and to Noel Newton the Pastor and his wife Trish. Soon the answers we were searching for we found in Jesus Christ as "the way and the truth and the life."

We accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour in December 1980 and were welcomed into the fellowship of the Southport church. Since that time our faith has pulled us through many situations.

A real change

I now feel different; much more patient with other people, accepting them for what they are, not as I think they should be. I feel more compassionate towards them. I place material things in their right perspective (very

Gordon Blamire

low!), and seek not my will but God's will for my life.

With our new-found love for Jesus, our family life is more harmonious and we are enjoying new friends.

I would say that people who knew our family before we came to Christ would notice many more changes.

(Editor's note: The church Gordon refers to is in Scarborough St., Southport, on the Gold Coast. It is the fastest growing Church of Christ in Australia. As most Australians visit the Gold coast at some time in their lives, we suggest a visit to their services next time you are taking the sun and surf up that way.)

Broken Hill Optimistic

For the past five years services have been held in the hall, which was renovated to suit requirements. This move became necessary when the old church became structurally unsafe. The hall lends itself for seating in a semi-circle arrangement for 100 people and is air-conditioned. Although this is meeting requirements at present, a Building Committee is investigating other alternatives.

Life within the church consists of numerous weekly Bible studies, one of which is a young people's study, with 25 attending. Bible School meets on Wednesdays and five teachers share the task of teaching the 25 children. Christian Women's Fellowship meets once a month in various homes.

Membership of the church is 43, 10 being under 21 years. The church is confident that God will add to their numbers in the future.

The New Testament . . . the sure guide for the faith and life of the Church.

When a Bus is not a Bus?



During my Presidential visit to Broken Hill I was introduced to a very mobile Youth Group. On Friday and Saturday nights a great lumbering double decker 'bus', comfortably full of young people, meanders around the City. Once on board I was greeted, my hand was stamped (no tickets on this 'bus'), and made to feel welcome by a number of the church young people. The bottom floor of the 'bus' is carpeted, with the seats around the sides. At one end there is a bar doing a lively trade in coke. A P.A. system attached to a tape recorder

provided music, and one could, for a small sum, have one's favourite. On every circuit the 'bus' stopped at the Post Office for Y.P. to get on or off. You should see what it has done for the church!!! Young people everywhere . . . and keen to share their faith. By the way, to overcome a technical hitch the 'bus' is registered as the only 8 ton two-storey panel van in Australia. That sort of ingenious thinking could only happen in Broken Hill!

— Bob Clymer (Past President, S.A. Churches of Christ.)

Percussion for Elderlies



Twice a week at the Everard Park (S.A.) Rest Home they "whoop it up" with their own percussion band, with lots of enthusiasm and singing.

It is all part of the new program to enable elderlies (some in their eighties and nineties) to feel that life is still good. The program includes a well attended "keep fit class" run by a retired minister. They may

not be able to touch their toes, or even to see their toes, but they can do a lot of other things that stimulate and strengthen, along with having fun.

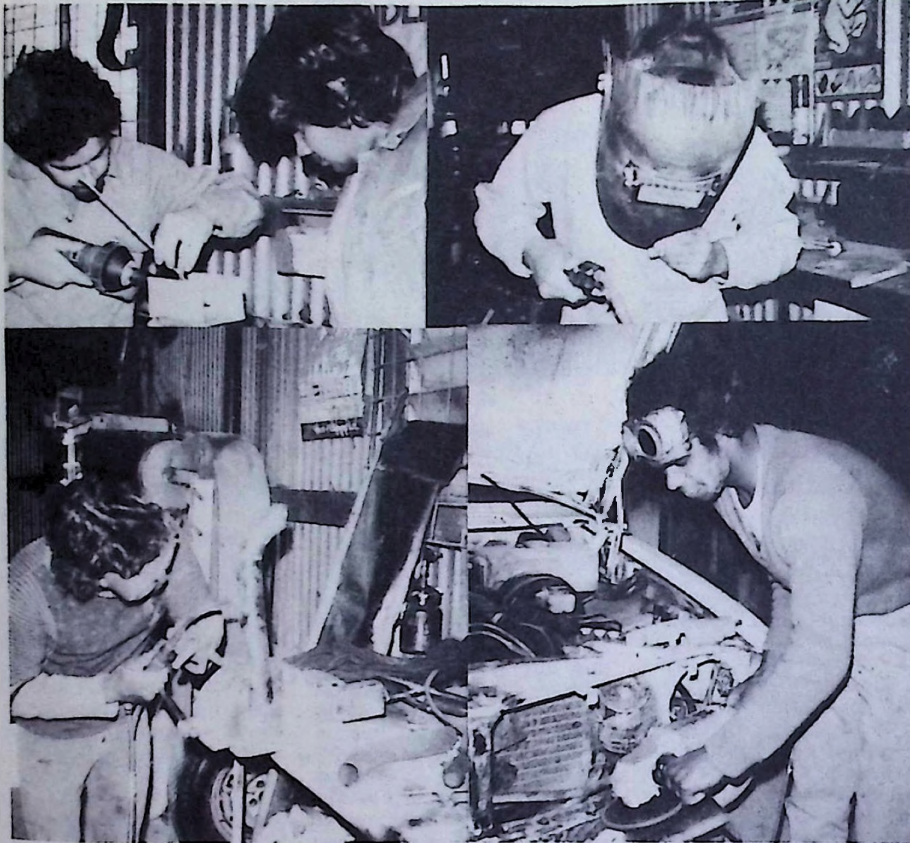
Arts and crafts cover everything from tapestry and painting to copper craft and macrame. There is even china painting, the oldest enthusiast being 85 years.

But most popular of all is the percussion band!

**Government — Church
Co-Operation at
Esperance (W.A.)**

Russ and Bette Rogan run a motor car workshop at Esperance. It is a co-operative venture by the State Adult Aboriginal Education Scheme and the

Churches of Christ Aborigines Mission Board. The young men learn the trades of panel beating, spray painting and welding. The workshop is a well patronised institution in Esperance.



**CHRISTIAN PROJECTS LIMITED MAKES
CHRISTIAN PROJECTS POSSIBLE**

**Who are
Churches of
Christ?**

Some have wondered what sort of people worship in the building down the street with its notice board labelled Church of Christ. A free booklet entitled "Who are Churches of Christ" may be obtained from Vital Publications, 5 Atkins Ave., Glen Iris, Vic. 3146.



**FREE
BOOKLET**

I wish to obtain a free copy of your booklet, "Who are Churches of Christ".

Name:

Address:

..... P/code:

(My name and address will be kept confidential.)

**NO CREED
BUT
CHRIST**

**Christine Keeps
Australia
Beautiful**

The very attractive graphic design student was given the assignment of interviewing the Director of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, so that she could undertake a class project on a K.A.B. promotion idea.

She did not tell the Director that she was so deaf that lip reading was essential for her communication. She did not need to. She managed. Her finished design won the 1980 C.A.R.E. Award and gained her top marks in her final year at R.M.I.T. This year, printed in full colour, her design is in every school in Victoria, helping to keep Australia beautiful.

Christine had been frustrated at a high school that was not physically or emotionally geared to help her so she went to "Tech". By mistake she was placed in the art class instead of the sewing class, and found her vocation.

Christine is an active member of the Cheltenham (Vic.) church. A few months ago she married Peter Eddy.

HAPPY FAMILIES

Page 13

As children we used to play a card game called "Happy Families". There were the butcher's family, and the grocer's and the baker's and the farmer's and others. After shuffling and dealing, the families were well mixed up among the players. The game consisted of a series of swaps in order to get the families together again, which we did with great enthusiasm.

Not Really Together

But there is more to getting families together than mere physical re-arrangement. Families may crunch their cereal together, go to work and school together in the same car, come home together to the same meal, watch TV together, and go to bed in the same house, and still not be together.

Some families without togetherness explode and break up. Others stay together physically without being together.

Tattooed and Pregnant

A young girl ran away from home and got herself tattooed and pregnant as an unconscious protest against a family that took her for granted. The mother's success compulsiveness did not give her time to be a mother to the girl. The girl was left to care for her younger sisters who seemed to get all the breaks. Mother, of course, paid generously for her lack of togetherness with her girl, with dresses, cosmetics, shows, records, the lot! The girl would have swapped most of it for a day's shopping with mum, or a yarn on the side of the bed about boyfriends and life and all of the things that mothers and girls talk about when they are together.

Success and Failure

A fourteen year old lad had learned from his perfectionist father that he was a failure. There was always something wrong with every thing the boy did, however hard he tried to please. So the boy found his success in breaking and entering. He learned from a comic how to get back door keys out and had keys to half of the shops in town. His modesty in their use was commendable. He was caught when he lifted a bottle of soft drink from the back of a shop, drank it, and took the empty bottle round to the front for a refund. Amongst his peers he was a hero. He would sooner have been a hero in his father's eyes and be together with his dad.

What Keeps Families Together?

The obvious question to ask is how to keep a family together more than just physically. Money and

entertainment and TV and things to own and gadgets may be useful, but they are no substitute for what keeps families together. Families are together in so far as their deep feeling needs are being met in the family. Those needs are:

to feel loved and wanted and accepted, **all of the time**;

to be able to give love to others without every being knocked back or pushed away;

to feel that one is worthwhile, successful, wanted (the need for encouragement);

to feel trusted and responsible a bit beyond one's trustworthiness and maturity (the need to feel that people have faith in us even when we let them down sometimes);

to feel free enough inside to be able to talk openly about deep feelings, hurts, hopes, desires, problems, resentments, aggressions, ideals, with people who matter to one.

Mum, dad, the kids, grandma and Uncle Jack all have these same needs. And one does not wait until the children reach their teens or until the marriage reaches flash-point before asking if every one's needs are being met in a growing togetherness in the family.

There is only one problem. That is, how can I get myself, let along the rest of the family, to be conscious of the continuing fulfilment of all of our needs? The answer is that it is going to be very difficult, unless we recognise **one other basic need**. When that need is being met in families, all of the other needs seem to be more easily met. It is the need for God.

Not Becoming Religious

I am not suggesting that we "get all religious" or that we stop being ourselves. I am only suggesting that God has made us in such a way that we are incomplete without him.

It is possible for us to be aware of being open to him all through the day. If we want it to happen we can ask him to blend his spirit with ours in such a way that we become need-fulfilling people.

Any family that is not really together needs God. Any person who is not "getting it together" needs God. To recognise our need for God and to do something about it is to find all of life, including family life, coming together.

Every Family a Happy Family

And if we are not too sure what God is like, then we have a good look at Jesus in the Bible, because he came to show us God who wills that every family should be a happy family, if they really want it that way!

House Church Explosion!



Architect's concept of centre and manse.

Don and Bev Smallbone built their family home in Castle Hill (N.S.W.). They could have driven to Epping Church of Christ a few miles down the road. But some neighbours wanted a church and a Sunday School in the new district. There was no available hall, so church and Sunday School were held in the Smallbone home until 70 attenders became just too much. It had exploded!

Team Work

So five other Churches of Christ co-operated and helped the Castle Hill church to put up an all purpose community service building. Paul Cameron was called to be the minister with Kevin Crawford, Keith Farmer and Don Smallbone sharing in a team program with him.

Creative Living

They set out to canvass the community to see what the local residents needed besides



Class in the Smallbone attic.



The new church community centre.

the Sunday School and church services. The outcome of their survey was the setting up of a weekday Creative Living Program, running day and night in the community service centre. In the program local residents can elect to be part of such groups as Keep Fit, Dressmaking, Painting, Psychology for Life, Home Management, Current Affairs, Indoor Bowls and Know Your Bible.

Incidentally the Smallbones are pleased to have their house back again!

There are many denominations, but only one church. It consists of all people who believe in Jesus Christ and follow him in obedience.

Bus Ministry

Steve Downie



Box Hill was a typical church in as much as it used to have 300 Sunday School students every week. Those were the days when children crammed into inadequate facilities, never had enough teachers — and then came the slump.

Down to 30

Television, sport, cars and outings all competed with Sunday School attendance. It dropped down to 30. But there were people thinking and praying and researching and they hit on the idea of a Bus Ministry. Within a week

of hiring two buses and visiting the community the attendance was over 100.

Sixth Year

The Bus Ministry is now in its sixth year of operation. The story doesn't end there, because it not only changed the attendance roll, it changed the kind of person now coming to the church. It changed the methods of teaching and challenged the church to be involved with human need in Box Hill — 3000 divorced in this community alone — and it meant the community regarded the

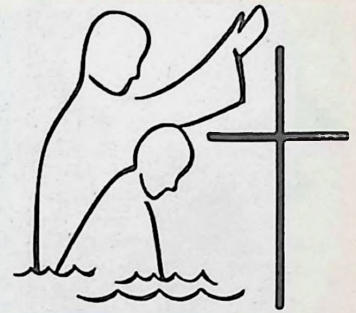
Box Hill Church of Christ as a credible place to go.

New members in the church now reflect the kind of people who live in Box Hill and can be directly attributed to the Bus Ministry.

Now Owns a Bus

The church now owns a bus which is for the use of youth and senior people in the church and it is one of the best advertisements for the church at Box Hill. If you ever want to go to church or Sunday school to Box Hill Church of Christ, a bus will pick you up at your door step and get you home to the door again.

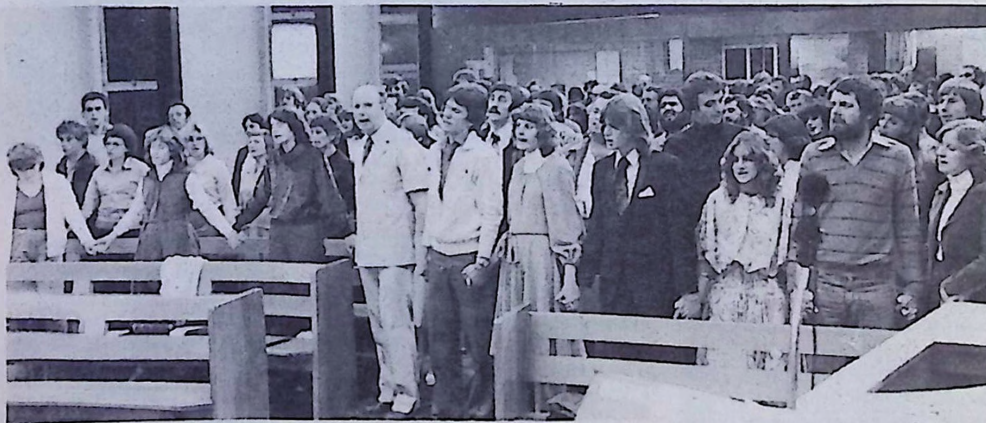
BAPTISMS



● Bruce McKenzie, David Emmerston, Portland, Vic., ● Linda Mudge, Graham Mudge, Goolwa, S.A. ● John Stilo, Noble Park, Vic. ● Ruth Blucher, Jane MacDonald, Julie Peard, Tracey Peterson, Alison Wright, Mrs Evelyn Peterson, Glen Waverley, Vic. ● Geoffrey Jenkins, Sue Bryce, Carl and June Herft, Phillip Brown, Dandenong Vic. ● Desrie O'Leskin, Darren Baensch, Adrienne Rudolph, Stuart Rudolph, Merran Reed, David Dilger, Mrs Sharon Dilger, Steven Carter, Mark Bury, Springvale, Vic. ● Lyle Thomson, Mr and Mrs Nev Pieper, Mr and Mrs Don Pieper, Acacia Ridge, Qld. ● Jenny Smith, Lynne and Keith Rutherford, David Hemer, Brooklyn Park, S.A.

● Neil Page, Julieanne Amos, Rob Willshire, Scott Ninnis, Ken and Lois Saunders, Marion, S.A. ● Leonie Brooking, Sunshine, Vic. ● Karen Leathwaite, Charles Nash Kedron, Qld. ● Kathie Dixon, Angela Dixon, Malvern, Vic. ● Ross Kissock, Janine Kissock, Marion, S.A. ● Jan Ellis, Blackwood, S.A. ● Linda Cole, Thornbury, Vic. ● Mrs Sue Rodgers, Jenny Driver, Peter Baldry, Glen Moonen, East Kellor, Vic. ● David Gearside, Roslyn Gearside, Vanessa Gearside, Debbrah Clark, Adam Kirkham, Elizabeth Messenger, G. Wood, Peter Hurrey, Sharon Timms, Carole Duckett, Adam Lloyd, Stephen Russ, Gregory Russ, Catherine Russ, P. Higgins, David Purnell, Leeanne Beyer, Nambour, Qld. ● Maree Butler, Bruce Rock, W.A. ● Lil Bowman, Chadstone, Vic. ● Margaret Dowrick, Phillip Shedy Mount Clear, Vic. ● Julie Birkett, Nunawading, Vic. ● Mrs Judy Juniel, Benjamin, Juniel, Reservoir, Vic. ● Warren Smith, John Barnard, Alan Kearley, Jenny Moyes, Chatswood, N.S.W.

Vesper with a Difference



To say the least, church vespers are often fairly dreary ends to an otherwise bright and joyous service.

The Ipswich (Q) church service is crowded on Sunday nights. It is always run as a celebration with congregational participation. And they finish on a high note of fellowship.

Following the last hymn, a short word of practical encouragement is given to those present. Then as one big family they link hands round the chapel and across the pews and aisles and sing a chorus several times. The choruses used are those of family relationships such as "Bind us together, Lord!"

Since developing this practice of linking themselves to others in this way there has been a greater sharing amongst the people, both after the service and at other times.

Yet another church has discovered a way of breaking the pew barrier!

CREEDS ARE MEANT TO BE GUIDES TO BELIEF AND NOT YARD-STICKS WHEREBY WE JUDGE THE FAITH OF OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS.

Christian Projects Limited make Christian Projects Possible

The Parkerville Miracle!



D.C.E. leaders surveying Parkerville.

The members of the W.A. Department of Christian Education have been praying for a long time about a problem that had them beaten.

Camp Gone. Land Re-zoned

The ever popular Waterman's Bay Camp that provided unsurpassed beachside camps for a couple of generations became surrounded by suburbia and had to be sold.

The Department had made provision for this eventuality

by buying 23 rural acres at Piesse Brook. But just when they were ready to develop the property it was re-zoned for public park purposes. The Regional Planning Authority offered them a mere \$17,500 for it; not enough to buy a decent house building block within reasonable reach of Perth.

The Miracle

Recently the Department's prayers have been answered. The Regional Planning Authority has bought the

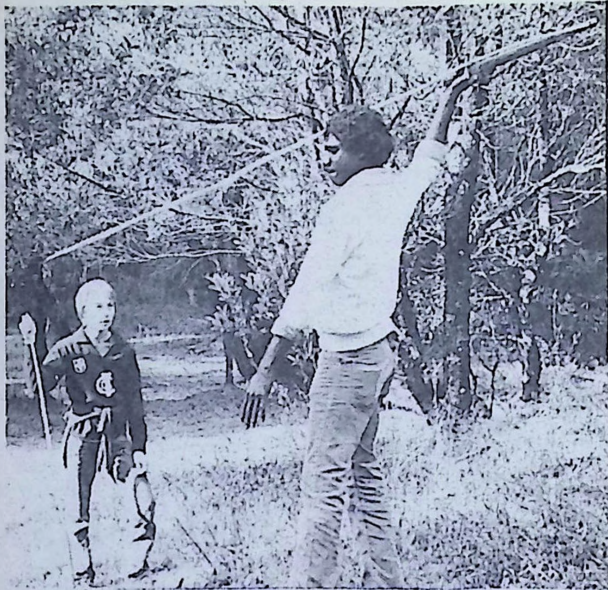
Piesse Brook site for \$75,000. Also money has been made available from the Floreat Park Land Trust Fund. And the Department has been offered and has purchased at a reasonable price, the 54 acre property known as Parkerville.

Parkerville is largely uncleared land and has a small permanent creek running through it. It is only a kilometre from the 1500 hectare John Forrest National Park.

Still in the Church of Christ
Ray and Rene McLaren who sold the property (where they have lived for 33 years) are members of the Eastern Hills Church of Christ. They are delighted that the land will still be in the Church of Christ. Ray was one of the first campers when the D.C.E. was the Youth and Bible School Committee. He served on the Committee in earlier years. His wife Rene is a daughter of the late Charles Hunt who ministered for a life-time in S.A. and W.A.

People do not go to church because they are good, but because they are pilgrims needing some help on the way of life. Christians do not claim to be better behaved than anyone else, but that they know Some One who can help them to behave a lot better than they would be able to otherwise.

Explorer Boys Learn Aboriginal Arts



Spear throwing lesson

Explorers camp annually in the Cathedral Ranges (Vic.). Recently their camp featured Wilson and Peter Wunungamurra from Arnhem Land. Peter and Wilson taught the boys boomerang throwing, didgeridoo playing, bark painting, spear making and throwing with a woomera, and bush survival.

The purpose of the activities was to help the Explorers to get the feel of another Australian culture and to have the

experience of living with young Aboriginals with highly developed skills and arts that white Australians do not have.

The program was organized by Ralph Nicholls, son of Sir Douglas (Pastor Doug) one time pastor with Churches of Christ and previously South Australian Governor. Ralph tours schools in Australia and overseas with a participation program in Aboriginal culture.

Bible study and worship in the bush were features of the camp.



Didgeridoo blowing . . . cardboard tubes will do.

Redundant

Charlie was redundant. An English migrant, he had lived and worked in Australia for 25 years. Now his adopted country no longer needed him in its work force. Jobless and alone he left Perth by bus to go east to find work. He desperately needed money to get back to England where he was needed in a family crisis.

Charlie Stood Alone

The bus stopped for a meal break at Pt. Augusta. Charlie stood alone, dejected, as the others scurried off to eating places. Hazel noticed him as she alighted. Shyly she remarked to him, "Have you got far to go?" He said, "I don't really know where I'm going!" She stood there with him while his story came out.

Hazel knew that the Christian Welfare Centre, run by Churches of Christ in Perth, would help Charlie, but he was travelling the wrong way. However, she gave him her address and received a forwarding address from him so that on her return to Perth she could send addresses of similar welfare centres in the Eastern states.

Back to Perth

On return to Perth Hazel sent the list of addresses as promised and quietly prayed for Charlie as she sealed the letter.

Three weeks later her phone rang. It was Charlie. He had worked his way back to Perth. "When you talked to me about the Christian Welfare Centre I thought that there might be some hope," he said. There was.

Hazel took Charlie to George Smith, Director of the Centre. Charlie soon had a job and a place to stay. To get his plane ticket he did painting jobs at the Centre and gardening jobs at the weekends. He found new friends at the Centre and even attended a camp that they sponsored. And when it was time to fly home he went outfitted by the Centre's clothing department.

A Letter to Hazel

Charlie never forgot Hazel. Recently he wrote to her: Before we met I had doubts about God, but I will never doubt again. It was all meant to be, by the grace of God, even to our brief encounter, and my coming back to Perth and meeting so many fine people who made my load a lot easier. God's own people. It was the Lord's work. You have shown me a great kindness and a feeling of being wanted as I had never known before.



Training voluntary workers for the Christian Welfare Centre.

TODAY'S WOMEN

WHAT AILS OUR ADOLESCENTS?



Mrs Butler works as a Secretary at Hawker College. Students confide in her talking over their problems with her. She is able to give them practical help and listens to them.

Many problems impede the progress of our adolescents in their educational achievements.

BASIC FACTORS

There appear to be two basic factors. One factor is, having studied to achieve in a specific field of training, there are few opportunities of then obtaining employment in that field.

The top 2% of achievers at H.S.C. level can do medicine; top 3% can do Veterinary Science; top 10% can receive Third Division Public Service jobs in the first six months of having left school; 30 out of 500 applicants at one hospital received trainee nursing jobs; and overall 30% of school leavers in the A.C.T. in 1979 could not find employment in the first three months of 1980.

The second factor is due to the large number of marital relationships that break down in our society. At one school, there are approximately 40% of students not living in the nuclear family. Of these, there are about 35 in 600 17 and 18 year olds who have left home altogether. The Counsellor at that school sees at least one third of the student population in any one year, because these students feel that they cannot cope with their studies. The Counsellor admits that she is only scraping the surface of the insecurity among students.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Regarding the unemployment factor, according to a careers advisor, the best possible help we can give our adolescents is twofold. Firstly encourage adolescents to have a broad field of interests, so that when the time comes to find employment they can apply for more than one kind of job. Educationally they should spread their subject choices over a broader field.

Secondly, we should encourage them to seek voluntary work experience in any occupation.

HOW DO WE HELP IN THE FAMILY CONFLICT SITUATION?

Can we help in the family conflict situation? Most counsellors tell us today that we cannot. Some are giving the reasons for breakdown as 'too high expectations', others a 'lack of communication'. The school counsellor I spoke to, found that in most cases, the families she counselled weren't really listening to one another.

B. Butler, A.C.T.

"God feeds the sparrows, but He doesn't put the crumbs into their mouth."
Kenneth Slack . . . "Praying the Lord's Prayer today"

"YOU HAVE A MONTH TO LIVE"?

"You have a month to live, what will you do?" This was one of the questions confronting me as I attended a seminar for volunteers at the Melbourne Citimission Hospice Program.

'Malignancy'; 'anger'; 'death'; 'grief' are terms we prefer to avoid but they are terms that must be faced as cancer and its associated physical and emotional distress become more prevalent.

The hospice program seeks to provide a community of care for patients and families dealing with the distress of terminal illness.

Hospice: Travellers' house of rest kept by religious order. (Oxford Dictionary).

"For the ayde and comforts of the poore sykke, blynde, aged and impotent persons . . . wheryn they may be lodged, cherysshed and refreshed." (From a petition by the citizens of London to Henry VIII — 1538).

Hospice is a term that has come from the Crusades when religious groups established way stations / hospices along the route to the Holy Land to care for the sick and dying.

The Hospice movement saw its contemporary genesis in St Christopher's Hospice (London) under the direction of Dr Cicely Saunders. From this model of care, hospices are spreading around the world, each model structured to suit its own situation and purposes.

The MCM program embraces home care; symptom control; bereavement counselling so patients and families may be free to attain a degree of mental and spiritual preparation for death satisfactory to them."

My involvement with the hospice program has meant I too have had to face issues concerning death — how would I face being told I had only a few months to live! From sharing my life with patients and families who are facing this issue, I am gradually finding life has become more meaningful and each day with family and friends are moments to be lived to the full.

Glynthea Finger.



"Julie, the Miracle Lady"

Julie Davey, a 24 year old mother of two wee children suffered a severe stroke, which paralysed her left side from "mouth to toe". To aggravate matters she was pregnant. Julie's happy involvement with her family, and in her church was suddenly cut short, and she lost her much wanted baby.

CARING HELPERS

Richard, Julie's husband, her parents, her in-laws and church friends, and others, gave practical assistance, and constant love and prayer.

THREE YEARS LATER

Now three years later, Julie can walk, run, cycle, drive and swim. Her dream was to once again play the organ for church services. Julie writes, "Well, I have played the organ for a Sunday School Anniversary with one useful hand". Knowing Julie's faith, and with continued physiotherapy, she will be playing with two hands. She can already lift the left arm from the wrist and wriggle two fingers.



"LOW TIMES.

Julie is honest about the fact that she sometimes has a "low time". When this happens, she goes into her lounge room, and looks at the text on the wall, which says, "Be still and know that I am God", and gives thanks to God for what He has done for her.

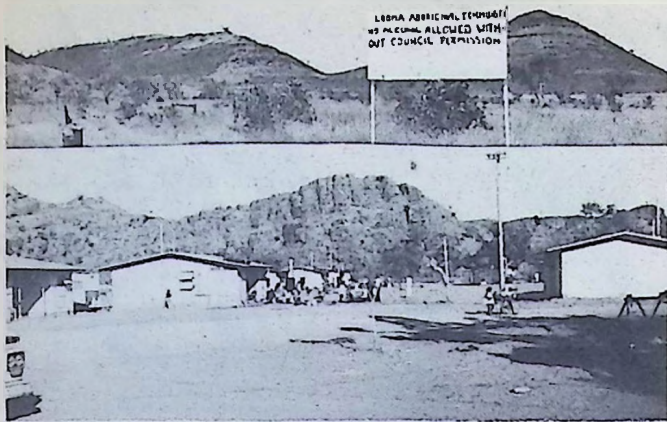
Julie has always been a radiant Christian. Her faith, love, and joy are infectious, and have helped to speed up the healing process. Many people have found Christ real to them because of Julie's witness.

BY THE SEASIDE

Julie, Richard, and their two children now live near Busselton, W.A. by the sea. Julie says that she looks at the sunset, blue sky, climbs stairs, and reads CLEARLY Bible passages at Bible study and prayer meetings; things that before her stroke she took for granted.

We thank God for Julie, the "Miracle Lady".

Looma Makes History



Looma Village

History was made at the recent Western Australian State Conference of Churches of Christ. It is the first time an all Aboriginal church has been welcomed as an affiliated member of the Conference.

Nestled in the dry, barren regions of the Kimberleys in Western Australia, Looma is basically an Aboriginal Christian Community that runs its own affairs. The Looma Council makes its own rules and regulations. Being made up of Christian men these rules are strict in comparison with some white communities.

For a number of years Mission personnel from Carnarvon and more recently Port Hedland have maintained contact with the Looma Christians. For a

period of time Aboriginal Pastor Jim Bieundurry and his wife assisted in the church there. The culmination of this contact was the thrilling experience when two of the elders of the church, Limerick Malibuka and Sandy Spinks attended State Conference on behalf of the Looma church and were officially welcomed into the Brotherhood.

In a very short time it is hoped to have staff located in this area to further assist the church. Money has been made available by the Federal Aborigines Mission Board, through personal gifts and by the Looma people themselves to build a suitable place of worship. This is almost completed with the help of a work part from the Taree church N.S.W.

Home-Visitation in the Goldfields

Aboriginal children come for education to our Norseman Mission from all over the Goldfields Country, an area of hundreds of square miles. As part of concern for their welfare and development it is important that representatives of the Mission visit the camps and reserves to meet the children's parents.

This involves annually, thousands of kilometres of

"patrol" through dust and mud and heat. Often the visiting missionaries sleep out under nature's canopy . . . the sky!

And in reverse, the same sort of conditions are met by the parents as they bring their children to the Mission each term, anxious for them to receive in a Christian atmosphere, schooling and opportunities that they themselves never had.



Bob and Mary Jane

200 Miles for a Memorial Stone

Bob Williams was a legend in his time.

His change from a wreck without purpose or self-respect to a radiant Christian was the talk of the North. As a respected Aboriginal tribal leader and elder he went where others were not always welcome to tell his people the good news about God. Unable to read and write he used pictures to communicate the story.

Bob died in 1977 in Carnarvon, and now a stone to his memory has been prepared. Jim Edney, leader of the Carnarvon Aboriginal community made a round trip of 200 miles to select a slab of

granite from the Kennedy Ranges. It has been polished and Bob's Aboriginal friends have prepared a tribute to him and his wife Mary Jane to be carved into the ancient stone.

The inscription reads:
In memory of Koorda Bob and Joorda Mary Jane.
Bob Williams died 15.2.77.
Tribal leader and Christian elder who took God's word to His people.

And Mary Jane Williams, died 22.9.75.

"What a friend we have in Jesus."

(In a future issue we will print a poetic saga of Bob Williams and his friend Lance Fisher.)

INNER SPRINGS

IN TIME OF NEED

O God, I need you!
When morning crowds the night away
And the tasks of waking seize my
mind,
I need your Poise.

O God, I need you
When clashes come with those
Who walk the way with me,
I need your smile.

O God, I need you
When the path to take before me lies,
I see it — courage flees —
I need your faith.

O God, I need you
When the days work is done,
Tired, discouraged, wasted;
I need your Rest.

His Poise to meet the tasks of the day, both pleasant and unpleasant in the home or away from it. His Smile to cover the hurts inflicted by friend and foe and to enable us to forgive. His Faith to overcome all obstacles, to carry our burdens lightly, uplifted by His Presence along the way. His Rest to restore and refresh us at day's end. Without exception these are our needs and there is only one place where they can be found. Our Father, hasten our coming to you at all times. When life presses in upon us, may we be filled with a desire to seek you.

Amen.

Hebrews 4:16

Florence Rosier

Pruning Bees



The picture shows part of the party of pruners from the Redcliffs (Vic.) church. One of their members had an accident and broke a couple of vertebrae. The vines needed urgent pruning, and there was no way that he could do it. So the church did it for him.

Redcliffs church is used to this sort of thing. During some seasons they prune blocks at the rate of \$2,000 a block, and put the money to the mission of the church. Part of this mission in 1981 will be a community outreach led by Phil Stevens of Reservoir from August 3-9.

Ski Touring



This winter young people from our Victorian churches will be out on Victoria's snowfields. Courses in Ski Touring were introduced by the Adventure Committee of the Department of Mission, Education and Development in 1977. Basic skills are learned from experienced instructors. Safety and survival skills are taught.

There are four weekends in the Lake Mountain area and on the Baw Baw Plateau. Accommodation in nearby halls. Evenings round fires with supper and worship come at the end of physically demanding days.

A final weekend will be spent camping out in the snow in tents. For the more advanced there will be a week's trek across the Snowy Plains. (Phone (03) 662 2377).

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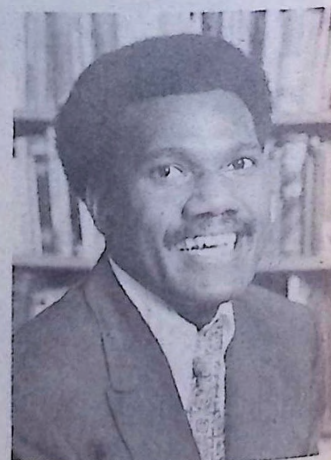
It is not the parts of the Bible that I do not understand that bother me, but the parts of the Bible that I do understand. (Mark Twain).

Ishmael Bangga was born, grew up and was educated at the base of the towering volcano that makes up most of the Island of Aoba in Vanuatu. In 1970 he began five years of work in assisting with the translation of the Bible into Bislama, the "pidgin" of the Islands. For the next five years he has been Secretary of the Vanuatu Conference of Churches of Christ.

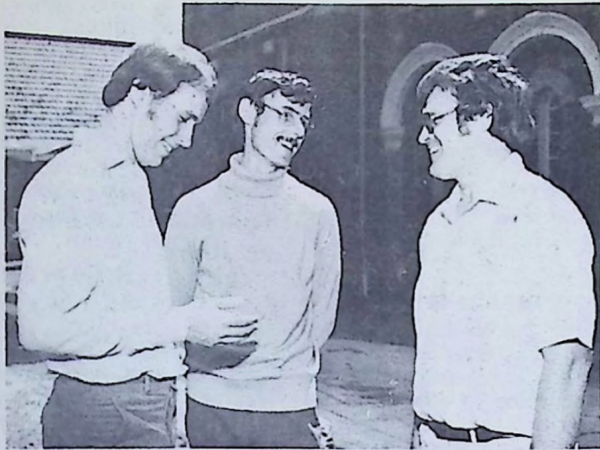
He has been at the College of the Bible in Melbourne for the last six months on a scholarship provided by the Christian Women's Fellowship of Victoria and Tasmania.

In Bislama it is easier to pronounce Ishmael as "Smile" ... and so he is called ... not without justification.

Link with Vanuatu



Reform School Graduate Training for Ministry



Bill (right) with College friends.

Bill Wilson's first contact with the law was before he could crawl. He was made a state ward. After 13 years he absconded and was sentenced to a year in Windanna (S.A.) for the "crime". He "graduated" after other offences to a two year stint at Brookway Park. His next sentence was two years at McNally Training Centre.

Permanent Criminal?

At 18 Bill knew that the next step would be to become a permanent criminal.

He knew he had to stop, then. Years before he had heard of Jesus Christ and decided that his only hope of

stopping was to trust in Jesus Christ as some one who was alive and here and now and able to help him. He did!

Married

Bill worked at Myers and later did the three year Bible College of S.A. course and married Lynette. They desperately wanted to help kids like Bill had been and volunteered to manage "The Homestead" for juvenile offenders under the Government rehabilitation program. Later Bill set up the S.A. Shaftesbury program for juveniles in trouble.

Bill is studying at the College of the Bible for Christian ministry especially to those whom life seems to leave out.

Hinrichsen-Brooker Link



Older Australians would remember the tent missions of Hinrichsen and Brooker in the twenties and early thirties. Locals would see the big tent go up and the sawdust floor go down. For six weeks they would pack into the marquee. There was no TV and little radio and pictures only once a week. Hinrichsen preached and Brooker led the singing. Thousands of people made decisions for Christ and a new life style.

David Brooker, College of the Bible student president, is the grandson of the late Les Brooker. His maternal grandmother is a sister of the late Ern Hinrichsen. David and Heather Brooker commence their first ministry at Coburg next year.

Broadway Actress doing Folk Drama in Thailand

Joan Eubank was a successful Broadway actress and singer. She and husband Allan are now working with the Church of Christ in Thailand. Arriving in Thailand Joan soon learned of the LIGAY ... a popular village type folk drama played by itinerant players, and often depicting the stories of Buddha. The Eubanks have been training Thai students from McGilvary College in the art of Ligay, and they travel the villages playing the stories of Jesus.

opium and heroin. Stark poverty has forced them into this grim trade, and of course they get very little out of it.

Marian McAnallen is an American working with the Church of Christ in Thailand. She is leading a program to encourage the Hills people to replace poppies with other cash crops and to establish cottage craft industries for sale in the cities. Marian and other Christian leaders arrange a monthly sale of handcrafts in Bangkok. They also advise the Hills people concerning the most saleable items, especially to tourists. They advise concerning standards. A recent government sponsored international cottage craft exhibition is opening up the way for some of the Hills work to be exported.

Harold Gross in Australia

Harold Gross served as a minister with Churches of Christ in Australia and New Zealand. Now his ministry is in Thailand teaching English in a Christian school. Back in Australia on furlough, he told us the story of the Eubanks. He also told us of Australian church aid in Thailand and of a unique way of nipping the heroin trade in the bud.

Stopping Heroin Traffic at the Source

The Hill Tribes of Thailand are tragically poor and have to augment their slender means by growing poppies for

Aid to Refugees

It is not usually known that as well as giving a home to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Kampuchea, Thailand has a refugee problem of its own. Thousands of Thais from the border have been driven from their villages. Churches of Christ in Australia have recently sent \$18,000 for refugee work being undertaken by the Church of Christ in Thailand.



Harold Gross checking stamps with David Lewis in Adelaide.

"Mummy Doesn't Live Here Any More!"

Monday, 9 a.m.

The Home Support Service worker checked the telephone answering service for overnight calls at the **Christian Welfare Centre**. The tape said urgently, "My name is John. Please come. I need someone to help me. My wife has gone. Deserted us, me and the three kids. I don't know what to do!" Then he gave the address.

Home Support Service

At 9.45 a.m. the Home Support Service worker was at John's door. Her knock was answered by three-year-old Johnny who cried, "Mummy doesn't live here any more. She doesn't want us."

Inside the door the room was bare and empty except for five-year-old Lisa who was crying. She sobbed, "Mummy has gone. She took all the furniture. Even the TV and we can't watch Sesame Street any more."

Please Help Me

Then John came into the room carrying the baby. His eyes were red and his shoulders stooped. "Thank you for coming," he said. "Please help me."

Then came the sad, but not uncommon story of unemployment, financial hardship, arguments, unhappiness, and finally separation. After another fruitless day of job hunting John had come home

to find the house empty. All that was left were the three children, the hire purchase bills and the summonses.

"I don't know how to make the baby's formula, or to cook for the other two," he said. They moved to the kitchen for a lesson in making up baby's bottle, but the cupboards were bare. John was reassured that help was on the way. Tears came into his eyes.

Some weeks later

John and his children were settling into a routine. Essentials had been provided. He was learning to cook, how to bath the baby, and how to look after the others. He had learned to budget. His self-

confidence was slowly returning. He was even walking a little taller and sometimes smiling.

The road ahead will still be hard for John, but he's determined that with the continuing help of the Home Support Service he will come to the place where he can handle it on his own.

There are hundreds of Johns

The Home Support Service for Motherless Families is part of the work of the **Christian Welfare Centre** run by Churches of Christ in Western Australia. It has six full-time workers looking after 300 men and 500 children.



Home Support Service Staff

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THE CLASSLESS
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Churches of Christ (NSW) Theological College





Bags of stamps ready for sorting.

The pathetic figure crying out, "Please don't pull me off!" is a cartoon figure of a postage stamp with legs, kneeling in a begging position. His horrified looking brother on the opposite page is saying, "Please don't cut me too close!"

Both cartoons are in a pamphlet called "Operation Stamp Collecting". You can get it from P.O. Box 258, Cowandilla, S.A. 5033.

The pamphlet gives guidance to people who busily save postage stamps for Overseas Missions. There are hints about how to cut the stamps from envelopes and wrappers. There are methods for those who are interested in cleaning the stamps before sending them in. Hundreds of people are collecting stamps for Missions from their neighbours and friends who prefer not to scrap them.

Timmy was born prematurely (1 lb 1½ oz.) eight months after the birth of brother Ben. Timmy was severely spastic. During 11 weeks in intensive care he clung to life. Ian and Beth, Timmy's parents worked together to look after their boys.

Transferred

Then Ian became redundant at Hervey Bay (Q) and had to move for work to Gladstone, only returning for weekends. Beth was left with 30 month old Ben and 22 month old Timmy, nearly blind and unable to sit, walk, or crawl or to do anything for himself. Beth was at the end of her tether.

Others collect from offices where they work . . . of course with the boss's glad permission. Already in 1981 money from the sale of stamps is nearly \$2000.

Money for the used stamps is used for Bible Correspondence Courses in India, New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Jeanette

Then Beth met Jeanette, co-ordinator of the Family Day Care Centre run by the Hervey Bay Church of Christ. Their program was not geared to help Timmy, but they could take Ben off Beth's hands for a day a week. But Jeanette felt that more could be done. She referred it to her pastor, Ross Burton.

Knock on the Door

One morning there was a knock on the door. An elderly gentleman was there offering to baby-sit Timmy. He announced that his wife would also come for a half a day a week. So for two mornings a week Beth is free to catch up with herself. "Even if I only go to the beach and sit, it is wonderful to be free for a few precious hours," she said. And Timmy's sitters have found a new purpose for their retirement and their reward is to be part of each new thing that Timmy manages to do.

**YOU'D FEEL
ROTTEN IF
THESE WERE
YOUR KIDS**



Starving, illiterate, family broken up through poverty, no welfare, no one to care.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

Just \$16 a month will give them food, clothing, an education, Christian training & the chance of their family staying together. *Do it today.*

Compassion
An evangelical child development mission dedicated to building Christ into destitute children's lives and helping them reach their full potential.

I will support a child. Here is my cheque of \$ for months.

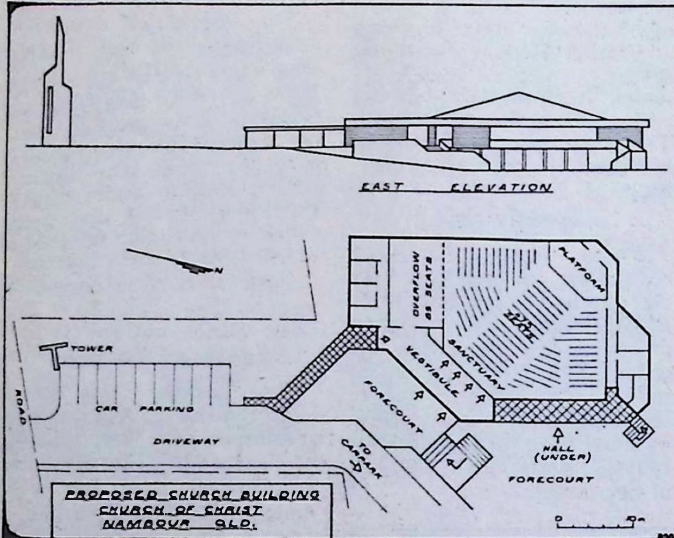
Name _____

Address _____

Please send more information. AC681

P.O. Box 81, Islington (Newcastle) N.S.W. 2296.

Funeral Director takes over Church



The Nambour Church of Christ has sold out to the local funeral director. And they are praising the Lord about it!

Explosion

You see, the whole place has exploded with 400 people at some services and 170 young people in their youth groups.

Only Eight Years Old

The present church property was only built eight years ago and is already too small. No viable additions could be made because of parking regulations. The church was due to meet one Wednesday to think and pray about what might be able to be done. What they really needed to do was to sell the lot and start again. But who would buy a church?

A Phone Call

Alan Leane, the minister, had just conducted a funeral and was appalled at the inadequacy of the funeral parlour. So he rang the funeral director and asked him if he would be interested in buying the church property. He was. From there it all took off!

Fifteen and a Half Acres

Fifteen and a half acres over the road from the church became available. Our

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Qld. Social Service Department was interested in using some of it for Aged Persons' Cottages. "Interchurch Aid", the properties trust for Queensland Churches of Christ, was able to provide a free of interest loan. Local members put up \$25,000 free of interest, and the move for a new suite of buildings was under way.

Opposition

But some locals and some Council members were opposed to the rezoning the move would necessitate. So representatives of the church and of the funeral director made kindly pastoral calls upon the objectors to explain the position, and soon the green light was on.

The Hand of God

Jack Dunner, church secretary, writes, "We have felt the hand of God on our efforts. We know that with him on our side the project will succeed. We thank him!"

Silver Jubilee Award Winner

Mark Crawford of our Launceston church spent last year in the U.K. working out his Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Award for Young Australians. Mark was 20 and a member of the Tasmanian Police Force.

management miracles with their budgets stretched to cope with high inflation. He is still gasping at petrol at 70c a litre.

C.P.A.

The Christian Police Association was formed 98 years ago... by a woman... Catherine Gurney. Its aim is to provide fellowship for Christian police officers and to encourage them to be quality Christians both on and off duty.

Lonely Abroad

Mark knew no one in Britain and expected to feel lonely. But that did not happen. Mark is a member of the Christian Police Association. This gave him an open door and a warm welcome into the homes of members of the U.K. Christian Police Association, every weekend, and in six centres of study. Mark got the impression that British housewives work

The Tasmanian branch was also founded by a woman, Jennifer Hensley. The C.P.A. Australian motto is "Awake, be on the alert." Mark found a lot of help while overseas in a Bible verse he found in Proverbs 3:5,6. It is worth looking up!



Mark with C.P.A. friends

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for particulars and itinerary.

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12.30 p.m. Church Luncheon
7.00 p.m. Gospel Service
8.30 p.m. Coffee Hour

MINISTRY TEAM: Allen Webb, Bruce Morton, Ray Haverfield. Phone (03) 861 7764, 663 3884.

Phil Bradley for Bull Creek (W.A.)



Bull Creek sounds like something out of a "western". In a sense it is because it is

one of the new suburbs of Perth, W.A.

There is a thriving Church of Christ at Bull Creek, growing each year as the community grows. They are using the Performing Arts Centre of the Willetton Senior High school, which gives them a flexibility for worship and activities not usually enjoyed in the traditional church plant.

With the large youth population in Bull Creek the church has called Phil Bradley, exit student of the College of the Bible to be their minister from early 1982. Phil was a technical school teacher. His wife is Cherie. Both are from Adelaide.

Farm Camping

The venue consisted of a farm house (kitchen and girls accommodation and ablutions). A shearing shed catered for the males, with tin "mansion" for the necessities. The machinery shed was dining room and auditorium. It was all on the farm of Brian and June Spriggs at Waddarin near Naremben (W.A.).

Studies on "How to be a Christian without being religious" were taken by Larry Gibb of Kalgoorlie. Phil Wyllie of Maylands conducted devotions and the gospel service.

New Ways and Bad Chickens

The Youth Committee were interested in trying something new. So they invited the

Covenant Players. They provided added stimulus by presenting plays on appropriate Bible themes and by conducting drama workshops each afternoon. Although this was a relatively expensive exercise we were confident that costs would be met. They were. We would have made a slight profit except that we lost 14 chickens which unaccountably turned bad in the freezer.

Players Were Tops

The Covenant Players entered into the life of the camp with zest and were involved at all levels. Their plays were Biblical, provocative and challenging. They found the camp stimulating and enriching in their own experience.



Covenant Players at Conference of Australian and New Zealand Teams.

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Theologs. Make it Practical

The idea that theological students are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use is no longer valid.

Tony Bradford (pictured right) not only struggles to master Greek and Hebrew in order to know his Bible better, but he is learning Arabic as well. This is because the concentrations of Arabic speaking people round Sydney need some one to understand them and care about them. So Tony and his wife Ida have elected to live amongst them and to learn their language and to share their lives. Already they have

warm relationships with a number of families.

Graham Long (pictured left) is absorbing a lot of theological intricacies, but he keeps his feet on the ground and ties it all in with life. He was a former social worker and cannot forget that people matter. As well as being student minister at Rockdale (N.S.W.), Graham trains counsellors for the Birthright organisation.

Tony and Graham are students at the N.S.W. Churches of Christ Theological College at Carlingford.



Sonlight

The Ipswich (Q.) church has a small offset printery and a number of dedicated amateur printers and publishers.

Sonlight

"Sonlight" is a 28 page quarterly put together by a team of six young people, for young people in the church and district.

Beacon

"Beacon" is the work of Allen and Evelyn Feldon

who give a day a week each to produce this weekly 12 page magazine for church and community. The copy on our desk has 14 illustrations and "professional" layout.

And So On

In later issues we will tell the story of the Ipswich Mutual Aid Plan, the Funeral Assistance Plan, the Church Family Album, and the contemporary worship services.



Belconnen in the A.C.T.



Children's story time at Belconnen

The Belconnen church is one of the three member churches of the Conference of Churches of Christ in the A.C.T. Belconnen is one of the 'new towns' of Canberra: since 1967, 76,000 people have moved into the area, spread over 22 suburbs.

The church has worshipped in the Holt Primary School since its establishment in 1974. An Anglican

congregation also worships in the school, and there is co-operation in the areas of youth activities and outreach programs, and regular joint services are held.

The congregation is made up predominantly of families with young children, with an average attendance at services of over 60, with about 40 communicants. Our Sunday School has about 100

children, over half of whom come from "non-church" families. A fine spirit of caring and friendship has developed — this is shown in regular visiting, social activities and in small groups meeting for study and prayer.

The Belconnen church is looking forward to having a multi-purpose building of its own in the not too distant future.

Sri Lankan Child Expert at W.A. Camp

45 primary school children were at the recent W.A. D.C.E. Camp at Parkerville, using the Uniting church site. Camp Director was Ken Leeden (Armadale - Kelmscott), craft leader was Christine Workman (Warwick), recreation leader was Paul Newhouse (Bull Creek), and Colin Hall of Rockingham was chaplain. Malini Weerasinghi of Sri Lanka was the camp guest. She is a school teacher and church children's worker in her own country. She is in Australia as the Winifred Kiek Scholar, sponsored by Australian Church Women.

Future W.A. Camps at Parkerville will be on the new site in the bush alongside one of the great national parks. Land has been purchased for the purpose at very reasonable cost from one of the original W.A. campers Ray McLaren, seen pictured with Ken Patterson, signing the settlement documents.

What we believe is important, but the One in whom we believe is all important.



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For information about entry requirements and courses write to:

The Principal Dr W. Tabbernee
College of the Bible
7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic. 3146.

Cassette Library

Bill Mills

Doug Ferguson loves fiddling with stereo equipment and has a knack of putting together on tape great Christian sounds... spoken, sung, played and read. And he puts them together in a most pleasing package. Sometimes they contain a mini-talk by himself, wise and helpful.

From Stereo Unit to Shut-ins

Doug has a four channel stereo unit with tape decks and he works from a master cassette tape from which he can edit out any extraneous noises. His mikes are omnidirectional, effectively recording from all directions.

The tapes Doug makes are kept in a lending library at the Frankston Church of Christ and go out from there in various directions — some to shut-ins, others to new people contacted by the church. Still more are used at retirement centres and homes for the aged.



Doug takes a cassette to Cliff Northeast.

"Can't Imagine Being Without Them"

The daughter of one shut-in lady comes regularly to pick up tapes for her mother who says that she could not imagine life without them.

A new Christian has said that the tapes have been a delight to her and have kept burning at a high level a fresh-found glow of faith within her.

New Plan for Modbury (S.A.)

The Modbury church has been helping local people in vocational guidance, service to the unemployed and single parents and working mothers, and in family welfare. They have been involved with such groups as Y.M.C.A. and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Not Enough Room

But the Modbury church has not had a building headquarters of its own. They have been renting space in the Uniting church complex, which has been a good model of interchurch co-operation, but restrictive in its wide mission to the community.

Units for the Aged

Modbury Church of Christ now has land adjoining a large Council reserve, with a creek running through it. They will feature the natural atmosphere of peace and quiet by erecting aged people's units at the reserve end of the land. At the other end there will be utility buildings for church and community life, where the reserve meets the bustling township.

Growing Old ... Happily!

Mrs Houghton is a guest at the Everard Park Rest Home (S.A.). This means that she is not quite as young as she used to be, and that some of the things that she used to do for the Lord she cannot do so well now. But she can sort and clean used stamps for Overseas Missions.

Mrs Houghton says, "It's a wonderful pastime with so many different kinds of stamps. And it is also good to hear of the amount of money raised with the stamps for the Overseas Bible Correspondence Courses."



Mrs Houghton Packaging stamps

Nailsworth Women Too

Every month people from the Nailsworth Church of Christ have a stamp night and sort and package stamps that others have sent for Overseas Missions, after others have cleaned them.

Any one can be part of this ministry. Write for a Stamp Collector's Brochure to P.O. Box 258, Cowandilla, S.A. 5033.



Christian unity does not mean conformity but unity in diversity



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"By Accident"

Alan Male

I was at peace with the world and then it all started to go wrong.

After speaking at a youth camp, I was driving along leisurely, contemplating the beauty of the countryside and praising God for his numerous expressions of goodness around me.

The day before, I had taken possession of a brand new blue Volvo. I had persevered to get the right colour blue, not too dark, not too light. (It doesn't matter what the engine's like, as long as the colour is okay!)

At an intersection, I gave 'left of way' to a bus. (Number 901 — if ever you're in Brisbane, get out of his way!) Ahead of me was a stop sign where I was duty bound to pull up and I could see that closing the gap between myself and other cars would block the bus, so I gave the 'Bussie a chance to come up the hill and around'.

He did, and as he turned, he ran into my brand new stationary Blue Volvo sedan, with 300 kilometres on the speedometer.

I forgot all my theological training. As far as I was concerned, it was justifiable homicide. We exchanged names, addresses and other less relevant information about each other.

The only damage to the Volvo, was a small nick in the rubber bumper bar. It looked awful. I hadn't even had time to wash it and here was some clown running into me! They'll pay for this I inwardly fumed.

On my way again, I was busy composing a letter to the Brisbane City Council — "Please send me the money (for replacement of the nicked bumper bar), otherwise "action would be taken". Well, you shouldn't write and drive too!

Sure enough, the inevitable policeman with the speed-gun caught me doing 76 in a 60 kilometre per hour zone.

Reaching over to get my licence from the glove box, I was very relieved to hear the young policeman beside me say, "How are you Mr Male?"

I said, "Oh! If it hadn't been for that Bussie back there, I'd have seen you fellows". (There's a moral there somewhere).



He winked at the other Constable and said, "It's a border line case".

He told me he knew of the youth work I was involved in and that he needed experience. I said, "I'll give you experience, Inspector". He was only 19 but I promoted him! He was engaged to be married, had a .38 revolver on one hip and handcuffs on the other. I had all day to talk!

But, I said, "Where have we met?" "Oh, he said, you helped me over 10 years ago. I was in the Shaftesbury Course". I said, "Go on, did we help you?" He said, "It was the turning point of my life".

The next day, I looked up his case history. He was before us for truanting. We discovered why and I urged him to complete his education.

I rang up a few weeks later to contact him and the Sergeant said he had resigned from the force.

His mother told me that he had been offered a commission to fly as a pilot for the Navy.

He wrote to me and said he'd be delighted to help any time he's on leave and that he was thrilled at the opportunity of flying for his country. He wrote, "I can think of nothing better, save that of being a policeman and helping people".

You know, out of 4,000 policemen in the Queensland force, I had met up with that one young fellow, quite "by accident".

Baptists run a Stamp Auction



Churches of Christ stall at the Stamp Sale.

The Blackburn Baptist church has had a stamp club for years. One of its interests is "Stamps for Overseas Missions". So in April and October each year they run a stamp sale and auction.

They invite six different overseas mission societies to participate in their stamp sale and auction days, including the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board. The Board has made \$6584 for missions in the last five years from these sale days.

All of the stamps sold are saved by ordinary people who refuse to destroy stamps from their own letters, from those of their friends, and from those that arrive in their work offices and shops.

Sometimes long forgotten stamp collections from cupboards are offered and prove to be quite valuable . . . to the missions.

Save your stamps and send them to David Lewis, 9 Clisby St., Vale Park, S.A. 5081.



"Crosscurrent"

It appears that young people still like to come out in big crowds . . . at least they do in W.A. The Department of Youth and Christian Education runs regionally based social nights catering in each centre for 150 young people. Pictured are young people at the Hamilton Hill "Crosscurrents" night.

Honest, humble, unprejudiced Christians can find out, by a reverent study of the New Testament, what is the mind and intention of Jesus Christ for his contemporary church, as far as its teaching and life are concerned.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME IN CANBERRA

When you come to Canberra you can enjoy the warm fellowship of a private home for your stay, at much cheaper than commercial rates. And what you pay will help build a chapel at Belconnen and get a new work started at Tuggeranong.

Bed and Breakfast
One adult ... \$10
Two adults ... \$15
Each extra adult ... \$5
School age child ... \$3
Evening meals \$3
Children under 12 \$2

Inquiries: Bob Bignill, 38 Eucumbene Dr., Duffy, 2611.
Phone (062) 88 4835 (H), (062) 36 5128 (W).

New Adventure in Co-operation

In North Fitzroy, Ray McInnes, rector of St. Lukes, and John Harmer, minister of the Church of Christ, both desperately needed trained ministerial help to cope with the increasing needs of their parishes and community. Neither church had the money to add an extra minister. But they discovered that between them they could.

Derek Snibson

Perhaps God had been preparing just the man for the job. Derek Snibson has been in Churches of Christ all of his life, but did a course of theological training at Ridley College, the evangelical Anglican seminary. This background made Derek the ideal person to serve with the two North Fitzroy churches. He has accepted the call to a team ministry with John and Ray.

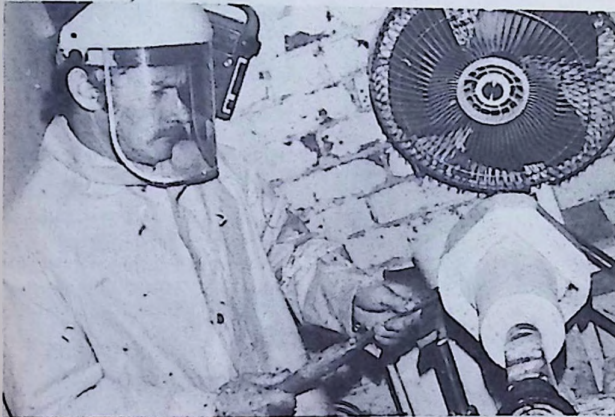
Special Functions

Derek's special functions include ministry in a low income housing estate nearby (see picture), chaplaincy in the new Harold McCracken Nursing Home, and pastoral care in the community on behalf of the whole Christian church, as well as preaching.



John Harmer, Derek Snibson, Ray McInnes with housing estate model.

From Pentridge to New Life Centre



Ron Harris spent 9 years in Pentridge for burglary. Recently he finished with all of that and gave his life to Jesus Christ and was baptised in the North Fitzroy Church of Christ. Now with the assistance of the church he has set up a New Life Centre for unemployed youth.

To become Self-Employed

The Centre is on the corner of Brunswick and Reid Rds. Ron is training young people in job skills to enable them to become self-employed, rather than preparing them for non-existent jobs. His aim is to introduce young people to what he calls the "creativity ethic" rather than the "work ethic".

Social Suicide

The New Life Centre cares for people whom Ron describes as social suicides. They have gone from unemployment benefits to invalid

pensions because society did not want them and left them to drift into self destruction.

Trainees

Men and women at the North Fitzroy church with trade and other skills are available to support Ron. But more trainers could be used. Ron is looking for retired people to find fulfilment in keeping their hand in and helping young people.

The Centre will help its "graduates" to get started in self-employment with tools, equipment and advertising, and they will pay the advances back to be recycled into helping others.

Materials Needed

The Centre needs tools, machinery, materials and equipment in woodwork, plant cultivation, sewing, printing, typing, macrame, pottery, welding and leatherwork. Phone (03) 489 9492.

LIFE IS OUR BUSINESS!

The program of the Doncaster Church of Christ is a kind of smorgasbord with lots of groups that appeal to a wide variety of need. Not every group will appeal to everybody, but everybody will find a group that appeals to them.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| + TABLE TENNIS | + TEEN GROUPS |
| + CRICKET | + SINGLES CLUBS |
| + NET BALL | + YOUNG ADULTS |
| + BOYS' CLUBS | + DROP-IN CENTRE |
| + GIRLS' CLUBS | + MACRAME-COPPER WORK |
| + CALLISTHENICS | + ART CLASSES |
| + STUDY GROUPS | + CARE GROUPS |

The Church is people who live and love and care and serve and worship. . . people who find meaning and purpose and a sense of belonging in the fellowship of the Church. There are no strings attached. . . contact the Church Office 848 1546.



**DONCASTER
 CHURCH OF CHRIST**

A CHURCH AT THE HEART OF A CITY WITH THE CITY ON ITS HEART

For the last 9½ years, **Londua School** has filled much of my working day. This is a school which now caters for school leavers — children who have finished Primary school, but did not gain sufficient marks to enter high school. With job opportunities very limited in **Vanuatu**, only about 15% of children are catered for at the Secondary Education level here.

Changing Roles of School

Londua school has played three different roles in its lifetime of some 30 years. It began as a Training Institute, training young men to the point where they could work as teachers, and helpers in the churches. Many of our middle-aged and younger church leaders had their first training at Londua. Later, as educational standards improved, it became a boys' senior primary school. It is now a vocational school, catering for primary school leavers, giving half time academic and half time practical training, to first and second years, and a three day a week course for third years, mostly practical, in either dressmaking or carpentry. Some of our 'third years' have graduated from **Ranwadi High school**, but would prefer to have a practical trade. For first and second years, one day each week is spent doing agriculture.

Truck Purchased

A truck (Diesel Toyota land cruiser) has just been purchased by the school, as there is no land readily available for large projects close to the school. With the truck, we shall be able to buy or lease land and plant our own school coconut, cocoa and coffee plantations. As well as giving the children practical training, in a few years' time the school should be self-supporting.

Aims

Over the years we can look back and see just how Londua has been used to let the light of the Gospel shine. **Pastor William Vuti** is the chaplain at Londua. He is also in charge of the dormitory students, and does the practical

agricultural training. He is a Londua ex-student who later became an 'untrained' teacher, then went on to **Banmatmat** to do his pastoral training. Together with the rest of the staff at Londua, his aim is to see the children coming to the school and also coming to know Christ as their Saviour. **Pastor William** is also the pastor in the village adjoining the school, and often leads services and Bible studies there.

Student Injured

Early in the school year **Pastor William** spoke at the Gospel service. Afterwards, one of the boys, **Johnsley Boe**, our school captain, spoke to him and asked Christ to come into his life.



hard to find the ends of the artery that had been cut, and then tie them off. **May Reuben** the matron was sent for, and between them they were able to tie off the artery and put in stitches to close the wound temporarily, until **Johnsley** could be transferred to the hospital in **Santo** the next day.

Praying in Times of Stress

Medical work here is different from **Australia**. When there is an emergency, especially while there has been no doctor and while there has been only one European sister, we have tried to back her up with our presence and prayers. That night I sat beside **Johnsley**, holding his good hand, and his shoulders at times, and joining in with others who were praying for help for the **Sisters** and also strength for **Johnsley**. It was a thrill to hear **Johnsley** praying. After his transfer, the doctor thought he would lose the use of a couple of fingers. He has to wait a few weeks until he has an operation on the arm. However, with the prayer and with his faith, he has already gained most of the movement back in his arm and fingers.



Londua School Truck

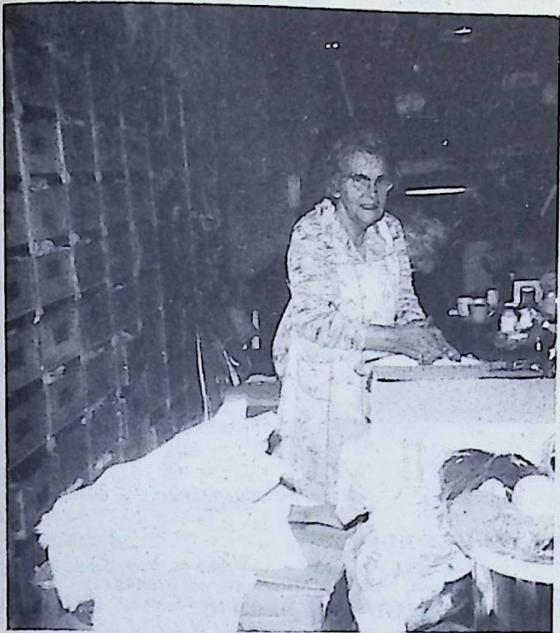


Mission Hospital

Since then **Johnsley** has really grown. Unfortunately, while playing football one afternoon recently, he decided that he would bounce off one of the buildings next to the football field and get more 'oomph' into his kick. He didn't bounce, but went through the cement sheet wall, and brought his arm down across the open louvres. His arm was very badly cut, and by the time transport was found and he was brought to the hospital, he had lost quite a lot of blood. There not being a doctor here, it made things rather difficult for **Sister Margaret Aggar**, as it was

GOD HAS MADE US FOR HIMSELF AND OUR LIFE IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL WE FIND IT IN HIM

Social Service in South Australia



Mrs. Willoughby in the Welfare Centre.

For many years Mrs. Willoughby has organised a group of ladies who give hours of their time each month, to sort, mark and mend goods that are donated to the

welfare work. They also very lovingly serve the many people who after being interviewed, are considered eligible for free clothing assistance.



One of our friends in a dress made especially for her.

Welfare includes a lot of quiet workers. Those who sew, knit, carry goods from one place to another, minister to people as they serve them in the Kilkenny and Blair Athol shops. The lady in this

photo could not buy clothes to fit her, because of the expense. One of our quiet workers made her this dress, plus some underwear. This has given her a new feeling of worth and some dignity.



Follow-up support being given to a young mother and her children.

A lot of time is given to trying to meet the needs of those who come to the Centre for assistance. As well as material help in the form of food and clothing, counselling is given to try and increase the self esteem of the person

concerned. This enables them to make use of their strengths and so cope better in their difficult situation. Referral is some times made to the local church so that follow-up support can be given.

Church Purchases a Factory



The Mayfield (N.S.W.) church has just purchased a belting factory next door to their building, for \$85,000. This gives them immediate space for Christian outreach to the community. One of the young women of the church is doing her university thesis on the needs of the Mayfield

community. She is working with a team of church young people to translate some of her thesis into action in the Mayfield church's outreach into the community through the factory. The "A.C." hopes to keep readers informed about this new sort of venture.



MAKE A RESERVATION FOR YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY WITH AUSTRALIAN CHURCH TRAVEL SERVICE

1. VISIT CHINA IN 1981 with ACTS/SM TOURS

Departing on August 1st, we visit Hong Kong, and spend 17 days in China (Kwangchow, Kweilin, Hangchow, Shanghai, and Peking). Leader: Rev. Canon Kevin Curnow. Price is \$2549 from Sydney.

2. ACTS GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN

See Britain in depth. Leaving on August 1st this 37 day tour gives 29 nights in Britain with a 4 day stop-over in Kuala Lumpur / Singapore. We tour England, Scotland, Wales with adequate time in London. Highlights will be visits to the Isles of Skye and Iona, and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. A value tour at \$3485.00 from Melbourne or Sydney.

3. 36 DAY TOUR TO AFRICA

10th World Orchid Conference in Durban. Departing September 5th we spend 25 days in South Africa, 9 days in Kenya, and 3 days in Mauritius. Our Group Leader is Tom Paterson (former Director of Road Transport, Commonwealth Department of Transport) assisted by Val Steward of Sydney. From Mel. or Syd: \$4250.00 or South Africa section only: \$3016.00.

4. ALICE SPRINGS & THE RED CENTRE

With ACTS/AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC. We have 2 places left on 16th September departure, and 10 on 14th October. Hurry for a place on these popular tours.

5. PILGRIMAGE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY & UNDERSTANDING

This small group will leave for Auckland on September 5th then via Rotorua and Waitomo to TeKuiti from where they will visit the Madonna Falls — scene of a vision of the Virgin Mary and a place of healing. Price is \$695.00.

6. A 16-DAY CAMPING TOUR TO CENTRAL AUSTRALIA FOR THE UNDER 35's.

Departing October 3rd we visit Mildura, Peterborough, Wilpena Pound, along the Birdsville Track, Boulia, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Coober Pedy, Clare, Adelaide, etc. Bring only your sleeping bag, eating utensils and toothbrush. Price from Melbourne is only \$448.00.

7. VISIT WEST AUSTRALIA AT WILDFLOWER TIME WITH ACTS/AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC

Our 18 day annual tour to West Australia departs on October 19th by luxury airconditioned coach for the trip to Perth. On the return 2 nights are spent on the train. Prices from Melbourne 1st class rail \$1231 (economy rail \$1186); from Sydney \$1308 (1236); Adelaide \$1093 (1048); Brisbane \$1450 (1378); Pensioner concession applies.

8. POPULAR TASMANIA TOUR WITH ACTS/TRANS OTWAY

This is real value. We leave by air on Monday, October 19th and visit Launceston, Devonport, Somerset, Zeehan, Queenstown, take a Gordon River Cruise, Hobart, Huon Valley, Port Arthur, Richmond, St. Helens, etc. Our 10 day tour is by comfortable coach, we have good accommodation, and two meals per day. — Prices are from Melbourne \$575.00; Sydney \$667.00; Brisbane \$754.00 and Adelaide \$659.00.

9. ACTS TOUR TO NEW GUINEA/NEW BRITAIN

Departing on October 21st this 13 day tour takes us to Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka, Kundiawa, Mount Hagen, Wewak, Rabaul etc. With good accommodation, this is very good value. Leader is Rev. W. M. Constable, Director of Australian Church Travel Service. Price from Syd. \$1590. Mel. \$1699.

10. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING

Departing on October 25th this ever popular 18 day tour visits Christchurch, Tekapo, Mount Cook, Oamaru, Dunedin, Gore, Milford Sound, TeAnau, Manapouri, Queenstown, Alexandra, Haast Pass, Fox Glacier, Greymouth, Picton, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Waitomo, Auckland etc. Price from Melbourne \$1075, Sydney \$1040; Brisbane \$1070. An optional 4 day extension is offered at a supplement of \$256.00. Group leader — Mr Sirell Grimmett of Wodonga, Victoria. This tour will be repeated departing 3rd January 1982.

11. MIDDLE EAST ADVENTURE TOUR

31st December — 31 days. Visiting Egypt (9 nights); Israel (10 nights); Jordan (3 nights); with Bangkok (4 nights); Singapore (2 nights). A fascinating trip with the Rev. Paul Harrison of Brisbane Baptist City Tabernacle. From Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide — \$3349.00.

12. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR

Departing December 29th for 29 days. 14 days in Israel, visiting all important sites. 6 days in Greece with adequate sightseeing. 6 days in Rome / Pompeii / Sorrento. Our leader is Rev. Campbell Egan of Wagga Wagga. Price from Melbourne or Sydney — \$3452.00.

13. GO CRUISING WITH ACTS/SITMAR IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRSTAR

From Sydney, January 31, 1982. New Zealand Cruise — Milford Sound, Timaru, Picton, Wellington, Auckland, Bay of Islands. 14 nights / 6 ports with Rev. & Mrs W. M. Constable. Fares from \$855.00 to \$2030.

14. VISIT USA/CANADA in 1982

36 days departing April 6th. Our exciting itinerary will include San Francisco, Los Angeles, Disneyland, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Phoenix, New Orleans, Washington, New York, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park, Waterton Lakes, the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Honolulu etc. Group Leader, Rev. Gordon Kemlo. Price from Melbourne \$3850.00; Sydney \$3798.00.

15. SEE THE LOVELY FLINDERS RANGES

Departing on April 21st, 1982, this 10 day tour is ideal for those with limited time. We travel via Mildura, Broken Hill, Wilpens Pound, Port Augusta, Barossa Valley, Adelaide and Mount Gambier. All meals except 1 lunch in Adelaide, and the price is only \$565.00 from Melbourne.

16. ACTS HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS with CANON KEVIN CURNOW

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 will be included. Members can stay over longer by prior arrangement, and a number of optional tours in Britain and the Continent are offered. The estimated price for 1982 is \$4568.00 from Melbourne or Sydney, and a registration without obligation list is now open.

Australian Church Travel Service Offices are Agents for all Sea, Land and Air Lines and will assist with your group, individual, and business travel arrangements

Australian Church Travel Service

(Director: Rev. W. M. Constable)

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Phone: 233 8504
Phone: 221 3922
Phone: 223 8300

Jubilee, D.C. — Bob Smith

Australian Christian Foundation Scholar Bob Smith writes about the work of the Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C. He talks here of the Jubilee Housing Incorporation which as an arm of the church finds ways of providing adequate housing for the poor. This scholarship is another Christian Projects Ltd. project.

A group from the Church of the Saviour began to investigate the condition of housing, of the poor in Washington, D.C. The result was the forming of Jubilee Housing Inc., a non profit corporation committed to restoring a sense of community to inner city neighbourhoods through improved housing.

Two Apartment Buildings

Through the assistance of a prominent community developer, the Jubilee group acquired two apartment buildings under a sale-leaseback agreement. Later, Jubilee was able to purchase them from the developer, as a result of a grant and their own fundraising. The first priority was to clean and rehabilitate the buildings. It took over 50,000 hours of organised volunteer labour, supplied by the church, interested people and residents.

Sense of Community

Simultaneously, Jubilee members began to build a sense of community among the tenants through the organisation of social support programs. These included Committees of Compassion, made up of church members and residents. The committees provide support to other residents in times of difficulty. Another program is a pre-school centre in the basement of one building. A Youth Club consists of kids from the church and the buildings. Support programs encourage the personal development and self esteem of the residents.

Jubilee also established small church groups in some of the apartments, as well as their own special services at the Potter's House. One of the most memorable services I attended in the U.S.A. was the regular Jubilee church service at the Potter's House. Many of the congregation were black Americans. The

pianist played and sang "soul" as I have never heard it before. The congregation, black and white, seemed to just sway to it.

Co-Operatives

In 1977 the group converted the Jubilee buildings into tenant co-operatives. They

formed a Co-operative Management Board for each building, composed of tenants, backed by the Jubilee group. Over 75 per cent of the tenants in the two buildings have joined the Co-operative. The others rent their apartments from the Co-op.

Since 1978 two other

buildings have been acquired by Jubilee Housing Inc. This means that about 200 poor families have decent accommodation in an environment that fosters mutual support and caring. It also guarantees that their accommodation will never be sold to higher bidders.



Gordon Crosby, Pastor of the Church of the Saviour and Friends.

QLD

KINGSWOOD PARK — Fourth Birthday of church reveals tripled membership, first full time ministry, the purchase of a manse and seven acres of property. Family Group Home planned together with a retirement village. Property is Lot 52 Gilmore Rd., E. Berinba with services at 9 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. with full range of weekday activities.

BOONDALL — Jim Bennett first full time minister. Five baptisms after "Family Life Crusade" with John Timms. Two prayer groups and a women's Bible study group have commenced. Public "On Fire" rallies held each first Tuesday. C.W.F. sent five cartons of clothes and bed linen to Eidsvold Aborigines Mission. Family Camp planned for November.

nsw

CAMPBELLTOWN — Creative Living Group each Tuesday patronised by all ages. Creche enables mothers to be free for activities including ceramics, dresmaking, copper work, needlework, art, enamelling and cookery; as well as Psychology for Living and History of Australian Society seminars. Discussion group in the afternoon. Contact phones are 253955 and 256387.

INVERELL — Disabled people sharing in church life and services. Young people run a monthly Coffee Shop-Drop In Centre. Christian Endeavour hold monthly Bible study. Three other Bible study groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 17th Annual Missionary Convention held with Josef Sali, Vanuatu pastor as guest, Contact phone, 221202.

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS — Meets in Blaxland East Primary School. Survey of district by members revealed necessity of Emergency Home Care. Emergency Care Service commenced in co-operation with local doctors, clinic sisters and schools. It covers voluntary home help, child minding and transport in emergency situations. Contact, 394325.

HAMILTON — "Friends Club" meets each Thursday from 10 to 2, especially for the elderly and the handicapped. No steps at access helps disabled to cope. Program includes craft, singing, reading, table games. Young people meet on Fridays. Bible study groups preparing for Luis Palau Crusade in March 1982.

VIC

TRARALGON — July services focussed on Year of the Disabled. Church participating in I.T.I.M. studies, "The Changing Patterns of Work", with other churches and community groups. The church is sponsoring a public seminar on "Death and Bereavement" on the four Sunday nights of September. MELBOURNE (Swanston St.) — 40 of the faith aim of 100 new members in 1981 already added, including students from S.E. Asia. More Chinese attending services than Australians. 400 attend Sunday morning services, half being tertiary students. 75% of the congregation are under 30. 16 from the church are in missionary service. Five more being sent out next year. Half the church's income goes to missions.

KANIVA — "Changing Moods" concert held towards new wing of Kaniva Hospital. Church is raising \$1200 for motor cycle for Vanuatu Conference Secretary, Ishmael Bangga. Film programs have included the Schaefer series and some from the Bible Society. Daily prayers conducted in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Church attended North West Conference picnic at Mt Arapiles.

HARTWELL — 9.30 Family Services give opportunity for child participation, dialogue, questions, discussion and communion. More formal worship at 11. Winter Praise and Renewal Services June to August at 5 p.m. These include films and audio-visuals and special features. Friendship group for elderlies attracts large crowds each second Thursday. "Your Family and You" community program planned for October 11-18.

MOUNT CLEAR — Young people participated in 40 Hour Famine in support of World Vision program for Third World people. Sunday

School operating "Sale of the Sunday" quiz program with prizes from local Christian bookshop. "The Family in a Changing World", a series of public lectures by Lifeline director Bert Storay, being held in August.

SHEPPARTON — Church celebrating centenary from November 1-8, with Ron Elbourne. A month of family-centred sermons culminated in Family Life Film Seminar. Building mortgage payments completed. Women of church have three Know Your Bible study groups.

SAI

VICTOR HARBOUR — Extensive preparation for "Good News Program" with Gordon Stirling, December 2-6. Outreach, Worship and Caring Committees formed. Church active in Combined Council with Uniting Churches. Growing youth groups. Elders in ministry team with minister for pastoral calling.

BERRI — Church is part of the five church Riverland Union, with Barmera, Loxton, Moorook and Waikerie. Recently formed Worship Committee has created special Sunday night programs including local artists, discussions and selected sermon subjects and a "cuppa". Church is planning a Care and Concern Group to help meet community need.

MILE END — Bill Bowden has commenced ministry. Frank Rogers donated Nashua Copier in memory of his wife Betty. Friends of Betty's provided \$600 to Overseas Missions in lieu of funeral flowers. Money was given to Cancer Foundation in lieu of funeral flowers in memory of Mrs Dewhurst. C.W.F. Living Links are missionaries Paul and Judy Williams.

STIRLING — Men provide five course dinner for mothers of the church. Church provided program for Adelaide Blind Christians Fellowship. Eight study groups meeting, some before work in the morning. One group for teenagers. "Ideas '81" craft exhibition by Lois Martin. Members have been tree felling and catering, giving their services to benefit the church.

BRIGHTON — Sparetimers Club for elderlies celebrated 10th year. Meets fortnightly for friendship, bowls and

crafts. Friday Night Family Fellowship has commenced. Tape Ministry provides church services for shut-ins. Mothers and children join in Wednesday Play Group. Friendship Group meets Tuesdays from 10-2.30 for crafts, singing, games and chatting. It is open to all age groups. Creche for children.

VIC

SWAN HILL — "Understanding Your Teenager" is the theme of a public seminar in September with speakers including the Project Officer for CYSS. Church is host for Northern District Conference, with visiting choir "Sugar and Salt" from Berwick. Recent events have been a farm barbecue, a missionary rally and a church stewardship dinner.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS — Peter Pitts to continue ministry to end of 1985. New buildings have seen record attendances each Sunday. Church Family Camp at Hall's Gap. Public tea for church and community Sunday August 16 at 5 p.m. Paul, Karen and Lucinda Hills commissioned for service with Aborigines Mission at Eidsvold.

THORNBURY — Church has delivered free New Testaments to those requesting them after letter box drop. Three baptisms. Two received by transfer. 27 children attend Wednesday after-school "Happy Hour". Explorer and Good Companions Clubs growing. Two Bible study groups meet. Early morning prayer times at 6.30 a.m. Fridays.

SEW ON NAME TAPES
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-Churches

WA

BUNBURY — Attendances providing seating problem. Plans to enlarge the chapel and to call a second Minister. Missions have been held with Des Nelson and Alan Bartlam (Ambassadors for Christ). Manse repayments expected to be completed soon. Phone contact 21 3387.

SOUTH PERTH — Church to celebrate 34th Anniversary in November with five day Crusade in the City Hall. First semester of Christian Training Centre completed. It includes electives in Practical Church Work, Biblical Exegesis, Doctrine and Devotional Bible Study. Over 100 attend. Church has promised \$41,000 for Missions in 1981. 19 have indicated desire for full time service. 100 decisions for Christ in 1980,81.

ALBANY — Dan and Judy Lundgen (USA) have moved into new manse. Sunday School supports an Indian boy at Shrigonda. Church celebrates 17th Anniversary with 63 active families. C.W.F. supports care of an Aboriginal child. Families feature in services which include eating together, films and child participation. Fellowship for elderlies on Sunday afternoons.

FREMANTLE — Church which is second oldest in W.A. celebrates its 90th Anniversary from November 1. Thursday Friendship Centre popular. Guest Night August 30 with Jack Bond. Veteran missionary Kath Taylor has been visiting Vanuatu mission.

VIC

WERRIBEE — Church planning for permanent buildings with growing numbers and offerings. One hectare site purchased. Sunday morning worship held in manse for two weeks during "school cleaning". Minister lectures a day a week at College of the Bible. Combined youth group with the Baptists.

RICHMOND — The Ministers, Graeme and Bronwyn Rogerson, have a new daughter, Helen. Building renovation debt repayment celebrated with Conference Secretary, Clive Ward speaking. Two recent baptisms. Three Bible study groups. Two prayer groups. Girls' Brigade raised \$250 for Red Cross.

PRESTON-EAST
PRESTON — The hall, lounge and former manse being used seven days a week for community service. "Open Door Friendship Group" three days a week. Social Club for the Handicapped. Citizens' Advice Bureau. Elderly Greek Citizens Group weekly. English classes for ethnic people. Support groups for the disadvantaged.

PYRAMID HILL — Jolly Juniors (primary school age) meet each Wednesday after school. Older young people in Christian Endeavour on Fridays. Women meet on second Thursdays. Services at 11 and 7 on Sundays. Sunday School at 10 a.m.

SPRINGVALE — Marriage and Family Enrichment Seminars held. Church services taped for "shut-ins". 11 recent decisions and 7 baptisms. New church kitchen built by volunteers. New Lowrey organ donated to church. Over 100 farewell Munyard family returning to missionary service in Indonesia. Brenda Wilson congratulated on gaining B.Mus. degree.

GLEN WAVERLEY — Minister still writing "Parson's Pitch" in local paper. Church involved in Ecumenical Civic Service. Many in 40 Hour Famine for World Vision. Six baptisms. Annual meeting of Christian Counselling Centre accepted new constitution providing for public membership and registration with Health Commission. Sunday Winter Witness Services at 5 p.m.

MONTROSE — A "Twenties and All That" concert planned in Lilydale on August 15 will include melodrama, a 1920's band and community singing. Building Committee planning to replace present inadequate building to accommodate increasing numbers. Fellowship-in-Action Group has conducted an October Fair and Progressive Dinner. Family Camp held at Marysville.

Maylands (S.A.) Friendship Centre

Rumour has it that the idea was born in a prayer group!

At least that was one place when sharp thinking took place to counter the mood of a church in a community with a high ethnic population — an inner suburban area being swallowed up in change. So the church found itself struggling for a meaningful future and a purpose.

"Itchy Hands"

A small cluster of concerned members finally seized on the plan for a Friendship Centre to cater for the lonely, those with 'itchy' hands looking for things to do — those who enjoy a chat — those who like to be with people.

With a measure of uncertainty and fear as to the outcome this idea took shape about four years ago. It has

never looked back! Each Tuesday morning from 10-12 the halls and rooms come alive! Rug-making, pottery, tatting, crochet, carpet-bowls, painting, knitting — over a hundred different crafts have been handled and taught — and still people come back each week! This week the average number has been 130. A creche allows some mothers to concentrate.

Almost each week there are visitors from other districts (and from interstate!) who come to see the Centre in action. At least 14 groups have commenced from such visits.

The church is at present involved in building alterations and hall extensions which will directly help the Centre to expand activities and spread out!

— Lloyd Cooke



Bricklayers at work on the hall extensions at Maylands church.

The way to unity amongst the churches is for Christians to come together in the spirit of love, to discover together from the records of the faith and life of the first century church, a valid faith and life for the twentieth century church.

DONCASTER — \$1,000 raised by 26 in 40 hour Famine for World Vision. Centenary of Sunday School celebrated. Young adults conducted "Free Shoe-shine" in Doncaster

Shopping Centre to demonstrate Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, and Christian service. 35 in "Adventure in Evangelism" seminar. Church board had full day planning session.

BENDIGO RETIREMENT VILLAGE



The Bendigo Retirement Village is a non-denominational project, under the care of the Bendigo Church of Christ.

ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR RETIREMENT OR IS THE PRESSURE TOO GREAT?

What with paying rates, water bills, tending the garden, and keeping up maintenance on the house, life can become frustrating.

THE BENDIGO RETIREMENT VILLAGE IS DESIGNED TO TAKE THE WORRY OUT OF RETIREMENT, BY PROVIDING INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS WITH TOTAL CARE SET IN LANDSCAPED GARDENS.

An added advantage is most of the money outlaid on the unit is recouped by the family when the unit is vacated.

**MANY UNITS ARE ALREADY OCCUPIED SO DON'T DELAY OR YOU
COULD MISS OUT.**

Live in the Village, and enjoy the fellowship of meeting with the Bendigo Church of Christ.

For further information write:-

**Managers, Bendigo Retirement Village, Mandurang Rd, Spring
Gully, Bendigo. 3550.**

or

Phone: (054) 42 3354.



**G.G. COMMUNICATIONS
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14 WILLIAM STREET
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874 7003

No we're not new — just changed our name.
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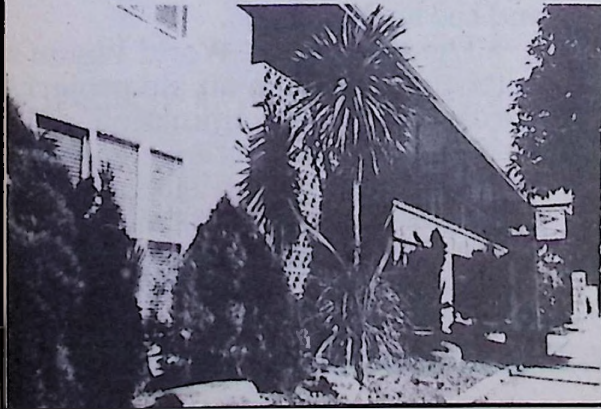
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A Hundred Years Old



Ada Whitfield has had her 100th birthday and is one of the most active members of the Senior Citizens Club of the Telopea (N.S.W.) Church of Christ community centre.

People in this rapid growth suburban housing area know

it as the Telopea Christian Centre, and that day and night it is a hive of activity.

Child Care Centre

With Commonwealth help the Long Day Care Centre looks after 45 children, mainly from single parent families ... with a staff of three trained leaders, two assistants, 2 nurses, a cook and an office secretary.

Family Day Care

The Telopea Christian Centre is headquarters for a day care program involving a co-ordinator, two part-time officers and a large team of volunteers, to look after 120 children in 30 homes. The staff offer for the parents, courses in Parent Effectiveness Training.

Play Group

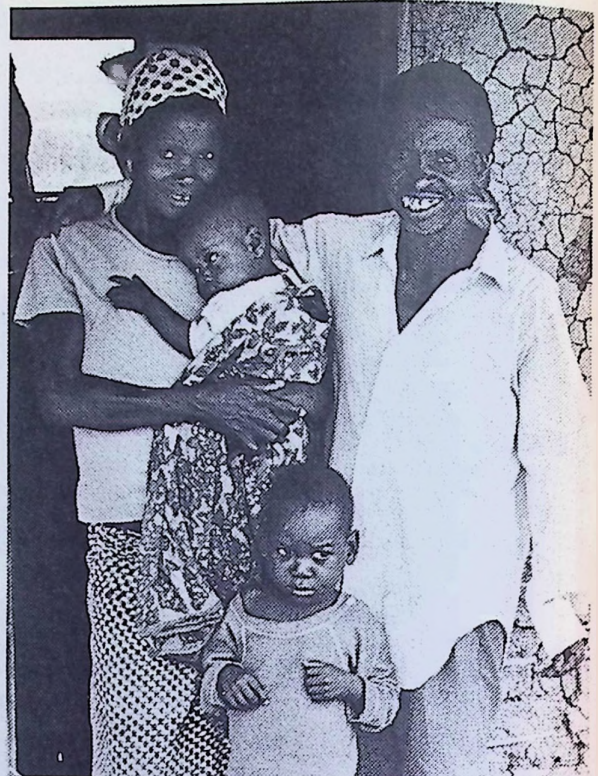
Telopea is another of dozens of centres where our churches are conducting Play Groups for tinies and their mums.

Sundays

It is not surprising that Telopea Sunday services are crowded.



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World Vision, as a Christian agency, is committed to caring for the whole person, body and spirit. Through meeting the poor's physical needs we express the love of God.

Many times this leads to the opportunity to directly witness to non-Christians about Christian values and the love of Jesus.

The majority of World Vision's relief and development aid projects are carried out in conjunction with the indigenous Christian churches. For example, World Vision and the Churches of Christ work side by side at the Cedeco Agricultural Training College in Zaire, Africa. The college trains the students in agriculture and

animal husbandry. These students return to their villages to teach others.

Because of the support of thousands of Australian Christians World Vision is able to continue this vital Christian ministry. Be a part of this ministry and express your Christian concern for the poor of our world.




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Signed _____

Registered Office: World Vision of Australia, 29 Coventry St., South Melbourne, Vic.



Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

Life Be In It

Spreading from Victoria over the past couple of years has been the effort to encourage Australians to a healthier exercise pattern under the title "Life Be In It". I have watched, just like Norm, as his advertisements have appeared on the telly.

The thought that comes to me when I hear the phrase is, just what is meant by life in today's society. Today there are many living in Australia to whom life is a misery. They are lonely and disadvantaged. The things that they do bring them no enjoyment at all. Some opt out of life by ending their own lives.

As a Christian I am concerned that many of my fellow Christians are not sharing the fantastic news that we have responded to. Jesus made a promise that is recorded in the Gospel of John (10:10) "I have come in order that they might have life, life in all its fullness".

Many Christians do not show that

life in the way that they live. Others do know the reality of this fullness of life and yet they are reluctant to share this with friends and neighbours. Some do, and they help others gain this, the greatest gift one could have.

When God created people he meant them to live in a close friendship with him. This friendship has been broken by us because of our pride. This has left in us a sense of loss for the God sized part that is missing. Jesus promised that through him this hole would be filled and thus life would be as it was originally intended.

I realise that this does not mean that all our problems are instantly solved. Far from it. However we do have some extra resources available to cope with problems that may occur throughout our lives. We have the security of knowing a true friendship with God and the certainty of our future.

This means that we can really say that Christians do have life and we can encourage all others to be in it.

THE LAST WORD

The world would be much nicer to live in—
If our hearts were tender instead of our skin.

—Marlys Bradley

Amid the harsh pollution mess
The theme keeps growing stronger
That if you drive a little less
You may keep breathing longer.

—Paul Armstrong

"I've never seen such a boy for asking questions!" cried a father impatiently to his young son. "I wonder what would have happened if I had asked as many questions when I was a boy."

"Maybe," suggested the lad, "you'd be able to answer some of mine now."

Lugging a huge fish, an angler met another fishing enthusiast whose catch consisted of twelve small ones. "Howdy," said the first man as he gingerly laid down his large fish.

The other fellow stared for a few moments and calmly responded. "Just caught one, eh?"

Clerk: "How can I stop women customers from talking about the low prices of the good old days?"

Manager: "Act surprised and tell them you didn't think they were old enough to remember."

The mother sardine calmed her little ones as a submarine floated by. "Don't be frightened, children," she said. "That's just a can of people."

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