



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

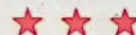
Vol. 84, No. 2, February 21, 1981

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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

## IN THIS ISSUE

EXPOSITORY  
PREACHING



BREAKING DOWN  
BARRIERS



PROBLEMS OF  
INTERPRETATION

## Ministry Moves

### The Mullers for Vanuatu



The Muller family

Lyll and Jillian Muller and baby Robert were at Margaret Street, Toowoomba on January 11. Mervyn, Lyll's father presided, and Lyll spoke about the call to go back to Vanuatu.

Lyll's grandparents Mr and Mrs E. Davis and Mr and Mrs G. Muller were among the congregation. He grew up in Toowoomba. He gained his B.App. Sc. at D.D.I.A.E. before going to teach at

Ranwadi for two years. Returning to Australia he completed the course at Kenmore Christian College, and his B.A. at Queensland Uni . . . Since graduation he ministered at Sunnybank. He has been member of Queensland Overseas Mission Board.

Jillian is a High School teacher and studied at Kenmore.

### Team Ministry commences at Glen Waverley



Ron Elbourne with Keith and Laurel Milne

## Caringbah Ministry Team

Eric Hart has joined Brian White as a member of the ministry team at our Caringbah, N.S.W. church. He will work part-time, accepting the responsibility for pastoral care while sharing around 20% of the preaching load.

Brian will be working mainly in the areas of services, administration, outreach and discipling.

Eric Hart was Director of our Social Service Department in Queensland for 10 years and previously served in N.S.W. as minister at Bexley North, Associate to Charles Cole in our Social Service Dept., and Conference Secretary. Mr and Mrs Hart have taken up residence in Miranda.



Eric Hart with Brian White

After some 18 months of prayer, planning and activity a capacity congregation at Glen Waverley welcomed K. R. Milne to team ministry on Sunday February 8. Keith and Laurel Milne join Ron and Mavis Elbourne who have now been ministering to the church for 10 years.

Gordon Stirling conducted the induction and received the commitment of both Keith, and the congregation, to

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# ON MY MIND WHATEVER HAPPENED TO EXPOSITORY PREACHING?

**MARLENE MESSENT**

Together with husband, David, and three children. Marlene Messent worships at our Marion church in South Australia. She is on the Officers' Board and works three mornings a week at the church as Office Secretary. She is also interested in Overseas Missions and spends one day a week working in the Federal Overseas Mission Office at Unley. She is a daughter of Mr and Mrs W. N. Bartlett. Mr Bartlett is one of our "retired" ministers and his ministry is the one referred to in this article.

I grew up under a ministry of expository preaching and will be eternally grateful for the teaching and subsequent understanding of the scriptures I received during those years. Therefore, I am a great advocate of biblical exposition.

## ADVANTAGES FOR MINISTERS

As I understand it, the Sunday morning Bible lessons are chosen so that we can cover a large portion of the Bible over a number of years. The selected readings, which are used in all the mainline churches within Australia, emphasise the phases of the Christian year and include the fundamental truths of the Christian faith. The minister does not have to go through the weekly ordeal of choosing a topic on which to preach. Speaking on the morning lesson helps him avoid too frequent use of favourite passages. As he studies to unfold the scriptures to others, the minister will gain a deeper awareness of the person of Jesus Christ.

Whether we like it or not, Sunday morning is all the time many church members are going to give for their own Christian education and unless the minister takes this opportunity to teach the scriptures by expanding the morning lesson, I believe he is missing out.

## ADVANTAGES FOR THE CONGREGATION:

Biblical exposition enables us to understand what the scriptures are about and why they were written. We need to KNOW what God has to say to us, and having the scriptures explained by trained persons is one of the surest ways of learning. With this knowledge we are better equipped to deal with the problems we face, both big and small, in today's world. Knowledge and understanding produce a more positive attitude within us.

Certainly we want to be challenged and inspired, but isn't this what will happen as God's word is made clearer and more relevant to us?

So I appeal to our preachers to use their training and knowledge to the best advantage, teaching us what the Bible is saying to us, so that we will truly accept its great truths into our lives and become men and women with the mind and spirit of Christ.

What does our world need more than this?

## Billy Graham honoured in Poland

Mr Graham was in Warsaw on January 7 to receive an honorary Doctor of Theology degree from the Christian Theological Academy, the only Protestant university-level theological school in Poland. He was the first American to be so honoured by the academy, and only the seventh non-Pole in its history to receive an honorary doctorate. The degree was given in recognition of Mr Graham's ministry and interest in Poland. He had preached to large crowds in both Catholic and Protestant churches in six cities during a 10-day evangelistic mission in 1978.

During the degree ceremony, attended by 500 Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders, government officials, reporters, and others, the evangelist delivered a major address on "The Christian Mission Today". He warned that the world "is in the midst of an extremely dangerous period of history" because of the development of weapons of mass destruction and the magnitude of crises that can be caused by single nations or individuals." He said, "Part of the Christian's service to God and man is to work for peace. Among other things, that means working to end the arms race. War, hate, and greed originate in the heart of man and that's why proclamation of the Gospel is so important: man must be born from above, he needs a new heart."

Mr Graham visited Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński who welcomed him warmly "in a true ecumenical spirit of Christian friendship". He also spent early two hours in a private meeting with Poland's Foreign Minister, Josef Czyrek.

At a dinner hosted by the 50-church Baptist Union, main sponsor of the 1978 Graham mission, a number of pastors reported how the 1978 effort had resulted in lasting changes in their churches and communities.

### Wanted: 100 Seminar Leaders for Explo. '81

A further 100 people are required to act as Assistant Seminar Leaders.

Seminar Leadership Training will be available in South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria and Brisbane, and early application is requested. Training commences at the beginning of March and will run for six weeks. For details and application forms, please contact Explo. '81 — Perth, P.O. Box 6163, Hay St., (East) Perth 6000 or phone (09) 325 2333.

### Child Labor

There is an estimated 52 million children under the age of 15 in the work force, claims the International Labor Organisation. 50 million are in the Third World. The organisation says that about one million children aged between 10 and 14 are working in the Philippines, but this is a very conservative figure because the number of children under the age of 10 is not recorded. Philippine law forbids hiring children under the age of 15.

## CHEAP BURGERS

Parts of Latin America are being destroyed so that the hungries in the West can get a fast feed.

Norman Myers from the Centre for International Environment Information says the fast-food chains are destroying large areas of South American forests so that they can graze cattle for future hamburgers.

Demand for this type of food is increasing rapidly in the US, and fast-food companies are looking for cheap places to raise their meat. The size of beef pastureland in Central America has doubled since 1950, but the beef consumption of the people living in this region has continued to decline.

## Glen Waverley team ministry

• Continued from Page 1

"build up the body of Christ" in a mutual ministry of Christian love and support.

For Keith and his family it is an experience of returning to a congregation where they had previously worshipped. They accepted an invitation to the new ministry team at Glen Waverley while ministering to the church at Coburg where they enjoyed a five year term.

Whilst Keith will be sharing in the preaching and worship aspects of ministry his main responsibility will be in pastoral care and the establishment and maintenance of small groups.

## THE RIGHT MOVE

When your children have homes of their own and your place becomes too big and too much ...

... it is time to think about the right move.

You will have to move someday — the best time is when you can handle change with the least amount of fuss and strain.

You can do no better than add your name to our list of potential residents. Sometimes folk with priorities are not able to take advantage of vacancies and you could find yourself, suddenly and delightedly, at the top of the list.

### The CHRISTIAN RETIREMENT CENTRE

at Cheltenham is right alongside shopping, transport, and medical facilities and, most important, is a caring community.

The C.R.C. is part of the ministry of the Cheltenham Church of Christ. For no-obligation information write to:

**A. E. WHITE, 2 CHESTERVILLE RD., CHELTENHAM, VIC. 3192 (550 5202)**



## DIRECTOR OF NURSING

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

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

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

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

Excellent conditions, live-in facilities are available for a family if required.

Apply in writing outlining full details of experience and qualifications, and enclosing copies of recent references to:

Rev. Colin Wood, Director of Community Services, Wesley Central Mission, 210 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000.

# WOD

**NOLLAMARA** (A.J. Anderson, J. Hicks). Bethel Bible Series enrolment day held. At culmination of two years study teacher trainees received certificates. 18 further trainees and 90 members enrolled for two year study period . . . Christmas Sunday family service in morning and Y.P. presented musical "Twinkle, twinkle, little star" at evening service.

**NORTHAM** (M. Randell) Fellowship enjoyed with May Reuben, Duindui Matron. Farewell to Colin and Agnes Beavis moving to Karringyup. Colin has been elder, deacon, treasurer. Agnes church organist for 26 years, also C.W.F. treasurer. Both S.S. teachers. Glen Smart from Cunderdin and local preachers have helped during minister's leave.

**KALAMUNDA** (Tim Hanna) 13 young couples shared in weekend camp. Phil Michael elected elder. Alan Sharpe Board chairman, Bruce Peacock treasurer, Ron Liddle secretary for 28th year. Sandra Rutley leads weekly diversified CWF programs. Presentation to Elder-emeritus and Mrs Payne transferred to Warwick Homes . . . 153 attended S.S. Christmas program and communion service . . . Four commissioned for Explo. 81 leadership . . . Four baptisms . . . Two children's play groups . . . Presentation to Gene Howell appreciating 9 months interim ministry . . . Tim Hanna inducted to ministry Feb. 1.

**ALBANY** (D. Lundgren) State Conference President F. Raymond visited in December. Six decisions at end of 1980. Mr and Mrs Vincent Cooney coordinating youth clubs and S.S. in 1981. Keswick Meetings held in C. of C. hall Jan. 7-9 with Nigel Merrick (Subiaco C. of C. minister) speaking. Large interchurch attendance.

# VIC

**MARYBOROUGH** (Kerry Haythorpe). Cell Group led morning worship. Rob Hercus speaker . . . S.S. led worship with singing reading and acting. Their offering went to Rao our World Vision child. Service followed by picnic lunch . . . C.W.F. held luncheon meeting at Mary Witnish's home . . . E.W.F. held social breakup . . . Cartons of toys and books forwarded to Kew Cottages and for hospital visitation.

**KANIVA** (Pam Bowers). Focus given by small groups at worship services . . . 81 participated in four homes on hospitality Sunday . . . Special speakers Wilf Lovell, Gideons, S.A., M. T. Lawrie, Ken Brookes, Nepal, combined slide service with Serviceton — Charles Dow — Alan and Nola Baker, Overseas Mission rep . . . Church choir participated in combined nativity pageant and special Christmas service . . . S.S. acted modern version of Paul's conversion, T.V. on Zaccheus and display poster . . . Reg Dyer resigned after 12 years as S.S. Supt. . . . Church saddened at death of Elder R.W. Rowe.

**WEST PRESTON** (D. Wissmann). Last family service for year held with Christmas play . . . \$500 cheque presented to Norma Barnett for work at Peter McCallum Hospital . . . Members served scones and cordial on Saturday before Christmas to the people of Preston . . . Former student minister Ron White taking services whilst minister on holidays . . . Combined evening services during January with Uniting Church.

**IVANHOE** (G. Hall). Jim Wright guest speaker at 63rd anniversary . . . Roy LeGreen and George Harman new Elders . . . Fellowship tea featured singers from Werribee and speaker Allan Niven . . . C.W.E.F. visited Banyule Gallery, C.W.A.F. picnicked at Yarra Valley Park . . . Members' overseas slides featured at social evening . . . B.S. presented Christmas Play at evening meeting . . . Evening services during January united with churches of Ivanhoe fraternal.

**ESSENDON** (H. Schaefer). Members held cuppa after services to farewell Jim and Gail Keatch and family and Adrian and Maureen Clark and family. Welcome given to Hans Schaefer as incoming student minister . . . Church saddened by deaths of Mrs Lil Orr and Mrs Doris Vine. **MONTROSE** (F.L. van Laar). Church accepted 1981 evangelistic program. Based on adult Christian education in small groups with monthly evangelistic activities followed in October with a visitation for discipleship program. . . . Louis van Laar begins second three year ministry term. . . Church evaluating buildings for future plans.

**CHELTENHAM** (A. White, S. Wilson, D. Smith). Moorabbin Town Hall nearly filled for Christmas service. Speaker Alf White. Offering after expenses left \$537 for Christmas Bowl . . . Gordon and Beverley Moyes and family attended services and told of work at Wesley Central Mission, Sydney . . . Giving to others for past six months totalled \$6,696 . . . Elanora Home for the Blind thanked church for providing gospel services throughout the year . . . Cheltenham Opportunity Shop donated \$1,080 to work of church last year . . . Choir presented Peterson's "Night of Miracles" as Christmas cantata.

# SO

**BORDERTOWN** S.S. and Y.P. held annual breakups and carol singing . . . Minister Barry Reid and family farewelled at circuit tea. This was followed by Barry's final address. He commences a new ministry at Newcastle.

**LONG PLAINS** Following closing of Long Plains chapel four members transferred to Balaklava. Members combined with Owen at farewell evening for John and Jan Wilson and four daughters, taking up full-time work with Tasmanian Baptists.

**BROOKLYN PARK** (Graham Agnew). On Christmas Eve 70 travelled on three trucks singing carols to local residents . . . Outdoor carol service in church car park featured own musical talent . . . Senior Choir presented Petersen's "Night of Miracles" . . . Junior S.S. presented

Nativity Play as part of Christmas celebrations. 200 attended . . . 50 attended S.A.M.M.Y. (Young Marrieds) progressive supper break-up . . . Junior Choir visited homes of shut-ins and sang carols . . . Evangelism C'ttee arranged distribution of Encounter leaflets to homes in area . . . Preparations continuing for opening of Community Care and Friendship Centre . . . Two fellowship nights held in January.

**BRIGHTON** (N. Moore). Sermons are recorded for loan or sale . . . Minister conducted study on Understanding the Bible last November. Harold Norris will lead another study on Revelation next month . . . Choir reformed with Merle Alderton, leader . . . Mortimer Terrace manse leased for year pending appointment of a second minister . . . Brenton Fopp is continuing to keep open house to the Y.P. . . . Leaflet listing the church's activities prepared and distributed in the district . . . Christmas Bowl appeal raised \$1,360.

# TOAS

**LAUNCESTON** (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). Christmas Bowl appeal launched at evening service when members shared a meal of rice and a drink of water, staple food of many of the world's hungry. . . 100 at Twilight Carols at R. Byard's Exeter property . . . Boys' and Girls' Brigades Display Nights prior to Christmas, when certificates presented.

# VIC

**DANDENONG** (W.J. Edwards) Minister able to attend services. Peter Ramarau still preaching. Five more young people made decisions for total of 12. CWF held fete and all day stall. Also gave Christmas lunch to elderlies. S.S. held Open Day and Christmas breakup. Y.P. holding youth teas in homes.

**BAMBRA RD.** (K. Christensen) Rupe Goodman new secretary. Ralph Carpenter, treasurer. Both elected elders. Men took Christmas gifts from church to Gordon House. Members took carol services to Emmaus and Camden Court. Members and friends celebrated Silver Wedding of minister and wife at pre-service tea. Betty Houghton new S.S. Superintendent.

**BERWICK** (D. McLeod, N. Bunch) 700 at Christmas Cantata . . . Presented four times, including Rotary Family Dinner. Church choir, children's choir and Sugar and Salt gospel group sang on late shopping nights at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre. Discoverers also presented puppet play, "2001". 3000 attended church's presentation of Christmas story at Civic Centre, using live camel, donkey and sheep. Church saddened by death of Mrs Maclean. Daryl McLeod, Liz and Kevin Smith led Discoverers on W.A. tour including maintenance and construction work at

Norseman and Esperance. Single church services on January Sundays taxed accommodation. Theme, "The Family of God." Norval Bunch and Graeme Burgess attended Cooma Christian Music Seminar.

**DONCASTER** (K.D. Horne) Great response to Youth Christmas, Choral Christmas and Family Christmas, (with 2 decisions from young people at the latter.) Christmas Eve and Midnight services also held. Doncaster has resumed holding evening services through the month of January with special guest artists. Keith and Margaret Farmer farewelled. Keith Bowes as Sessional Minister and John Gilmore as Student Minister for 1981. Church has purchased new manse, adjacent to church property.

**EAST KEW** (A. Clark, J. Tudor). Church saddened at the death of Mrs Emmerson, member for over 50 years. Sympathy also extended to Ron Meggs on loss of his mother and to Doris Elliott, her sister. Mrs Booth . . . Over 100 came to special Wednesday evening baptismal service arranged by John and Margaret Tudor. Four baptism conducted by P. Broadbent and A. Symes (Echuca), both served here as student ministers. Fellowship supper followed.

**SHEPPARTON** (G. S. Deuble). Growing in the Eighties seminar held with D. Smith and I. Tippett. Recommendations being considered by Board . . . 400 bandages rolled for Leprosy by Youth 11 class in Bandage Roll-a-Thon. Proceeds to C.O.C.O.A. and Leprosy Mission . . . C.W.E.F. collected groceries for Christmas hampers for needy families . . . Y.P. have commenced Bible Study. . . Members involved in preparations for Bill Glass Crusade in Shepparton in March 1981.

**THE PATCH** (Len Martin). At minister, Tom Frazer's last morning service a married lady confessed Christ. After the service a lunch was held at which farewell presentations were made to minister and his wife . . . Many weeks of working bees have been held to renovate the manse for new minister, Len Marton and family . . . Vic Berry and Lance Fisher recent speakers.

**ESSENDON** (H. Schaeffer, M. Ashworth). Members shared a cuppa after morning service to welcome Morrie and Jan Ashworth and family . . . Guest speakers have been Ross Burdon and Ron Haig (Baptist Church).

**OLD**

**GATTON — MA MA CREEK** (Ron Wilson). Services held to welcome new minister Ron Wilson. Ministry was commenced with an induction service at Ma Ma Creek. Don Stewart, Deputy Conf. Pres. and Social Services Director, conducted the service . . . Public welcome was given to Ron Wilson, his wife Sue and two boys. Many visitors and members from both churches attended . . . The New Life Singers from Toowoomba presented musical program . . . Former minister David Birrell, wife and family have taken up residence at Eidsvold, where they are serving at the Mission Centre as house parents.

**REDCLIFFE** (Albie Taylor). Robert Hilford gained place in Veterinary Science Course, Qld. University . . . Married couple baptised . . . Visiting speakers have been K. Burkhead and D. Proud.

**ANNERLEY** (D. Hammer, A. Lochhead). Dr. D. Hammer conducting an interim ministry with the assistance of Allan Lochhead, senior student at Kenmore . . . Church farewelled Mr and Mrs D. Hammer and family on their departure for W.A. and the Federal Aborigines Mission Board. . . 1981 Faith Promise program has commenced. Last year \$6500 was sent to Indonesia and \$2500 each to Aborigines Mission work at Normanton and Home Mission work in the new cause at Caloundra. Christmas Day offering of \$424 sent to C.O.C.O.A. **ACACIA RIDGE** (V.G. Boettcher, M.J. Gibson). Quarterly Tea and Rally held with Kingswood Park. Film shown . . . A.G.M. held. S.Friend, Sec., and K.R. (Joe) Schluter, Treas . . . Manse purchased in Algester, adjoining suburb and Merv J. Gibson engaged as Associate Minister with V.G. Boettcher. . . New member welcomed into fellowship and a young man made his decision . . . Minister awarded M.B.E. in New Year's Honors List.

**NSW**

**INVERELL** (I. Morton). Roger Hammond and his wife Carmen of Warwick church came for Induction of Ian and Heather Morton into ministry at

Inverell . . . Barbecue tea held New Year's Eve at Dough and Lyn Hamilton's when Richard and Jan Powell showed movies and slides taken during six years they ministered at Inverell . . . Andrew Rogers baptised. . . Full staff in both Departments of S.S., Ian Morton, Superintendent.

**THORNLEIGH** (P. Cameron). Paul Cameron commenced ministry with church Induction by Ron Batholomew. All the church elders shared in the service and K.E. Crawford, Conf. Sec., spoke. Welcome lunch to Mr and Mrs Cameron held. Paul Cameron conducted evening service with Moses family participating . . . B.S. commenced year with annual Promotion Service.

**BURWOOD** (R. Powell). Mr and Mrs P. Moyle farewelled after appreciated ministry . . . In Feb., Mr and Mrs R. Powell and family (formerly Inverell) welcomed. The charge was given by F. Stephenson . . . Mr and Mrs Ken Booth's son has entered W.E.C. College in Tasmania.

### Merger Proposals in U.S.A.

Local churches will have a say in the proposed merger of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A joint steering committee announced this plan: 200 congregations from each denomination will pair off to study doctrinal and structural issues of church union. Another 300 congregations, not located near ecumenical partners, will study church union individually. The two denominations will use this grassroots data in preparing for their 1985 decision on whether or not to begin formal merger talks.



## WESLEY CENTRAL MISSION MINISTER OF THE WORD CHINESE CONGREGATION

Wesley Central Mission is seeking a Minister of the Word and Sacrament to accept responsibility for preaching and pastoral care of the Chinese speaking Congregation and the Mission's work amongst Asian people.

Ability to read and speak English and Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) is essential.

Wesley Central Mission (Australia's first Methodist Church founded in 1812) is part of the Uniting Church in Australia. The applicant would need to strongly identify with the evangelical and social witness ethos of the Mission, and be able to accept the faith and order of the Uniting Church of Australia as set forth in its Basis of Union.

Conditions of the appointment are as applicable to Ministers of the Word of the Uniting Church in Australia. A part-time appointment would be considered.

Please write to the Superintendent, Rev Gordon Moyes, Wesley Central Mission, 210 Pitt Street, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000. Mark your envelope "CONFIDENTIAL".

# EXPERIMENTING UNDER THE C.W.F. UMBRELLA AT ALBURY

This is a digest of a talk given by Dorothy Aldred at Federal Conference at the Elective on "C.W.F. — Where to from Here".

## EXPERIMENTATION

In 4½ years we have seen growth from a traditional C.W.F. to a group of approximately 80 women, Christian and non-Christian, involved in many different ways in the program of the Church. We experimented with different approaches to women's work in the first years until we developed the present system.

## NAME AND STRUCTURE.

We abandoned the title "Christian Women's Fellowship" because it had a connotation of exclusiveness. Our aim was to include non-Christian women in our program. We introduced the name "Family Centre." The goal was a 7-day a week family program.

The women's work is loosely structured with ALL programs and activities coming under the Family Centre Committee. This committee is elected at the Annual Meeting of the Church, and meets bi-monthly.

## GOALS

1. To provide opportunities for service, involvement, and growth for all women associated with the Church.
2. To provide opportunities to reach out to the community through friendship, caring, sharing, and counselling for the ultimate purpose of bringing people to a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. To support the Church, The Brotherhood, and our own welfare program, and other community needs.

## UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY.

1. NEEDS are more important than STRUCTURES. This is the general philosophy of the Albury Church.
2. The value of each person with individual needs, gifts, abilities, and interests is a priority.
3. The Church is a family where each person contributes to the benefit of all.
4. The need to be flexible and to constantly re-evaluate personal needs and abilities, and church and community needs is important.

Women serve in many varied ways in the Church, and it is our belief that whether they work alone, with a group, or in a formal structure, the service that each gives is equally valuable, and has an important place under the "Umbrella" of Christian Women's Fellowship or Family Centre, or by whatever name it is called.

## PRACTICAL FUNCTIONING

A number of Coffee Groups with differing programs to appeal to different age groups were commenced, and the C.W.F. dissolved because of lack of interest. However the C.W.F. Executive continued to operate to oversee the small groups program, and the general activities such as missionary support. Later, as needs, programs and scope changed, it was decided to change the name and structure.

Under the "Umbrella" of the Family Centre Committee, a monthly Newsheet, entitled "Adam's Rib" was produced to keep all women in touch with the varied programs, which are under the Family Centre Committee.



**Prayer groups.**  
**Coffee Group for Bible Study and Sharing.**

**Informal Coffee mornings and evenings — purpose of each is different.**

**Playgroup. Squash group. "Slim-in" Club.**

**Social activities.**

**Bookstall Opportunity Shop. "Teapot" Friendship Centre** These operate 5½ days each week with 5 women staffing the Centre each day.

**Visitation and Support.**

**Catering Committee — caters for a weekly family night dinner of 60-70 people; as well as other functions.**

**Practical assistance in church — communion, cleaning, secretary to Minister, teaching.**

**"Lunch stop".**

**Counselling.**

**Craft Groups.**

Each group has its own leader and reports to the Family Centre. All groups have grown spontaneously out of a felt need, and the life of the group is determined by that need.

## SERVICE FOR OTHERS

At present we have about 80 women actively involved in the overall women's work — about 50 are non-church women. Also some men!

All the women are invited to combine together for special fund-raising activities, (e.g. Arts and Crafts Festival, and cake stalls, and clothing an Aboriginal child).

We also give extensive support to our local church. At present we are paying off our building extensions at a rate of \$84 per week, and the church's electricity accounts. We are responsible for financial support of a heavy welfare program administered by the minister. This includes sorting, packing, and distributing grocery and gift hampers under our church's Christmas Hamper Appeal (last Christmas there were 200 hampers).

Community projects — Lifeline, the Youth Drop-in Centre, Community Services Centre and Men's Shelter, are given support.

An important feature of this "Umbrella" approach is that activities and service are spread over a large number of women who participate voluntarily according to their needs, interests, and sense of mission. No one is overloaded with responsibility.

## SUMMING UP

For the Albury Church this "Umbrella" approach to the work of our women has revolutionised the outreach to non-church women as well as the fellowship and co-operation between the women.

We have a group of vital, enthusiastic, responsible, and dedicated women working together to achieve the goals of our "Family Centre", or C.W.F.

— It's exciting to see a lady sitting quietly at a table in our "Teapot" talking with a distressed or lonely person, over a friendly cup of coffee.

— It's exciting to see young mothers with little Christian commitment sharing with Christian mothers in a Playgroup . . . and discussing Christian values for successful family living.

— It's exciting to be a member of a dynamic women's group where, every week, folk come in from the community asking us if they can be part of our program and to participate in our activities.

— It's exciting to witness the baptism of a woman contacted through our women's program and led to Christ through the friendship and witness of Christian women.

For us, the all-encompassing "Umbrella" approach to C.W.F. has provided many challenging and rewarding opportunities for Christian women to work and share with non-church women, and to witness to the faith that motivates and sustains them, and to grow in their own Christian experience and understanding.

Dorothy Aldred.

## AUSTRALIAN C.W.F. EXECUTIVE 1981-1982



(Left to Right)  
Dorothy Heard, Joyce Wenham (Editress), Marie Wehr (Asst. Sec.), Margaret Pollard (President), May Searle (Secretary), Jean Middleton (Vice-Pres.), Jean Roberts.

# MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

Just about everybody loves little kids. International Year of the Child was therefore, predictably, a marvelous success.

Most of us, if we're lucky, will probably be old someday. And so International Year of the Aged was, well, reasonably successful.

But International Year of the Disabled Person? Hmmm. Well, let's not think too much about that. Let's hope for the best. We'll worry about that when, and if, the time comes.

Regrettably, this reaction will probably prevent many people from truly hearing what disabled people urgently want us to hear in 1981: that they are not only experiencing hardships resulting from physical or mental impairment. They are also the victims of entrenched social injustices.

★

Elizabeth Hastings studied psychology at Melbourne University (sharing a class with your correspondent — a few years ago now) and is currently a student counsellor at Latrobe University. She is also a paraplegic having contracted polio before the age of one.

The following comments are from a public talk and personal discussions with Elizabeth Hastings.

★

One of our major experiences is that of exclusion or segregation.

Society, having branded us "disabled", shuts us off to live on its fringes where we can be properly controlled — pardon me, cared for. Society has decided that we would be

happier with our own kind; that we should be protected from the hurly-burly of normal life ("after all, they already have enough to cope with").

Having thus segregated us for our own good, society then trains armies of social workers, physios, special teachers, counsellors, occupational therapists, nurses, doctors and so on to look after us and treat us like normal people! To add insult to injury, the money (not a lot) allocated to the disabled goes not to those who need it, but to those who are "helping" those who need it.

The disabled people find themselves obliged to live, work, study, play, be fed, entertained, social worked, therapied and trained all under one roof and "with their own kind" — that is, with those who carry the same stigma. Far from being treated like normal people they find they have no choices and no autonomy. They must ask permission to go out, and to stay out, they must co-operate with the timetable, they must work all day for an insulting pittance, they must submit to "professional" and "expert" advice — and, above all, they must be grateful and shut up.

★

A further experience common to most disabled people is poverty. If one can prove 85 per cent total and permanent incapacity for work (and these days the onus of proof is on the individual) then one is entitled to a

means tested invalid pension, except for blind people for whom the means test is waived. This pension, like all others, except those for politicians and public servants, is below the poverty line, which is a major reason why so many disabled people are confined unnecessarily to institutions, hospitals and homes for incurables.

Disability is an expensive lifestyle: transport is often by taxi; accommodation can be costly as we cannot just rent a room. We need a place with no steps, wide passages, inside toilet, a large bathroom, etc. Equipment such as hearing aids and communicators are expensive; guide dogs eat meat, and so on. Independent assistance with every day activities may need to be paid for. And we are sufficiently like other people to require food! The invalid pension virtually ensures a segregated and deprived life.

★

Frequently we find ourselves catered for in ways that do not meet our real needs. For example, the government waives sales tax on cars used in connection with employment, but not for cars used for domestic and leisure purposes by people unable to work. (Public transport is, or course, inaccessible to disabled people whether unemployed or employed.) Again, the government will pay a nursing home about \$150 per week for the care of a disabled resident, but will not pay anything for the disabled person to live independently.

Examples of inappropriate "caretaking" and inappropriate planning are legion, and the helplessness resulting from having to accept graciously definitions, programs and decisions made on our behalf, without consultation, is overwhelming. To see enormous amounts of money put into projects and bureaucracies which continue to mete out over protective and limiting services gives a profound sense of helplessness and impotence.

★

To be disabled in our society is to experience exclusion or segregation, deprivation, prejudice, poverty, frustration over freedom of movement, and powerlessness.

The underlying false assumption that makes all this possible is that we are not like other people. We are.

Hopefully, during International Year of Disabled Persons we will raise the consciousness of society about these issues, and encourage it to listen to some of our frustrations and suggestions for change. Although we cannot expect miracles this year, we can work towards an atmosphere in which change is likely to occur. We can shake up some assumptions, eradicate others and provide new ways of thinking about people who are disabled.

★

(A fuller text of a recent address by Elizabeth Hastings is available on request).



## JASON'S HOUSE

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION WAS TO BE POSITIVE AND LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE AND NOT GET SO DEPRESSED...

I RESOLVED TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO WALLOW IN PESSIMISM, SELF-PITY AND DESPAIR...

... BUT WHAT'S THE USE...?!



# OPEN FORUM

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

## GORDON MOYES AND VINCENT PEALE

Gordon Moyes is correct when he says in a review of Norman Vincent Peale's 'The Positive Power of Jesus Christ' (AC Dec. 6 1980), that "It is very easy to be trapped by success." I suggest that Peale has been trapped by his own 'positive thinking'. Few people may be aware that in his effort to be positive to all others Peale has virtually accepted Mormonism (which very positively rejects the rest of us as Christians). In 1975 he went to the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) and asked the Mormon President, Spencer Kimball, to lay hands on him and give him his blessing. Kimball replied, "You mean you want me to give you a blessing such as I give our people?" To this Peale replied, "Yes." So Kimball gave him his blessing. Peale claimed he was moved and 'had a wondrous feeling of the Presence'.

Early in 1980 Peale attended the Mormon

## C.M.F. Travellers' Club

70 members and friends enjoyed an evening of fellowship and fun on Saturday February 7, 1981. A program of items and games was enjoyed by all and was held in the Gardiner church.

This was the first meeting for the year. Other activities to come are a visit to Portsea Officer Cadet school and picnic; group bookings for Tattoo and a Theatre Luncheon, a five day tour and an eight day holiday at Lorne.

Because of a need, Dave Watt began this club 3½ years ago. Since it began, \$1000 has been raised from funds and collections and given to the Gas for Missions Appeal. The club makes it possible for many to share in short holidays and outings which on their own would not be possible and at the same time we are able to support Brotherhood appeals such as Gas for Missions.  
— Mrs Jean Adkins, Secretary.

## THE CHANGING MOODS

CAN BE SEEN SOON AT:

LYNDALE UNITING CHURCH  
Sunday 15th March  
DONCASTER UNITING CHURCH  
Sunday 29th March  
FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Sunday 12th April

President's 85th birthday and gave a glowing public speech, in which, amongst other things he said, "Now, thank God, we still have a prophet among us — Spencer W. Kimball."  
How positive is positive thinking?  
— Adrian van Leen (CCG Ministries Director)

## LEPROSY MISSION FILM

To the Editor,

We have produced a new film, featuring our work at Lesotho (in Africa) and would like the opportunity of showing this, to churches.

The film is not only attractive, with a delightful story, but presents the true facts about leprosy and its treatment.

Interested? Then please apply to your state leprosy mission office.

Vic: 174 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000; QLD.: P.O. Box 53, Zillmere 4034; N.S.W.: 38 Pemberton Street, Parramatta 2150; S.A. 81 Richmond Road, Hawthorn, 5062.

## THE PATCH Church of Christ 25th Anniversary

Sunday March 1st  
10.30 a.m.

Speaker: Mr Ron Brooker  
(Conference President Elect)

### Fellowship luncheon

A warm invitation is extended to all past members and friends

## A LEGACY PERPETUATES YOUR INTEREST IN

Evangelism  
New church development  
Youth outreach  
Education

Department of Mission,  
Education & Development  
52 La Trobe Street,  
Melbourne. Vic. 3000.

## VACANCY COOK

### CAMP CAL, QUEENSLAND

Full time cooking position at the Youth and Christian Education Department's Campsite, Camp Cal, Dickie Beach, Caloundra.

Top wages. Confidential enquiries

The Executive Director,  
363a Gregory Terrace,  
Brisbane. 4000

Phone (07) 221 2166 or  
Home (07) 204 1438

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### LIVING BY FAITH

To the Editor,

My atheist neighbour over the back fence admires my geraniums and scorns my faith. He reckons that he only believes what can be proved.

He certainly makes me think. In one of these thinking moods I woke up to the fact that he can't prove that there isn't a God any more than I can prove that there is. So he is a man of faith just as much as I am.

I have faith that there is a God. He has faith that there isn't.

I believe that I am answerable to God. He believes and no doubt hopes, that he isn't.

I have faith that this life isn't all there is. He has faith that it is.

I have faith that God, in his own quiet and unspectacular way is helping me to handle life. He believes that this is just my imagination or some sort of auto-suggestion.

Neither of us can prove any of these things. We both live by faith.

But I reckon that I'm enjoying my faith a lot more than he is enjoying his. My faith gives meaning to my life. His faith says, "There ain't no meaning!"

I looked up the word faith in my concordance and found a verse that says, "The just shall live by faith." It seems to me that whether they like it or not the just have to, too.

Yours faithfully,  
TERTIUS

# SO

**KENSINGTON PARK** (D. K. Thorday). Program for lonely in district initiated . . . Special Christmas service held . . . Church saddened by the deaths of three with long associations — Gerald Simpson, Beatrice Hein and Olive McKav.

**BLACK FOREST** (B. Coventry). Because of changes in postal areas Forestville church now situated in Black Forest so church now Black Forest C of C . . . Alan Bailey conducted Adventure Time during school vacation. Average attendance of 40 children. 100 present on family night.

**GOOLWA** (R. Sercombe). Welcome given to new minister Ric and Bev Sercombe. Induction conducted by Gerald Rose, D.C.E. Director. Merv Lawrie and Lance Marshman, retired ministers, took part in service. Get to know you luncheon followed . . . Women took Sunday evening service. Mrs Clarice Verco spoke of work as housekeeper at C.O.B.

# VIC

**BENDIGO** (G.E. Wegner). Induction service for G.E. Wegner held with D.H. Smith . . . Thanks extended to all who conducted services when church did not have a minister . . . Neville and Gwen Thomas on furlough from the Philippines where they are translators . . . G. Sonsie presenting "The New Life for All" program . . . Sympathy expressed to Mr and Mrs A. Graham and family in recent bereavement.

**KNOXFIELD** (E. L. Williams). 24 new members in 1980 . . . S.S. numbers greatly increased. Two new classrooms provided by partitioning. New kitchen erected . . . Church now completely free of debt . . . \$500 given to African relief. Christmas Bowl offering \$1893.

**WARRAGUL** (P. Broadbent). Church grateful to Ben and May Crowden for interim ministry last year . . . Induction service for Peter and Margie Broadbent conducted by John Tudor.

**CHELSEA** (P. Bradley, S. Oeden). Mrs Edna Sullivan appointed church secretary . . . Program combining S.S. and morning worship to be commenced and evaluated . . . Explorer's appointed Ron Scott as club chief to succeed Lindsay Smith who served for over 20 years . . . Board to continue with quarterly rather than monthly meetings . . . Interchange program agreed with Frankston . . . Membership showing signs of increasing . . . Harold and May Taylor giving voluntary service in Roelands Aboriginal Village, W.A.

**BORONIA** (Harvey Miller, Iris Lawson). Induction of Iris Lawson marked commencement of team ministry. Induction conducted by Les Dewberry. Iris and husband Neil welcomed . . . Gordon Stirling preached at all services during minister's holidays.

## "BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS"

"Break Down the Barriers" is the slogan of the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS.

One in ten Australians is a permanently disabled person. The disabled include people in wheel chairs, unable to negotiate the steps of post offices, civic buildings and churches. There are the deaf living in sound proof isolation and sometimes in church, loyal but unhearing. There are the blind whose braille bible fills a big cupboard, but without a braille hymnal. There are the retarded who are sometimes overlooked when planning children's parties, and are sometimes felt to be beyond the capacity of the Sunday School to handle. There are amputees and spastics and quadruplegics who only ask to be treated as persons rather than oddities and to be able to live as fully as their potential allows.

### A LOT HAS BEEN DONE

There is no doubt that we are more informed, more compassionate and more responsible concerning the disabled than in earlier generations, when they were often hidden away by embarrassed families or left to rot in poor houses and asylums. Nevertheless there is still a lot to be done. A few brilliant, disciplined and strong minded people such as Alan Marshall ("I Can Jump Puddles") have done magnificently. But for

the mass of them it is a slow hard struggle to be able to live fully and to be able to feel that they are being treated as persons. And indeed the nature of their disability often diminishes their capacity for determined effort and disciplined achievement.

### THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CHURCHES

So it will not be hard for the churches to support the call of the United Nations to observe the International Year of Disabled Persons by "breaking down barriers". The church is in business to break down barriers . . . between God and man, between man and man, black and white, rich and poor, bond and free. We should not find it hard then to be practical in our local churches and communities and to do some breaking down of barriers between the disabled and their goal of being able to live up to their full potential in a totally accepting society.

### MATERIALS

Excellent "Ideas Kits", posters, small handouts and car stickers have been prepared and are readily available to individuals, churches, groups and clubs, for the observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons. The contact phones are as follows . . . ACT 46 2501, NSW 217 7100, NT 89 6829, SA 227 0539, TAS 30 2973, VIC 616 7922, WA 381 2333 (Ext, 212).

### Clergy Peacemakers

Recently a group of clergy met to discuss Christian peacemaking. Believing that other clergy must also have the same sense of urgency, and must also be pondering what role the Holy Spirit is drawing them into as clergy peacemakers, this small group have planned several meetings for 1981.

The first Seminar is on Saturday, March 21, 9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. The venue

is the Uniting Church, 1rautar Road, Camberwell. Speakers will be Dr Herbert Feith (Dept. of Politics, Monash University) and Rev. Mark Raper, S.J. (Asian Bureau).

Inquiries should be made by March 10, to Rev. Norman Anderson, 6 The Grange, East Malvern, Vic. 3145. Phone (03) 211 4328 or Rev. Philip Huggins, Olsen Road, Nar Nar Goon North, Vic., 3812. Phone (059) 42 8297.

## A PLACE FOR YOU?

Have you ever considered the possibility of serving Christ overseas? Perhaps you can discover your opportunity in Papua or Vanuatu.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- ★ Qualified ministers as pastor/teachers.
- ★ Suitably qualified minister as Principal of the Gokto Bible School.

### VANUATU

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

Write for further information to:

**Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board**

P.O. BOX 320, UNLEY, SOUTH AUST. 5061

## Love Maharashtra Outreach

The "Love Maharashtra Outreach" which is an intensive evangelistic program to reach as many as possible of the 60 million people in Maharashtra in Western India is well under way. A team has been working in the Baramati area and concerning their ministry. One of our pastors, Benjamin Tiwari writes, "In connection with the Love Maharashtra Outreach, there is a team of 12 people here with a real burden and concern for Baramati. They will be here for about three weeks visiting villages in and around the town of Baramati and throughout the district. We have given Rs 100/- (approx. \$12) mainly for travel expenses. We have so far covered 15 villages. Please pray for our unity, condition of motor vehicles and health of our team members. Some of the team have taken leave without pay. Please pray that their sacrifice will not be in vain."

One of the early results of the Love Maharashtra Outreach which commenced early December and will continue for three months, is the increase in enquiries concerning Bible Correspondence. Hazel Skuce reports, "Up until Saturday January 10, we have received 1208 letters from people asking to be enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course. Our oldest enquirer so far is a 75 year old man. The average age of the enquirers would be 18-19 years of age."

## CHRIST TAKEN TO THE SLOPES

Recently 500 people had the experience of skiing for the first time, improving their skills or just having fun in the snow. They also were confronted by Christ.

All this happened over nine weekends during the 1980 ski season. Young people came from as far as Colac, Ballarat, and Geelong just to experience God's wonderful creation and enjoy His love through other people.

C.Y.T.A. (Christian Youth Travel Association) organised the weekend ski tours to Falls Creek and Mt Buffalo.

On the tour they were challenged by a Chaplain and encouraged by musicians and a special Christian ski film "The Prize." New commitments were made and existing relationships deepened as people shared together in worship and communion on Sunday, before "heading for the hills."

From this time of high activity CYTA is branching into new areas of Christian witness. Coach/camping tours to all parts of Australia, open to young people 16-30 years of age, Christian and non-Christian, operate throughout the year.

CYTA believes that young people need to mix, share and relate to one another in different conditions. They are continually seeking new and attractive ways of spreading God's love.

If you would like further details on any of the activities that CYTA are involved in, please call the office on (03) 818 8303 or write C/- P.O. Box 182, Hawthorn, 3122.

## Roslyn West on International Christian Youth Exchange in Japan

Roslyn West is a 19-year-old member of the Nunawading Church of Christ. At the moment she is a member of a Japanese Christian family. Her host father is a minister and a lecturer at a Christian Women's College. Her host mother is a kindergarten teacher. She has host brothers and sisters, one of whom is living in a Christian home in Denmark for a year as part of the same International Christian Youth Exchange.

Roslyn is learning Japanese, as well as studying Japanese culture and traditions, and learning to play a Japanese stringed instrument. She is attending a Yokohama women's college. Later in the year she will have experiences in rural Japan and will also attend a Christian youth work camp at Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. She has even been skiing on the slopes of Mt Fuji.

### 1981 Exchange Students

Applicants for International Christian Youth Exchange may apply now as the exchange year commences in July of each year. Applicants must be Christian young people between 16 and 25 years. Participants pay their own travel costs. Accommodation and pocket money are cared for by their hosting committees. Many countries are included in the Exchange.

### Address to write to:

Any of our people interested in being Exchange young people, or any of our families interested in hosting Exchange young people in Australia are invited to contact either of the following... Miss D. Burnett, 3/79 Werona Av., Gordon, N.S.W. (02 516 1155) or Miss Kay Walsh, 52 Dunscombe Av., Syndal, Vic. (03 232 9590). The International Christian Youth Exchange is a voluntary body associated with the Australian Council of Churches.

## Circulation up in Iran

Despite the political and military turmoil in Iran, Scripture circulation in 1980 had increased substantially when compared with results achieved in 1979. Rev. Chan Young Choi, of the United Bible Societies, reported a 370% increase in 1980.

Scriptures have been welcomed on university campuses when intellectuals and other disillusioned people gathered to seek answers to their problems. Chan Choi said that earlier reports suggested that Christian minorities might have experienced difficulty because of the Islamic revolution. Certainly some Christians have experienced persecution, not least the Anglican Bishop in Iran and his family. However, the Bible Society operation has not yet been restricted.

Christian activities continue to flourish in the Levant, despite restrictions imposed upon circulation of Scriptures. In Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, Scriptures in all categories (Bibles, New Testaments, Portions, Selections) are circulating freely.

## PARTNERSHIP IN INDONESIA WORKERS NEEDED

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

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

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

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

**Ron McLean, Executive Director,**

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



**SAVED by Bob Dylan (C.B.S. SPB237458)**

I love this album. It is a real "gospel" album. A group of black back-up singers are matched with Dylan's almost black preaching style. He is very open about his faith on this album. No longer do we have to delve beneath the parables and implied meanings of "Slow Train Coming". Now he is out in the open — "I've been saved/by the blood of the lamb (Saved), and he is obviously very excited about the changes that the Lord has made in his life. It also has songs of commitment and of a desire to stay with Jesus, whatever the cost.

The title track really gets the album moving after the moaning but moving A Satisfied Mind which opens side one. Then there is the slower, reflective Covenant Woman, which is a song of thanks to the one who challenged Dylan about his position before God. An equally beautiful track is the hymn-like Saving Grace. Dylan uses a lot of old fashioned words and concepts on this album, but he does so in a man-

ner that breathes new life into what often are empty cliches. Of course he still sings like Dylan . . . however his harmonica playing is almost in tune this time 'round!!! Highly recommended.

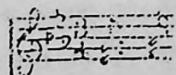
**"KEY OF LOVE" by Family — (7 Records MLF 362)**

Just as it was the Beatles who revolutionized popular music and Andrae Crouch who did the same for American "gospel" music, so Family are mainly responsible for putting contemporary Christian music on the map in Australia. For seven years Family have been presenting the Word in music. They are just completing their Grand Final Australian tour, so possibly this Nashville U.S.A. recorded album will be their last. It's a pity because this is probably their best album. Production and backing are first-rate. Family's sound has always been rather limited by the similar ranges of their singers, but on this different effects are used to get around this problem. There is a good variety of material (although none is written by Family) . . . the best tracks being "Harmony" and the Bee Gees style title track. I would recommend the album to any family who are interested in sharing together a love for Jesus and music.

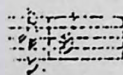
**"PH'LIP SIDE" by Phil Keaggy (Sparrow SPR 1036)**

Phil Keaggy has been a Christian 10 years. He recorded his first Christian album in 1973 while still a member of the secular Glass Harp group. Keaggy is obviously a very talented writer, singer and musician. The album opens with the almost Paul McCartney-esque "A Child (in everyone's heart)" which celebrates the need we all have for tender loving care. Side one continues in a mellow and generally accoustic way, while the other side showcases his excellent lead guitar work. The words are paramount and at times quite powerful (as in "Little Ones", an anti-abortion song), sweet ("Spend My Life With You") and challenging ("A Royal Commandment"). This album is one of the best contemporary Christian albums released this year — it has variety, it is relevant and it is of excellent quality. Buy it.

# MAKE A CHILD SING



I was bruised but Jesus healed me,  
Faint was I from many a fall,  
Sight was gone and fears possessed me,  
But He freed me from them all.



Yes, Jay (Jayaraju) can sing this because;

His father died when he was young leaving his mother destitute. Through insufficient employment she was unable to support her family. This would have left Jay to become a thief, sleeping in the streets, left to die if sickness struck, with no security and a bleak future.

Now Jay is sponsored by an Australian Christian lady which makes it possible for him to live in a Christian Childrens' Home where he's enjoying good health. He feels secure, he's proving himself to be dependable, well-balanced, friendly and cheerful while progressing well at school.

Best of all, in January last year Jay became a Christian, which set him free from the falls and fears of the past. Now he's being equipped in God's plan for him.

A child like Jay needs you immediately. Bruised, faint, afraid, blindly groping for answers to life, "Your child" desperately awaits your response. You can give this child, food, clothing, shelter, an education and Christian training for just 53 cents a day and transform his whole life.

Put this song into the heart of "your child" by sending the coupon today.

- I will sponsor a  boy,  girl  at \$16 a month.
- I enclose \$..... for ..... months.
- I cannot sponsor but will give \$..... for needy children.

Please send more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 81, Islington (Newcastle)  
N.S.W., 2298

AC181

# HAPPENINGS

Victorian Christian Endeavor is celebrating the centenary of C.E. with an Evening Birthday Thanksgiving at 8 p.m. on February 28 at Swanston St., Church of Christ with Rev. M. Chambers (National Co-Ordinator) as the speaker.

Alan Walker, Methodist evangelist, was told to "pack his bags and go home" by South African Minister of Police, Louis de Grange, after Mr Walker attacked apartheid during crusade meetings.

A study commissioned by the Australian Council of Churches reveals that there are almost 2,000,000 Australians "who live near or below the poverty line". Among the reasons for the growth of the 'new poor' which the study lists are unemployment and the failure of pensions to keep pace with inflation.

By a vote of 100 to 99 Victorian Baptists declined an invitation to accept observer status with the Victorian Council of Churches.

William A. Ackerman, International Director of the World Home Bible League will be touring Australia from March 21. In 1980 in Australia the

League supplied to local churches for distribution 51,000 Scriptures and portions; 70,000 Bible study booklets and 250,000 tracts.

Following in the steps of St Francis of Assisi, an Italian cardinal recently sold all his possessions to help the poor. Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, Archbishop of Florence, raised more than \$100,000 through auctioning possessions he had gathered during his lifetime in the church.

Sir Irving Benson, longest serving superintendent of Melbourne's Wesley Central Mission died on December 6, a few days after his 83rd birthday.

According to the general secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship, Waldron Scott, Europe has become one of the world's largest mission fields due to the increasing influence of 'foreign' religions such as Islam and the predominance of 'secularism'.

Tonya Turnbull, a member of the Assemblies of God in America, recently filed suit to obtain different car number plates. She complained that her religious

acquaintances have been shunning her as "the Anti-Christ" because of her present number plate — CPG 666.

A lay evangelist in China baptised 114 adult believers one Sunday morning in a rural house church.

Good news for Soviet clergy — a 15 per cent tax cut for clergy of all denominations. From January, 1981, priests from the Russian Orthodox Church and other Christian sects, along with Muslim and Jewish clergy, will be ranked in the same tax category as artists, writers and other creative workers.

A 'Christian' bank is planned for Portland, Oregon, USA. Called the Stewardship Bank of Oregon, it is a full service commercial bank. All shareholders confess to be committed Christians and promising that 10% of the bank's profits will be donated to Christian work.

All buildings relating to Martin Luther are to be restored in Communist East Germany to mark the 500th anniversary of the reformer's birth in 1983.

Rehabilitation has been very slow in hurricane ravaged Haiti. Last year Hurricane Allen destroyed a large

number of villages and crops throughout Haiti and local churches have told World Vision that many villages are still desperately short of food.

America's two largest Presbyterian denominations may reunite if a proposed plan of reunion is approved by the two denominations' General Assemblies in 1982. The denominations are the United Presbyterian Church and the southern-based Presbyterian Church.

According to the Wall Street Journal, an Arizona company is marketing individually wrapped communion wafers packed in grape juice for mail-order use by religious radio and television shows.

A recent study by the World Food Council showed that one in three of all children born alive dies from malnutrition or malnutrition - induced diseases before the age of five.

Violent conflict in El Salvador is creating a large refugee problem in neighbouring countries. About 23,000 Salvadorian refugees are camped on the border with Honduras and about 7,000 have fled to Belize. In El Salvador itself there are about 130,000 displaced people.

# diary

- NATIONAL
- March
- 6 Women's World Day of Prayer
- 22 Annual Offering — Aborigines' Mission
- WESTERN
- AUSTRALIA
- March
- 13-15 Brotherhood Family Camp
- 15 Christian Union Offering
- TASMANIA
- March
- 28-29 Annual Convention — Nubeena
- VICTORIA
- February
- 28 Explorer Leaders' Breakfast
- March
- 2-9 Visit of Dr Ray Stedman
- 7 Central and Northern District Conference
- 24 C.W.F. March Effort
- 24 Young Adults Tea
- 27 Aborigines' Mission Fellowship Tea
- 27-29 YOUTH HAPPENING
- 28 Explorer Swim Night
- 29 Brotherhood Day of Prayer

## OUR COMPETITION

"Interchange" is the journal of the A.F.E.S. Graduates Fellowship. It is obtainable at a cost of \$6.00 for two volumes (Students — \$4.00) from Interchange, Second Floor, S.U. House, 129 York St., Sydney, NSW 2000.

"Interchange" is an excellent journal with papers by Australians from many spheres on Biblical and topical issues. Many of the problems facing the church are tackled in well researched articles often from both sides of the issue. Recent areas of discussion include nuclear power, secularisation and its effect on the church, religion and reason, women's ordination and divorce. Recommended.

For many of our readers who would like to follow current events with longer articles than are available in newspapers it would be worth considering "Current Affairs Bulletin" \$10 per annum (80c monthly at some newsagents) from The Secretary, Current Affairs Bulletin, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006. Issues such as biological research and economic models are covered along with better in depth looks at political and economic affairs in overseas countries as well as Australian states.

The Tyndale Fellowship meets regularly in Melbourne and the papers presented at these meetings are published as "The Tyndale Papers". Subscriptions cost \$3 per annum or \$5 for two years from Rev. G.G. Garner, 174 Collins St., Melbourne, Vic 3000. This Year's papers include "Jesus and the Apostles in Luke-Acts," Thomas Aquinas and Karl Barth on Natural Theology," Background Studies to the Churches of Asia Minor" and "The Present Christological Debate".

Another scholarly journal produced in Australia is the "Reformed Theological Review" obtainable from P.O. Box 2587W, Elizabeth St. P.O. Melbourne Vic 3001 at a cost of \$4.50 a year. Published thrice yearly each issue includes two longer articles and several major book reviews.

## So you want to Write!

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Further enquiries from New Creation Ministries, P.O. Box 403, Blackwood, South Australia 5051. Telephone 270 1861. (Correspondence lessons also available).

# THE PROBLEM OF INTERPRETATION

Those who wrote Scripture did not know that in the Twentieth Century there would be people who would want the Bible to set out exact rules for worship and life and morals and doctrine in such a way that there would be no room for differences of interpretation and opinion. In fact they did not know that they were writing the Bible. They believed that they were writing to their own people in their own time about issues of faith and life that were contemporary then. They believed that they were telling their people what God was saying and doing then, and what God wanted them to do about it.

## THE PROBLEM OF INTERPRETATION

When we want to find out what God is saying and doing now, and what he wants of us now in the areas of faith and life and morals and worship and doctrine, we go to the Bible to find out what he said and did then and how people then understood and interpreted what he was saying and doing and what he wanted. This means of course that we have to interpret what was written then into our modern situation. This of course opens up the way for differences of interpretation. For example, Jesus said, "Love your enemies." Did he mean to love the Russians? Or was he referring to private enemies? And when the Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill" did this mean not to kill fellow Jews, or does it mean that Christians can never take up arms? And what are we to make of Paul's words about greeting each other with a holy kiss, and women keeping silent in church and baptisms for the dead?

There is always a problem about differences of interpretation. If Christians are to work and worship and live together it would seem desirable for them to be agreeing as much as possible, especially on major aspects of the Christian faith. And some of us get quite irritated with those people whose interpretations of Scripture differ from our own.

## FOUR POSSIBILITIES

In meeting the problem of differences of interpretation there are four possibilities. One is to have an authoritarian church that does our interpreting for us and tells us what doctrines to believe, and how we should worship and what our morals should be. The Roman church has done this quite successfully up until recently. Most of the sects do likewise and their members are able to quote in detail what they can eat and drink and believe and do, and what they cannot. This is one reason why they appeal to people who do not want to think, but want to be told what to believe and do.

## THE SECOND POSSIBILITY

The second possibility is for groups of people who interpret the Bible in the same way to get together and make up a written or unwritten creed or confession with sufficient detail for everyone to know exactly what to believe in every last detail. Then the "faithful" know exactly where they are and the rest are heretics to be disdained and cut off. All such creeds of course are human interpretations.

## THE THIRD POSSIBILITY

The third possibility is to accept as part of the church all those who want to be called Christians and let them believe what they like and interpret the Scriptures as they will. This would be generous, but rather confusing both to those in the church and those outside it.

The fourth possibility we will look at later.

## PIONEERS OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND INTERPRETATION

Our pioneers were not happy with these three possibilities. They rejected the authoritarian church idea.

# Page 13

Being in the reformed tradition they leaned towards the right of private interpretation, with all of its risks and dangers.

Neither were they happy about the division of the church into fragments each with its creed or confession.

And they were certainly not in favour of a church in which there was no consensus of interpretation in faith and worship and life and where every one believed and thought as he liked.

## A GENERAL CONSENSUS

So they came up with the idea of trying to find a general consensus of essentials in doctrine and behaviour and worship, that is agreed upon right across the church and down through Christian history. They argued that if the church can find such agreement on these essential matters then there could be wide liberty of opinion and practice on all other matters. They used the slogan,  
In essentials unity,  
In opinions liberty,  
In all things love.

The third line of the slogan of course is essential to make the other two lines work.

## WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

The problem of course was to know and to agree on what was essential. They said that essentials were those things that had to do with our salvation. These of course were the authority of the Scriptures in their presentation of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the church, and the doctrines of faith in Jesus Christ as Son of God and Saviour, of repentance towards God, of baptism into Jesus Christ as the outward expression of God's saving act, and of life in the Spirit.

## A VALID FOURTH POSSIBILITY

In all of this our fathers had hit upon a valid fourth possibility in solving the problem of differences of interpretation. That is finding a general consensus of belief and practice and worship that can be both definitive and widely accepted, and at the same time allowing liberty of interpretation in all other matters.

## A LOT OF PEOPLE MAY NOT BE HAPPY

This possibility of course puts very large areas in the realm of matters of opinion and a lot of people may not be very happy about this. Some are not satisfied for instance with simple affirmations of Christ's atoning work and second coming. They want particular theories about these doctrines affirmed as well. Others would like a written or unwritten credal statement defining the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures in certain ways. Others would like to see us committed to certain stances on such contemporary matters as the use of alcohol, the remarriage of divorcees, abortion, war and peace, politics and religion, forms of worship, ecumenical participation, ordination, the place of women in the church and church government.

## FOUR CHOICES

These people need to remember that we have four choices as far as biblical interpretation is concerned . . . an authoritarian church, getting with those of like mind around a common creed that excludes "heretics", the anarchy of a believe-what-you-like situation, or agreeing to live and work happily with those Christians who affirm those basic facts that have to do with God's grace and man's salvation, and in love, giving to all the right of liberty of opinion in other matters. (Editor).

# OBITUARY

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

**ALTHAUS** — Mrs Mabel Kate (nee Beetham).

(23/1/81) Mrs Althaus was born in Forest Hill and reared in Laidley. After her marriage in 1932, to Jacob (Jake) Althaus, by the late Chas. Hamann, Minister at Ma Ma Creek, they went to live at Mt Whitestone. Having lived for some 23 years at Mt Whitestone they acquired a farming property at Esk remaining there until disposing of the property in 1965 when they retired to live in Gatton. There were six sons and one daughter of the marriage. All survive with the exception of Trevor who was tragically killed in a road accident in 1969. There are 20 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mrs Althaus enjoyed reasonably good health until two weeks prior to her death. The large attendances both in the chapel in Gatton and at the graveside at Ma Ma Creek bore eloquent testimony of public respect and esteem. M. Tepper and R. Wilson together with the writer, participated in the services paying tribute to a gracious Christian woman whose home was always open in loving hospitality and friendship.

— V. G. Boettcher, M.B.E.

**BOWEN, Rosa**

The one outstanding quality of Rosa was her bright, colourful, cheery personality. Originally from Castlemaine, Rosa grew up in a family of 5 sisters and 3 brothers. Early in her adult years, Rosa moved to Shepparton where she spent the greater part of her life. Rosa married late in life, and when her husband Phil died, she missed him deeply. One of Rosa's great loves was sport. Above all she loved and played golf. Rosa was always the same: Bright, cheery, and extremely friendly. She was very charitable. She was a loyal supporter of such groups as the Save the Children Fund and the British and Foreign Bible Society. Because of her real faith in Christ, Rosa was a great giver not only of her money, but of her very self. She would visit isolated, sick and fringe members of the church. Rosa was associated with the church in Shepparton for 50 years. And in her last days and months, Rosa was quite ill, yet still the same cheery person. It is with deep thankfulness to God that we thank him for the gift of Rosa.

— G. S. Deuble

**CULLUM Agnes Elizabeth.**

(27.12.80). Elsie was born in 1890 one of seven children of Margaret and William Gemmill all of whom have predeceased her. She gave her life to Christ at the age of 15 at Bet Bet (Vic.). She married Gordon Cullum and they worshipped at Maryborough then Drumcondra, Geelong and finally at Thomson, Geelong until ill health prevented her from attending church. She loved fellowshiping with the Thompson C.W.F. who held meetings in her home and recently shared in her 90th birthday celebrations. She loved her Lord and read her Bible daily. She lived with her daughter Gwenda and son-in-law Cliff Barker. She will be missed by her family including seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**MATHIESON, Frank Roland**

(31.12.80). The new year was marred for the Oakleigh church by the sudden death of Frank Mathieson. Frank was enjoying a game of golf when he suddenly became ill. He returned home where he died. Frank was born at Alberton, S.A., in 1916. After finishing his schooling he studied accountancy and then later served his country in the Royal Australian Medical Corps. In October 1944 he married Thelma Hocking to whom, together with his daughter Michelle (Mrs Grant Lambert) and their grandchildren Daniel, Emma and Rebecca, the church extends its sympathy. In his early years Frank had been influenced by Rev. W.F. Betts and Dr Ern Watson and was led to commit his life to Christ. Thelma had had contact with E.C. Hinrichsen and after their marriage they joined the Oakleigh church where Frank served in presiding, reading and preaching. Frank was a successful businessman and in his business dealings he was a keen witness to Christ. He had a happy family life and all his friends honoured his sterling character. The funeral services in the chapel and Springvale Crematorium were conducted by Dr C.J. Mackenzie, Tom Weir a former minister and Brian Donnan a close friend.

— T.V. Weir

**MCCANN, John McCallum (Mac)** (13.12.80). Mac McCann was brought up in the Gardiner (Vic) church and served there until moving to Blackburn in 1953, and then on to Ascot Vale in 1978. He has been church secretary, treasurer, board chairman, S.S. superintendent, elder and wise guide on finance and building committees, as well as being involved in pastoral care. In private life he was an agronomist and an administrator with the Department of Agriculture. His top priority in life was his Christian faith and his devotion to Jesus Christ. He saw his devotion to his family and

work in the light of his commitment to Christ. One of his unobtrusive ministries was to share with his wife Olive in the quiet of early Sunday mornings, the preparation of the communion table. He had a way of being totally interested in the person who was in conversation with him. He took a keen interest in new arrivals at the church. The Wurlitzer organ which graces the Blackburn church is his gift and will remain a memorial to him. His last two years were spent with the Ascot Vale church, where he and Olive deliberately chose to enter a unique, complex, but exciting new form of ministry. That it was cut short by his death does not mean that it is ended. In dying he found it easy to speak of his sense of satisfaction and completion in life, and expressed a quiet assurance of Christ's presence that death cannot overcome. At the funeral service Ted Keating described Mac McCann in the words of Luke 8:15, "But the seed in the good soil represents those who bring a good and honest heart to the hearing of the Word, hold it fast, and by their perseverance yield a harvest."

ROWE, Richard Walter

(1.1.81) Richie was born in July 1918, and lived all his life in Kaniva. He married Nancy Jean Sanders in 1941 at Kaniva. In the past seven years since leukaemia was first diagnosed, they have faced many things together. Both have been aware of God's presence, and Richie was prepared to be with his Lord. He loved doing things, especially on the farm, where he felt a closeness to God as Creator. God and the church played a prominent role in his life. He made his decision at the Hagger-Brooker Mission in 1931, and since then taken leadership roles: Treasurer — 10 years, deacon — 23, Elder — 11 years, Sunday school teacher, Christian Endeavour leader, Explorer leader, member of Gideons, and went with the work party to New Guinea in

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1969 and Conference President of the N.W.D. In the community, he was on the Hospital committee and a Life Governor, Shire Council for 10 years, Shire President, member of Kaniva School Council, Fire Brigade, Freedom for Hunger, Life member of the Victorian Royal Institute for the Blind, Life Member of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society. Richie was an encourager, whether through letters or a personal word. He will be remembered for his friendship, hospitality, giving, smile, his interest in people and the better things of life, his faith, and counselling. He was truly a man of God. Richie was able to attend the Christmas Day service 1980 with all members of the family. He will be greatly missed. We extend our love and sympathy to his wife and children, Arthur, Gordon, Eddy, Jenny and Lorraine, 14 grandchildren and sisters, Ivy and Gwen.

— P. D. Bowers.

**SCHULZ, Hermann**  
(15/1/81) Approximately at 9.30 p.m. January 15, while reading his Bible prior to retiring for the night, our brother died at the ripe age of 84, having been born at Marburg. He enjoyed good health till the last. After his marriage in 1921, he was baptised in the Baptist Church at Marburg and later their membership was transferred to the Church of Christ in Marburg. He was of a very quiet disposition but both he and his wife were loyal members of the church. Hermann's wife pre-deceased him in 1967. Twelve months later the home farm was sold and a home purchased in Ipswich where he lived until the end. The family consists of one son and two daughters: Seditck, Enid (wife of the late Ross Dance), and Dolera (Dolly) (Mrs J. Werth). There are 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The services, which were largely attended, were held in the Marburg Church and the Marburg cemetery, and were conducted by the writer a life-long friend of the family.

— V. G. Boettcher, M.B.E.

**SHARP, Allan**  
(30.12.80) Thornbury (Vic) lost a devoted member in the sudden death of Allan Sharp. Allan and Ella married at Thornbury in 1939. He served several terms as a Deacon. A quiet, unassuming man, more often than not underrating himself and his ability. He frequently said, "There's not much I can do!" Yet he shared with Ed Mounsey (Elder) over quite a number of years in a valued ministry in provision of communion to the shut-in or sick. During a long illness of the church's regular "doorkeeper", Allan unassumingly stepped into the breach. He fulfilled a ministry of cheerfulness and warm greeting. He loved the word of God, and the rich and real truths it conveyed to life. His life and witness spoke of sincerity of purpose. Funeral services were conducted at the Thornbury church and Fawkner Crematorium by a former Minister, Principal Air Chaplain Crossman. We commend Ella Sharp, and their daughters, Yvonne, Jeanette and Kaylene, and other members of the family, to the sustaining grace and comfort of God.

— G.J.C.

### Award to Evonne Cawley

Every year the Festival of Light makes presentations to people who have distinguished themselves in various fields of community activity. Their award for Good Citizenship in the field of sport was presented to Evonne Cawley.

## Long Plains closes

More than 200 people attended the closing service in the Chapel at Long Plains S.A., on Jan. 11 1981. Many were past members and quite a few travelled from interstate for the occasion.

The conference President, J. B. Baker, had been a pastor of the church. Readers were — Maurice Carlisle and Aleck Good; helpers — K. Jenkin, M. Jenkin, R. Good, H. Parker and M. Daniel; organist — Ethel Pillar. Soloist — Dulcie Good, accompanied by Alan Parker, sang "Lord Thee will we trust for the rest of the way."

### Grandfather and Grandson

Doug Good, who had grown up in the church at Long Plains, and is now ministering in W.A., gave the final message. His reminiscences brought back many memories. He mentioned that his late grandfather, Ezekiel Good made available his barn for the first Church of Christ meetings in Long Plains, 100 years ago, and now Ezekiel's grandson was closing it.

During the basket lunch it was announced that the morning's offering, which will be given to the Northern Districts Student Aid Fund, amounted to \$256.

After lunch a plaque which had been erected in the public hall commemorating the services rendered to the district by church members, 1881-1981, was unveiled by Aleck Good.

### Various Buildings

The old barn (which still stands), was used for services for 21 years, when finances permitted the building of a chapel on land donated by W. H. Parker. This building was razed in a bushfire in 1948. The new Chapel was erected on a different site, donated by the Daniel family, and has been used for worship since then.

It was with regret that the ten remaining members were forced to decide on closure. However, they praise God for his goodness over the years and trust him completely for the future.

### The Church Continues

To quote some of the closing words of Doug's message, — "Let us go forward in the faith as the pioneers did, — keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus on whom our faith depends, — let us be his church wherever we happen to be."

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## S.A. Ordination Service

Arising from the request of 1941 exit students, services of Ordination to the Christian Ministry have been held in Melbourne at the completion of the College of the Bible year. These services have been conducted by the Federal Executive.

In December the Conference Secretary of S.A. was confronted with a request for Ordination from David McKay who had just graduated from Kenmore Christian College. They were both planning the Induction service when the request was made. David had been feeling the desire to make this life time commitment public and to have his call to ministry and his training acknowledged and received by the Church.

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### Conducted at Stirling

Thus a service unique until now in S.A. was conducted at Stirling Church of Christ. David and Joan McKay were welcomed into the membership of the congregation and their four young children into its fellowship. For the service of Ordination to be adequately representative three were invited to lay hands on David during the Ordination prayer. Those were the President of the Federal C.W.F. (Federal President being engaged in another Induction Service), a minister and a member of the congregation.

It is interesting for the writer to be so involved in such a service within the setting of a local congregation. Last August he preached at his son's ordination service at Central Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky, and shared in the laying on of hands. While our Australian experience has been associated with graduation from the College of the Bible, the American Disciples' experience of Ordination has its normal setting in a Church congregation at worship with Communion but always with representation beyond the congregation.

### Lexington (USA) and Stirling (SA)

The experience at Lexington was valuable for the request for the service at Stirling. It seems inappropriate for a local congregation to do other than induct a minister to a particular ministry. Ordination at Lexington included participation of the congregation, the Regional Minister and the Theological Seminary so that a valid acceptance of the ordinand in his life commitment would be based in its wider context. The service very much carried the implication that in the candidate's obedience to his call and in his discipline and training, the church, after examination, was publicly acknowledging that call and his qualifications.

Following the various acts of worship and commitment culminating in the Prayer of Ordination David McKay was then inducted into the ministry of the Church at Stirling.

Ed. Roffey

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## Tennis in the West

Record entries, ideal day, hundreds of people and close competition were all features of the W.A. Australia Day Tennis competition. Organised by the D.C.E it is one of the major gatherings of the Western Brotherhood.

140 pairs played this year compared to 71 four years ago. The 20 courts of McCullam Park were in constant use all day. All were involved in 7 matches of 20 minutes each with both city and country areas represented.

Winners were Mens A - C. Beavis, B. Spicer (Northam); Mens B - T. Hanna, G. Shaw (C.O.B.); Mens C - R. Hogben, E. Hogben (Scarborough); Ladies A - J. Rogers, O. Shannon (Dalkeith Rd.); Ladies B - J. Blunt, G. Aitken (Warwick); Mixed A - R. White, A. Marshall (Harvey); Mixed B - P. Roedriger, D. Roediger (York); Junior Boys - P. Beavis, B. Spicer (Northam); Junior Girls - R. Carslake, W. Downs (Warwick).

—Graham Carslake (Organiser).

## Hariba Waghmode recovering

After spending time in the Wadia Hospital, Pune, Hariba Waghmode is improving in health after a heart attack. He will then need three months rest. John Main reports that during this time there will need to be a re-organisation of his responsibilities.

Our prayerful concern is with Hariba and his wife Shalini and their family.

## QUEENSLAND NEWS

Women Conference was held on October 23rd, at the Canberra Hotel with 222 ladies present. Dr L. Jones and Mrs P. Timms spoke on the President's theme, "Looking unto Jesus". Items were presented by the Halaxton and Mackay ladies. Mrs Roberts will continue as president for 1981. Her theme will be "You shall be holy unto me." (1 Peter 1: 15-16). Conference Day Offering of \$330 was given to C.O.C.O.A. and the Indian orphan. We start this year with a full executive, for which we thank our Heavenly Father. Our president elect is Miss Helen Trudigan.

Dell Kiesiker, Qld.

## VIC—TAS NEWS

The Victorian-Tasmanian C.W.F. has established a Resource and Development Committee with the aim of developing the local group potential by providing resources in programming, worship, Bible study and leadership training.

Interest was shown in two night meetings which were held in 1980, attracting a different group of women from those who usually come to day council meetings.

Mr Don Smith and Mr George Warren spoke at the Coffee and Dessert Night when over 160 women attended. Current programmes were discussed and suggestions for future planning were made.

At the Cheese and Greens night a demonstration was given on how NOT to conduct a meeting, followed by an example of correct procedure. Mr Ian Corlett was the speaker at this meeting which concluded with a simple, uplifting time of worship.

Two similar nights are planned for 1981, emphasising leadership training and programming.

Stella Carter, Vic.

## NATIONAL SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION CONSULTANT

The Bible Society in Australia invites applications for the position of National Scripture Distribution Consultant.

The appointee will be required to promote the effective distribution of the Scriptures by the churches and Christian groups throughout Australia. The position requires creativity and imagination and provides a great challenge. He or she will be required to live in Sydney.

Further details, including job description, are available from the General Secretary, The Bible Society in Australia, P.O. Box 507, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.

Applications including full details for the qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should reach the above by March 2, 1981.

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**ALBURY: Albury Singles Club (060) 25 1910.**

**NUNAWADDING: Unhitched (03) 877 6077 or 873 4531**

**FRANKSTON: Peninsula Singles Club (03) 783 3235 or 781 4257.**

**BRISBANE: Queensland Social Service '9 9122, Dept. (07) 379 9122**

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

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



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\$2.00 for 25 words, plus 8c each additional word

### BIRTHS

**CUSS** Peter, Helbe and Erin thank God for the sweet gift of Laura Alice born on 18.12.1980 at Mercy Maternity Hospital, Melbourne.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

**BARTLETT** The 50th wedding anniversary of Gladys and Walter Bartlett will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon March 8th at the Church of Christ, Unley where their marriage was solemnised by the late H. R. Taylor on March 7th, 1931.

**LLOYD** An invitation is extended to the friends of Etie and Ross Lloyd to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of Alice and Keith Bates, 38 The Outlook, Glen Waverley, 3160 (phone (03) 580 9623) between 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday March 1st, 1981.

### DEATHS

**MCDONALD** Myrtle on February 10th. Loved wife of the late Percival, loving mother of Jock and Dorothy, loved mother-in-law of Eileen and devoted grandmother of Janette. In God's care.

**RADCLIFFE** Nehemiah John Radcliffe died at Grace McKeller House, Geelong on 26th Dec. 1980. Loving husband of Gertie, loved father of Pauline and family. With Christ which is far better.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Congratulations to Ted Keating, minister of the Nunawading church, who celebrated his 40th birthday on Thursday 26th February.

— Bonnie and Noel (Gold Coast)

### TO LET

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## ADVERTISING RATES

Due to increases in costs "The Australian Christian" has been forced to increase advertising rates as from the March 7, 1981 issue. The new rate structure will be:

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10c a word with a minimum charge of \$2.50 (25 words).

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\$2.70 per column centimetre (or \$6.75 per column inch). Discounts are available for advertisements over ¼ page in size. Churches receive a discount of 10% on all their advertising. Discounts are also available where advertisements are displayed in 4 or more consecutive issues.

## ESSENDON

Church of Christ

### 66th Anniversary.

March 1st

Services at 10 a.m., 7 p.m.

All former members and friends welcome. Hospitality available

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## BEXLEY NORTH

CHURCH OF CHRIST

### 50th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 22nd March,  
1981

10.45 a.m. Worship Service

Speaker **BARRY McMURTRIE**

2.15 p.m. Pleasant Sunday  
Afternoon

6 p.m. Gospel Service

Speaker — **JIM HENDERSON.**

For further information — T. W.  
Bagley, secretary. (02)  
50 8124

Visit of

## RAY STEDMAN and Team

from the Peninsula Bible Church, California, U.S.A.

Wednesday, March 4th. 8 p.m.

Wattle Park Church of Christ

Speaker: Paul Winslow

Wednesday, March 4th. 7.45 p.m.

Footscray Church of Christ

Speaker: Brian Morgan

Friday, March 6th. 8 p.m.

Swanston St Church of Christ

Speaker: Dr Ray Stedman

## BIG WEEKEND AT BOX HILL

with Gordon Moyes

Saturday 2 May 1981 at 7.00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Tickets \$3.00 Ring G. Wigney (03) 88 2111

Sunday 3 May 1981 at 11.00 a.m.

### 70th ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Ministry Team: S. Downie (03) 89 4631

D. Brooker (03) 25 6085

D. Thomas (03) 848 4183



## THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE EVENING CLASSES 1981

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

### For further details contact:

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## INTERCHURCH TRADE AND INDUSTRY MISSION SOUTH AUSTRALIA INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAINS

To meet requests for Industrial Chaplains from both private and Government organisations the I.T.I.M. Board of Management has approved the appointment of additional Staff Chaplains for the Adelaide Metropolitan area.

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

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

**SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS** would be required to commence no later than January 1982 but an earlier date may be negotiated. Further information can be obtained from the ITIM State Director on (08) 51 6950 or (08) 261 7161 or the ITIM Office, 28 Franklin Street, Adelaide.

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

## PERSONAL

### DISCIPLESHIP

● Stuart Gowty, David Irwin, Pauline McDougall, Heather Wignell, Helen Diprose, Shepparton, Vic.  
● Barry Scarborough, Judy Scarborough, Redcliffe, Qld.  
● Lynette Pitts, Andrew Tudor, Mark Tudor, Michelle Tudor, East Kew, Vic.  
● Andrew Rogers, Inverell, N.S.W.  
● Mrs Eileen Treloar, The Patch, Vic.  
● Bruce Smith, Acacia Ridge, Qld.  
● Michelle Graham, Warwick, W.A.  
● Lyn Marie Develyn, Wendy Earl, Johnathan Tabensky, Aaron Tabensky, Warragul, Vic.

### MARRIAGES

● Susan Squires to Craig Finlay, Brighton, S.A.  
● Ann Springall to Phillip Hillford, Redcliffe, Qld.  
● Margaret Wilson to Stephen Mackie, Inverell, N.S.W.  
● Suzanne Olsen to Norman Piper, Launceston, Tas.  
● Annette Boettcher to David Knight, Beverley Neumann to John Sutton, Marimar Rubio to Jose Gamino, Judith Westhead to Ian Macfarlane, Karen Smallwood to Wayne Ziebell, Christina Shave to David McFeater, Jeanette Sheerer to Ian Buckman, Acacia Ridge, Qld.  
● Glenis Davies to Greg Hornsby, Warwick, W.A.  
● Debbie Jones to Cliff Barclay, Andrea Gianville to John McNeill, Strathmore, Vic.  
● Helen Lewis to Peter Cannon, Hamilton, Vic.

### DEATHS

● Mrs Rose Bowen, Shepparton, Vic.  
● Debbie Donley, John Walsh, Brighton, S.A.  
● Elizabeth Brown, Williamstown, Vic.  
● Mrs Emerson, East Kew, Vic.  
● Mrs E. Allan, Launceston, Tas.  
● Hermann Schulz, Ipswich, Qld.  
● Mrs Mabel K. Althaus, Gatton, Qld.  
● Gerald Simpson, Beatrice Hein, Olive McKay, Kensington Park, S.A.  
● Daisy (Pat) Pearson, Forestville, S.A.

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### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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## A FORUM PRESENTING SIGNIFICANT SERMONS BY CHURCH LEADERS

**Feb. 25th** Speaker: Mr Don Smith; Director Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Topic: Churches of Christ; An Australian church for the '80's.

**March 4th** Speaker: Mr Paul Winslow (team member with Dr. Ray Stedman); Management Consultant, Elder Peninsula Bible Church.

**March 11th** Speaker: Mr Ron Elbourne; President, Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania. Presented by the Wattle Park Church of Christ as a member of the Melbourne Eastern Suburban Regional Churches.

Further details; Minister I. E. Allsop, 35 Stanton St., Doncaster. 3108.  
Secretary, D. Pallot, 2 Kingfield Crt. Burwood. 3125.



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

- 1. BEST OF TASMANIA WITH TRANS OTWAY** — This popular 11 day tour departs March 29th and visits all important places. Most meals are included. Fares from Melbourne \$779; Sydney \$886; Brisbane \$988; Adelaide \$877.
- 2. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN** — Our March Tour is now full, but we will repeat this 18 day tour of both Islands departing on April 29th. Fares are from Melbourne \$1029; Sydney \$994; Brisbane \$1016. A 4-day tour to Bay of Islands can be arranged at supplement of \$256.
- 3. LANDS OF BIBLE TOUR** — Departing March 17th for 11 days in Israel, 9 days in Greece (with a Greek Island Cruise); and 6 days in Rome. Fare from Sydney or Melbourne \$3148.00.
- 4. VISIT U.S.A. & CANADA** — Departing April 29th with Rev. Hector Dunn this 37-day tour takes us on a comprehensive tour through U.S.A., the Canadian Rockies, Niagara Falls, Grand Canyon etc. Price from Melbourne is \$3605.00.
- 5. A.C.T.S. GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE WITH ISRAEL & GREECE** — Departing on June 23rd we spend 10 days in Israel, 4 days in Greece, take a 15 day tour of England, Scotland & Wales, 25 days touring on the Continent in 7 countries, 12 nights paid accommodation in London, and free time at own expense. This tour is well priced at \$5889.00 from Melbourne or Sydney.
- 6. VISIT CHINA 1981** — Our 23 day tour departs 8th June for Hong Kong then China with 18 days based on Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Soochow, Nanking and Peking. Our Leader is the Rev. Alec Hilliard and the price from Sydney is \$2360.00.
- 7. VISIT BEAUTIFUL CAIRNS** — Leaving on June 27th this 26 day luxury coach tour travel via Princes highway Sydney and Brisbane to Cairns, returning with little duplication of route. Numerous cruises to nearby Islands included. Fares from Melbourne \$1449; Sydney \$1149; Brisbane \$817.
- 8. MIDDLE EAST ADVENTURE TOUR** — This tour visits Bangkok (4 nights), Jordan (3 nights), Israel (10 nights), Egypt (9 nights), and Singapore (2 nights). Unusual and most interesting. From Sydney or Melbourne \$3093.
- 9. GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN** — See Britain in depth. Leaving on August 1st this 37 day tour gives 29 nights in Britain, with a 4 day stopover in Kuala Lumpur/Singapore. A value tour at \$3485 from Melbourne or Sydney. Group Leader is the Rev. Les Hatton Chaplain St. Andrew's Hospital.
- 10. SAY IT WITH ORCHIDS** — A.C.T.S. holidays presents a 36 day tour to Africa to coincide with the 10th world orchid conference in Durban. Leaving on 5th September we spend 25 days in South Africa, 9 days in Kenya, and 3 days in Mauritius. Our group leader is Tom Paterson (former Director Road Transport with Commonwealth Department of Transport) assisted by Miss Val Stewart of Sydney. Fare from Sydney or Melbourne is \$4250.00. Arrangements can be made to take the South Africa section only at \$3016.00.
- 11. ALICE SPRINGS & RED CENTRE** — Departing 16th September this 12 day tour travel to Alice on the NEW GHAN and then returns by air-conditioned luxury coach via Coober Pedy, Flinders Ranges, Mildura etc. Our Leader is Mrs Pam Bartlett of A.C.T.S. Melbourne Staff, and fares are from Melbourne with 1st class on Ghan \$872 or Economy class \$835; Sydney \$946 (\$909); Adelaide \$721 (\$684); Brisbane \$1094 (\$1057). Pensioner concession is available.
- 12. WEST AUSTRALIA AT WILD FLOWER TIME** — Our annual 18 day tour to West Australia departs on October 19th by luxury air-conditioned coach. Two nights are spent on the train on the return journey. Prices are from Melbourne 1st Class Rail \$1231, 2nd class rail \$1186 Sydney \$1308 (\$1236); Adelaide \$1093 (\$1048); Brisbane \$1450 (\$1378). Pensioner discount is available.
- 13. CRUISING WITH A.C.T.S./SITMAR IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRSTAR** — departing from Sydney, July 12 — Brisbane, Whitsunday, Cairns, Ambon, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Darwin — 29 nights/8 ports. Fares from \$1525 - \$4703. October 21 — Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu, Apia, Pago Pago, Vavau, Nukualofa, Noumea. 19 nights/8 ports, Fares from \$1045 - \$2645. January 31st 1981 — Milford Sound, Timaru, Picton, Wellington, Auckland, Bay of Islands. 14 nights/6 ports with Rev. & Mrs W. M. Constable. Fares from \$855 - \$2030.

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## Explo '81 — Perth

"You'll never be the same again," is the theme the Explo '81 team has chosen for their inter-denominational call for a national spiritual awakening being held in Perth May 9-16.

About 2,000 are expected to be delegates at Explo, with several thousand more attending the opening and closing rallies at the Perth Entertainment Centre on May 9 and 16. All denominations are represented in the planning group.

Groups of about 500 will meet during Explo at four regional centres. Within these, daily seminar groups of 25, with specially trained leaders will break to follow through topics, ultimately to break again for discussion and prayer within groups of five. There will be inspirational rallies each evening.

With its genesis in a 1972 rally that attracted 80,000 to Dallas, Texas, the on-going Australian Explo was the concept of Rev. Brian Willersdorf. He had been invited to hold crusades in Brisbane, but initially declined after learning he had contracted cancer. After prayers by a group of Christians, he was operated on for cancer of the bowel, but was thought to have terminal illness when cancer was also found in his liver. Instead three years later he has recovered his well being and treatment has ceased.

Brian Willersdorf will be a speaker, along with: Mal Garvin, director of Fusion, who has a fine record of communicating with young people from Sydney, also has a daily national radio program, "Breakthrough Generation;" Reg Kilmionok, Pastor of a 1500 strong Assemblies of God congregation in Brisbane; Ben Mason, an Aboriginal evangelist from Adelaide; Gordon Moyes, who leads Sydney's Wesley Central Mission and Graeme Smith, Associate Pastor of one of Australia's largest Baptist Churches.

### Arthur Pigdon Retires

After 41 years of ministry in South Australia and Victoria, including seven years with J.E.W., Arthur Pigdon is retiring. He and Connie will live at McCrae and continue in membership with the Red Hill Church. Included in the recognition services at the Red Hill Church were members from Pt Pirie and Gawler in S.A. and from Dandenong, Geelong and North Balwyn in Vic., where he had distinguished ministries. Presentations were made to the Pigdons. As well as serving local congregations Arthur Pigdon was tireless in his work for Brotherhood Departments. A less advertised ministry has been that practical concern and counselling of brother ministers and others needing a caring confidant.

### Kay Williams makes brief visit

Well known missionary in Vanuatu, Kay Williams, flew home to Sydney in January on medical advice. Thankfully, the medical tests proved to be negative. Kay, after a brief break at home, will return to her teaching work at Londua training school in March.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST — BORONIA

# 60th ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 14 & 15

Speaker — E.L. WILLIAMS

Saturday 7.30 p.m. "Down Memory Lane"

Sunday 10.15 a.m. Thanksgiving

7.00 p.m. Looking Forward

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May 9th-16th

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## School of Successful Church Ministry Explo. '81 Perth

Leaders for this seminar are Gordon Moyes, Rowland Croucher, John Abraham, Reg Klimionok and Brian Willersdorf. It is being conducted primarily for W.A. Ministers, but is part of the overall plan for Explo. '81 — Perth. The Seminar focuses on the minister's role in leadership and will be held in Perth, March 9-11.

For further information please contact Explo. '81 — Perth office at P.O. Box 6163, Hay St. (East), Perth 6000 or phone (09) 325 2333.



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(1 Tim. 4:13).

## OLIVIER BEGUIN LECTURER FOR 1981

The Bible Society in Australia announces that the 1981 Olivier Beguin Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Saphir D. Athyal, Principal of the Union Biblical Seminary Yeotmal, India. The lecture will be delivered in four Australian cities during October 1981.

Dr. Athyal is also Deputy Chairman of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation and Secretary of the Board of Theological Education of Serampore (the Association of Theological Colleges in India and South Asia).

# STEP OUT IN SERVICE

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## Aboriginal Health Services



Aboriginal and Islander Health Service in operation

One of the best current evidences of Aboriginal initiative in self help is the setting up by Aboriginal communities of Aboriginal Health Services. At present there are over 30 of these operating. There is a need for another 75 to cover the major areas of need. The Health Services are founded and conducted by the Aborigines themselves, through the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation, with some government help.

Force 10, a practical action arm of the Australian Council of Churches, is giving priority to supporting these services. Help can be sent through Box C199, Clarence St., P.O., N.S.W. 2000.

## Lloyd Read Retires

An active ministry of more than 42 years, extending into four States and two countries, came to a close with the retirement of Lloyd G. Read, M.A., A.A.M.F.T., recently.

A capacity meeting in the Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit, Surfers Paradise, celebrated the achievements of his five years as Director of Counselling Services for Life Line Gold Coast. Impressive tributes from the Board of Management, staff and telephone counsellors acknowledged the impact of his leadership, his friendliness, good humour, and high level of professional competence. During his term of office the volume of telephone and face to face counselling has more than doubled, the training program has been upgraded, the staff significantly increased, the professional linkages widened, and the building transformed into one of the finest counselling centres in this country.

Lloyd and Gladys will occupy a new retirement home at Bli Bli on the Sunshine Coast.

— Pamela Tooth

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# WO

**WARWICK** (G. B. Carslake). Over 300 attended Christmas Day service...\$450 for Christmas Bowl...2000 attended Carols by Candlelight service at a local oval. Truck loads of singers visited community singing carols...Visiting speakers Roger Ryall and Ken Duffy...Geoffrey Carslake returned from school exchange in Japan...Home study groups recommencing.

**SOUTH PERTH** (K. Denton, B. Eagles). Elections reduced board to five elders, five deacons and two deaconesses. New chairman Windsor Samuel A.G.M. passed motion asking State Conf. to withdraw from W.A. Council of Churches . . . Associate minister Leo Cox and family farewelled after five years . . . David Stanford member Venture for Victory basketball team in Philippines and Hong Kong . . . Grant Ramsey, home from Kenmore, preached . . . New associate minister Bruce Eagles and wife Glenys and family welcomed.

# OLD

**SUNNYBANK** Musical "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" produced by Maurice Bocha and Claire Cobine with younger members involved. Two performances held . . . Discovery Squad held reaching out to Y.P. of local schools during last week of vacation. 30 participated. Lyall Muller and Cheryl Hoskins with Bozo the Clown main participants . . . Farewell given to Lyall, Jillian and Robert Muller as they prepare to leave for Vanuata . . . Barry Brooks appointed as student minister and Cheryl Hoskins as youth minister . . . Church looking at five year plan.

**ANN ST** Dr Lloyd Jones unable to take appointment due to ill health. Church relying on preaching friends to fill pulpit . . . Youth group commenced meeting with Dr Keith and Mrs Davies as leaders . . . C.W.F. elected Joan Coathup — Pres., Laurel Henderson Sec. and Edna Howes Treas. . . Mix and Chat Fellowship resumed its meetings.

# NT

**DARWIN** (P. de Wildt). Six baptisms in December . . . 65 attended morning service on Jan. 19 although 15 regulars away . . . Church to move to classroom in Malak school in March to be used until own building available . . . \$8,000 in hand for building.

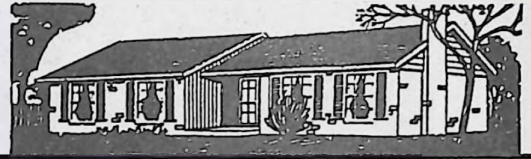
**STRATHMORE** (Stan Bannon, Jim Spiker). Church meet with Uniting Church over holiday period for 7 p.m. services . . . Several new S.S. scholars . . . After-church fellowship held for Irene and Stan Bannon's 25th wedding anniversary . . . Gordon Bannon interviewed at service prior to entering C.O.B. . . . Anthea Spiker and Noel Skillicorn artists at Leisure Time.

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P.O. Box 320 UNLEY, STH. AUST.  
5061.**

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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.



# Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

## NOBODIES OF THE BIBLE Hannah

Hannah was the mother of Samuel. (see 1 Samuel 1, 2). She was the wife of Elkanah an Ephraimite (one of the 12 tribes) who was unable to produce children. She was tormented by Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, because she had no children and so she promised God that if she had a son she would dedicate him to God. She kept her promise. Her song of thanksgiving (1 Samuel 2:1-10) has been compared with Mary's song of praise on the announcement of her pregnancy (Luke 1:46-55). She subsequently gave birth to five more children.

The name Hannah in Hebrew means grace. This woman quietly took her sorrows to God and God heard her plea and granted this request. She was so upset and involved in her plight that Eli the priest thought she was drunk when she was praying in the temple.

For us today Hannah could well give us two or three lessons in the depth of our faith. How often are we so concerned about a problem or person that we become so involved in our prayers to God that others do not understand our actions. For many it is difficult to become so involved in our prayer life. Jesus was also very intense in his prayer life as is exhibited in many passages in the Gospels. We need to be more involved in these conversations that we are having with our greatest friend and not just be trite and superficial.

Hannah carried out the promise that she made to God. It must have been

very difficult for a woman who had finally given birth after being thought of as barren to give up her child. And yet Hannah did that. Often we make promises to God as a type of bribe for his action on our behalf. Do we intend to carry out those actions we have promised or are we just trying to manipulate God?

One small lesson we could learn from the life of Hannah is the effect of teasing and unkind words about another person. Peninnah by her words had deeply affected Hannah. Many of us say something about another person often in jest but these words often deeply wound those of whom we made the statements.

### Sopater (Sospater)

These two names are probably the same and the two references are probably to the same person. Sopater was one of a missionary party who waited for Paul at Troas and then accompanied Paul on part of his missionary journey (Acts 20:4). He was from Berea and in Macedonia and could well have been a convert of Paul.

The other reference to Sopater comes within the greetings in Romans (16:21). The reference to being a relative could be to the fact that he is a fellow Jew or he may have been a close relative or else a disciple of Paul.

It is interesting that here is a person has grown in faith sufficiently to be involved in some way in the mission of the early church. Yet he is only mentioned by name. We know no more of his life or his character. We need people like Sopater who are quietly growing in their faith and who are also involved within the mission of the church either at home or in another area.

# THE LAST WORD

Pour water hastily into a vessel with a narrow neck and little enters; but pour gradually, and in small quantities, and the vessel is filled.

(Marcus Fabius Quintilian on the art of teaching children).

All things are possible to the person who believes;  
they are less difficult to the person who hopes;  
they are easy to the person who loves;  
and they are simple to any who do all three.

— Brother Lawrence



Waiting in line at the parachute jumping club, a new member nervously inquired of an old veteran, "What made you decide to become a jumper?"

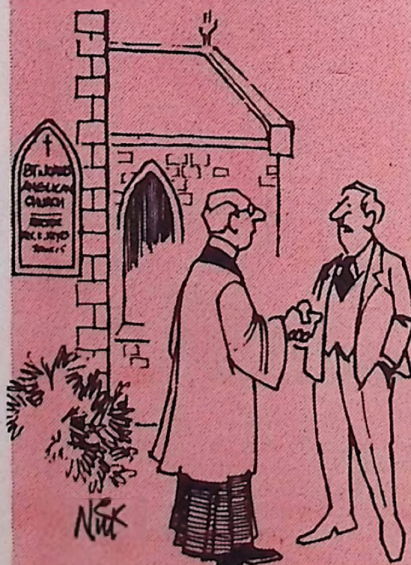
The older man replied: "A plane with three dead engines."



If the politicians keep on "improving" living conditions in this country, it is going to reach the point where a great man won't be able to find a humble beginning.



A swimming pool is a crowd of people with water in it.



"For that matter, I haven't seen you down at the car showroom lately."

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