

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761

Vol. 84 No. 22, November 28, 1981



***"Of such is the Kingdom  
of Heaven". Luke 18:16***

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 84  
No. 21

November 26  
1981

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Dec. 19	Dec. 9
Feb. 6	Jan. 27

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# ON MY MIND

## BIBLICAL PREACHING

**Steve Downie**

Steve Downie has had ministries at Collingwood and East Keilor and now is leader of the ministry team at Box Hill (Vic.). When at East Keilor he had a regular column in the local newspaper, and it rated high with readers, especially "outsiders".

I remember when I was away on holidays and getting up Sunday morning, asking myself such questions as, "Why do I want to go to church?", "Do I need to go to church?", "What am I hoping to get out of church if I go?". The pressure was off and there were no expectations of me. I did not have to go to church so I was able to draw out from myself answers in much sharper focus.

### I Wanted to Go

I wanted to go to church to be with people. I wanted to worship God, and I wanted to hear what God has to say to me. I longed to hear some preacher tell me what the Bible has to say about my life now and the world I live in. I had listened to "PM", and watched "Nationwide" and read "The Age" from cover to cover; now I wanted to know what the Bible says about life.

### Bring the Bible Back

Since my teenage years I have disapproved of Biblical idolatry and it saddens me when scholarship is rejected by literalists. But let us bring the Bible back to church.

I welcome every piece of new resource material which we can use to improve our Christian education and pulpit presentation, but Sunday School teachers and preachers have the best stories in their hands in the Bible. You will note in the preaching of Jesus how he used stories rather than dogma to plant ideas in people's minds. He used what was common to people to help them identify with their sins, needs and aspirations. When we use Biblical stories in our preaching we are using a proven method of communication. They are stories about real life and thinking as we know it.

It has been on my mind for some time that many sermons I have preached and have listened to are more like what someone has called "Chaps Chatting".

### Biblical Preaching

This is a call for Biblical preaching in today's world. The fact that I went to a fundamentalist church on my holidays and came away empty handed, only added to my frustration and desire to hear Biblical preaching. Preaching from the Bible will bring our lives under the judgement of God. Faithfulness to the exegesis of the Bible will give us a certainty of God's love, mercy and forgiveness. It will give us the truth about ourselves and the truth about God.

That is what is on my mind. Genuine Biblical preaching will include the power of positive thinking, the best psychology and the most powerful method of communication.

## Lady Small Haven Stage 2 Opened



Lady Small and Peter White M.P. at opening of 'Les Maisons'.

On September 12 Stage 2 of the Lady Small Haven development was opened by the local federal member of Parliament Peter White, M.P. Stage 2 consists of 36 two bedroom self-contained units in landscaped garden settings.

Lady Small Haven is a part of the aged care given by the Queensland Social Service Department and is cared for pastorally by the Southport

church. Stage 1 was completed three years ago and consisted of a 50 bed aged persons' home plus six self-contained equity units.

Phil Kennedy, the Administrator of Lady Small Haven and the Golden Age Retirement Village in Southport, announced that the Commonwealth Department of Health has just given approval for the construction of a 46 bed

nursing home as well as 20 studio units (bed-sitters). These will be built adjacent to the existing hostel and are expected to be completed by the end of next year.

The Stage 2 project cost \$1.4 million and this means that units can be offered at \$40,000 a low cost made possible by the gift of the 10 acre site by the late Sir Bruce Small. At the time of opening

31 of the 36 units had already been sold.

The Southport church shows its care for the residents by providing the appointment of the full-time chaplain Doug Holloway. They along with the Social Service Department are endeavoring to show their love through this practical expression of caring for those who take advantage of the security offered to them.

## Shades of Yesteryear

When the Box Hill church held the Annual Bible School Anniversary in October of this year there were shades of past glories and memories.

There was David Brooker who was the speaker — the grandson of Les Brooker and David was up to his grandfather's tricks with lights popping on and building a house on the platform. Like his grandfather, it was not about building a house, it was about the gospel and building lives.

And then there was the singing of the Bible School scholars, the excitement of children getting ready, their parents were there, neighbours, friends, grandmas and grandpas,

including the Editor of the Australian Christian trying to look indifferent while his grandson was on stage.

Everyone was dressed in jeans — that was the only difference to days gone by, but it was no different to old time Anniversaries. You get people in with simple songs, a joyous gospel and everybody in it.

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## Hurstville gives helping hand to jobless youth



Typing class with Mrs Myrtle Evans, Instructor, and Robert Drown.

On Monday September 3 the Hurstville church undertook a unique step to meet the need of unemployed young people. In conjunction with the Department of Technical & Further Education (NSW) and the St. George Technical College, we commenced an Education Programme for

Unemployed Youth (E.P.U.Y.) The course is designed for unemployed young people who have been out of the work force for at least four months. Young people are contacted through the local Commonwealth Employment Service and invited to commit themselves to attend a 10 week course consisting of 30 hours per week.

Subjects include, basic Maths and English, Book-keeping, Typing, Skills in Job Seeking and Interviews, Communication, Personal Development, Crafts and Life Skills. Visits to factories and commercial offices are organised and guest speakers from business firms are invited.

The minister, Robert Drown is engaged by the St. George Technical College as Co-ordinator having oversight of the program. Mrs. Margaret Farmer fulfills the

valuable roles of supervisor, counsellor and clerical assistant. Members of the church involved in the course include Mrs. Rosalyn Bemrose (Tutor for Job Seeking and Job Interviewing Skills), Jack Cowan (Book-keeping) and Richard Souness (Factory inspections etc.). These people are joined by a dedicated team of tutors who are in fellowship with other churches in the St. George district.

Generally E.P.U.Y. schemes are conducted on the premises of Technical Colleges. The fact that a church has become involved is a unique departure (the first of its kind in N.S.W. and maybe Australia).

In conjunction with the course, the Drop-In Centre which opened one day a week for the last 4 years, now opens every day as different members commit themselves to provide hospitality on a certain day each week. Members of the public are invited to 'drop-in' for refreshments, recreational activities or just to relax. The Centre provides important follow-up for students of previous E.P.U.Y. courses who have been unsuccessful in finding employment.

Furthermore, the Chapel has been opened to providing the opportunity for people to experience moments alone in quiet meditation. Bibles have been discreetly placed around the pews for handy reference. Arrangements are in hand to provide piped music.

The church in Hurstville, by undertaking these programs, is now using the property to capacity, meeting varied needs within the community and fulfilling the image of the "Servant Church".

## T. R. Mason moves.



T. R. Mason will conclude a ministry of 10 years with the United Church of Christ, Douglas, Michigan, at the end of the year. He will become minister of the United Church of Christ in Hudsonville, Michigan, on January 1, 1982. The Hudsonville church is a congregation of 400 members.

Mr Mason, who graduated from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1963, was formerly minister of the Mt Gambier, Tarpeena and Colonel Light Gardens churches in S.A. He went to the USA to undertake graduate studies in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago on a fellowship from the Disciples Divinity House in Chicago.

Hudsonville is located 25 miles north of Douglas, halfway between the cities of Holland and Grand Rapids.

Mrs Betty Mason is manager of the Big Dutch Fleet Credit Union in Holland, and the children, Andrew and Susanne, are students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The Mason's new address will be 4837 Valley Avenue, Hudsonville, Michigan 49426, U.S.A.



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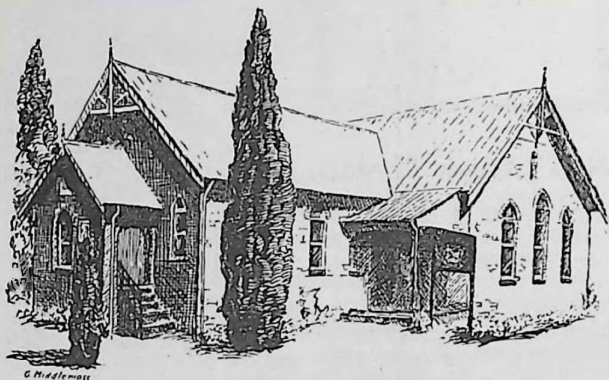
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## Where Did Hornsby Get To?



Old Hornsby Chapel

Hornsby used to be at the top end of Sydney as one travelled north. Churches of Christ travellers knew that our chapel there was the last one before Newcastle. To get to it you passed an impressive building on the highway with a sign indicating "Church of the Nazarene Bible College." Then round about 1973 we did not hear any more about Hornsby, and some who had stopped on their journeys to worship, may have wondered what had happened to it. Well it moved and became the Thornleigh church meeting in what was part of the one-time premises of the Church of the Nazarene.

### 75 Years Ago

The Hornsby story goes back 75 years to a "church in a home". In 1906 a faithful group "set up the Lord's table" in the Hornsby home of the Crosthwaite family, and later in the home of the Mortons. By 1910 there were 15 of them and they ventured into their first building program with a hall 25 feet by 20 feet, with the then astronomical debt of \$400. The membership grew quickly to 27, with a Sunday School of 20. The late H. G. Payne was their first minister. The move from Hornsby was made during the longest of the ministries, that of David Oldfield.

### Church on the Move

In 1973 the church was on the move and the Hornsby premises were inadequate, so "on the move" in another sense they went down the road to the Nazarene site. A developer who had purchased it gave them \$165,000 for the Hornsby site, and sold them

what they needed at Thornleigh for \$80,000. This left them with a strategic and visible property and enough money to buy a manse and a hall.

### Ministry

The present ministry team at Thornleigh is Paul Cameron, Robyn Wheatley and Rick Lewis. They work with seven elders (a plurality which is probably more like the N.T. eldership concept than the ones and twos in some churches!)

On 25th October the Thornleigh (once Hornsby) church celebrated the 75th anniversary of the original setting up in faith of the Lord's table.

The baptism of two young women at the evening service brought back memories of hundreds who had accepted Christ's Lordship in this way over the past 75 years, and gave assurance of many more in the future.

### Cassette released by the Breens

Peter and Wendy Breen, active members at Richmond, who are involved in deputation work for the Christian Foundation for the Blind have released a cassette of their singing. They were led to produce the cassette "Step into the Sunshine of His Love" as part of their ministry.

Peter and Wendy have themselves written most of the 12 songs that are featured on this cassette. Both Wendy and Peter are blind.

Anyone wishing to purchase a cassette should contact Wendy and Peter at 6 Brougham St., Richmond or phone (03) 429 1479.

## Churches launch \$2 Million Appeal for Christmas Bowl

The annual Christmas Bowl Appeal of the Australian Council of Churches was launched with special church services and public events around Australia.

Through the Christmas Bowl Appeal the 12 member churches of the A.C.C. raise funds for emergency relief and development assistance in the Third World, refugee resettlement in Australia, assistance to Aborigines and for community education on the causes and effects of world poverty.

Target for 1981, the 31st annual appeal, is \$2 million. The 1980 appeal raised \$1.6 million.

The theme for the 1981 Christmas Bowl Appeal is a poem written by Catholic priest, and former Filipino political prisoner, Fr. Ed dela Torre.

It states:

"Someday all our dreams will come to be.  
Someday in a world where people are free.  
Maybe not in time for you and me  
But someday ... at Christmas."

This year's Christmas Bowl Appeal message has been translated into five languages — Greek, Arabic, Serbian, Romanian and Armenian — to encourage support from the Australian Council of Churches' seven Orthodox Church members.

## Back Issue Wanted

An overseas library that subscribes to "The Australian Christian" in binding its copies finds that it is missing the August 18th, 1979 issue (Volume 82, No. 15). If anyone has a copy of this issue that they no longer require could they send it to our office.

## Index

We will shortly be producing the 1981 index to "The Australian Christian". If you would like a copy please notify us as soon as possible. There is no charge for the index.

If you ordered a copy last year you will be automatically sent a copy this year.

## EASTER IN ISRAEL

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# Women at the top

Dorothy Sonsee, an energetic grandmother of 11 has a real concern for Aboriginal and white women. She believes that the time will come when they will readily and freely meet and work together. Her aim is that "they will be able to sew, save and feel that they are doing something worthwhile".

For the past ten years she has organised sewing classes for many Aboriginal women, and has helped them in many ways. Women of the Hamilton Hill Church of Christ have assisted her in the class.

Another of her activities is the setting up of a Pre-school centre for children of mothers who attend the classes. Classes began in the church hall, and later moved to Coolbellup Resource Centre. So successful have been the classes for Aboriginal women that white women have requested classes, and Mrs Sonsee readily responded.

Mrs Sonsee is certainly "The Woman at the Top".

From "West Australian"  
Ann Matheson

## TASMANIAN CAMP

Our church camp was so rewarding that I wish we were still there enjoying it. We are so privileged to have a beautiful camp site like Bicheno. The time the church family shared was full of fellowship, fun and food. There were children at the camp and they added a special touch to the atmosphere.

We were able to slow down from everyday pace and pressure and really get to know and appreciate each other as part of God's united family. Another important aspect was that we were able to evaluate how we are using our lives to the glory of God.

The highlight of the weekend were the studies led by Ian and "Curly" Corlett from Victoria who shared with us the theme of "Christian Service." They got across to me that real Christian service starts with meaningful worship.

— Marlene Crawford

## PRAYER

The importance and power of prayer is an accepted fact by most people. Many people have had real experiences of its effectiveness in their lives.

Prayer is only powerful and effective, however, when we pray with genuine love, earnestness and belief in God's response.

Personal and Group prayer, especially in connection with our service and evangelistic efforts in the church is vitally important.

At the end of the Western Australian Women's Conference, the Prayer Committee organised a group of women to meet for prayer for business sessions and program, and for the leaders of General Conference.

Two factors arose from this:

- i. The deepening concern and interest for the Conference of the women attending the prayer meeting. God knew that they were available to contribute to the goodwill of Conference.

- ii. The prayers of the women were bound to influence the atmosphere of the Conference.

Why the need for more personal and group prayer?

Certainly not to persuade God to take action. He is more willing than we are to see results.

When we pray certain things happen to us:

- We become clearer in our minds as to our course of action. This gives us confidence, serenity and peace.

- We are assured that results will come, because we are open to God's will.

- We know that God's presence is within us perfecting our efforts, and that we do not work in our own strength.

Personal and Group prayer is essential, and effective. When our love is genuine, we believe in God's response, and are open to God working through us.

A helpful practice in my leadership role was to go aside briefly and say to God, "You know what is before me, and the outcome. I can't lead the group in my own strength, You take over. Thanks God". Then went out assured of God's response.

Editress

# Today's women

## Non Church Contact in Boot Shop

### No. 4

He was manager of a boot repair shop. An unskilled lad he knew was looking for a job. It was difficult to find one. He took him on as an apprentice. He did more than this, he treated him as a kind father, with understanding and Christian love. It paid off, the lad responded by doing his job well, improving his relationship with people and becoming settled in his mind and life. The lad knew that the manager was a Christian and a member of the church. He gained a better understanding of God.

While mending 'soles' the manager was able to introduce the lad to the Mender of 'souls'.



### THINK ABOUT IT!

Ephesians 4:7, 11-13 Matt. 5:48.

"BE MATURE AS YOUR FATHER IS MATURE".

Are we handicapped? (Emotionally, Spiritually?)

"We are only handicapped when we allow a disability to prevent us from doing things ... living fully," said a Paraplegic to me. This applies to anything in life.

"Be mature as your Father is mature".

How handicapped are we?

# Christ the water of life

I loved the countryside of Jordan and Israel. We drank water from the spring that gushed forth from the rock when Moses struck it — the water is sweet and refreshing and helps thirsty travellers. God's spring of living water — His word, the Bible quenches our spiritual thirst.

We visited Jacob's well and I was thrilled in anticipation of drinking from it, especially as it was here that the despised Samaritan woman drew water for Christ to drink. Christ offered her the life-giving water of the Spirit.

Imagine our disappointment when we got there and the doors to the well were locked. The Priest who looked after the well had been murdered a short while before. Sin still creates barriers between men and the life-giving power of salvation.

I stooped and wrote in the dust and wondered just what it was that Christ had written there. As I smoothed the words from the dust I felt strangely close to my Lord who has "written" special words on the heart of each Christian.

I felt close to Jesus as I walked the dusty roads, and placed my footsteps in His as I walked the shores of Galilee. I felt exalted on Mt. Tabor, the Mount of Transfiguration, when we saw the glow of sun through rain clouds. But when in Jerusalem we were shown the rock with the supposed footprint of Christ left as He ascended into Heaven, I was troubled and unmoved.

I stood on the slope of the Mount of Olives near where Jesus wept in compassion for the City of Jerusalem and I too, could have wept. Within that city they squabbled over their Redeemer: they made money out of Him; they exploited His every act and deed.

They commemorated the Life and Death of Christ by erecting numerous "Holy Places". We know that the city of Jerusalem has been destroyed four times. I found it almost shattered and destroyed again by commercialism, greed and political ambition, for power not piety seems to rule within the heart of the people who should be the greatest witness to its Holiness. Marjorie Conning, Vic.

# MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

The inaugural edition last month of a national weekly secular magazine *The Review* included a remarkable article by Australian author and scriptwriter Tony Morphett. (Amongst other accomplishments Morphett was the co-scriptwriter for *The Last Wave* and the originator of *Certain Women*.)

He tells of his life-long belief that the Bible contained "myths and legends" about "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" whom he had always detested: "... the poon in the dress sitting around with kids and sheep in stained glass windows with his typically Jewish golden ringlets and blue eyes and lovely shining tiara behind his head."

Morphett then relates his response when a chain of events led him to actually read the gospels:

"So here I was looking at the documents. I was absolutely horrified. I couldn't find gentle Jesus meek and mild, I couldn't find the poon in the dress, I couldn't find the golden ringlets or even the blue eyes.

"What it was like was reporting. What it was like was documentary. It had the rough edges, the unshaped quality, the "bit parts" of minor characters wandering in and out again, where any good fiction writer would have amalgamated some of them to build one decent part.

"What it was like was history.

"But it was history with one difference. The central character was without faults. Every person has faults. No major character in fiction is without major faults. But not Jesus.

"Here was this book, describing this tough, abrasive, humorous man Jesus, a man who lived in the same century, breathed the same air as Augustus and Tiberius and various Herods, a man who made total demands on his fol-

lowers, a man without flaws, a man with authority over nature itself, who did things which other men could not do, who said he was one with God, who predicted his own death and resurrection, here was this book in my hands. And it read like history.

"All my life I had played with my own life and other people's lives as if they were Monopoly money. but if what I was reading was true, it had been real money, and I was hopelessly in debt.

"But this man Jesus, whom I had come to love by reading about him, had died to clear my debts for me. I'd run up the bill. He'd picked up the cheque the hard way. And I was horrified.

"I'd always had utter contempt for Christians. Even when I met Christians who were more intelligent or more talented than I was, I could always manage a good healthy contempt for them because they had this terrible weakness. They needed a prop, I didn't.

"But by checking the facts I'd become one of these freaks. Here I was a Christian.

"Let this be a lesson to you. If you don't want to be a christian you must avoid checking the facts at all costs."

★ ★ ★

Last month's column (on the moral and spiritual obligations upon God's people to oppose the nuclear arms race) refrained from dwelling excessively on the horrors of nuclear holocaust, on the assumption that we've heard it all before.

Since then, newspaper columnist Phillip Adams has drawn attention to some of the "unpleasantness"

resulting from nuclear war which this correspondent, for one, had not fully apprehended. Adams itemised, among other things:

- The Rembrandts in the Rijks museum, the Goyas in the Prado and the Turners in the Tate would go all runny;
  - The price of gold would fall;
  - The rest of Rome would be as ruined as the forum;
  - Because the surviving hospitals and medical teams couldn't cope, countless millions would die in intolerable anguish;
  - Any world leaders who emerged from bunkers beneath Washington or London or wherever would be lynched by the irradiated survivors;
  - All man's monuments to learning and knowledge would look pretty silly;
  - The last few words of a few people will be 'I told you so'.
- (*The Bulletin*, 17th Nov, 1981)  
Adams recommends we compile our own lists. Any suggestions?

★ ★ ★

Well, with so much depressing news around these days, here's something positive to report at last:

A significant breakthrough in the field of agricultural assistance to developing nations has been achieved recently, it seems, by the C.S.I.R.O.

According to a recent C.S.I.R.O. staff journal, the problem that has worried Tibetan dairy farmers for centuries — that of cows falling off the sides of mountains — is now solved.

The journal reports the successful application of a revolutionary cell fusion technique to breed a chimeric dairy cow especially for the Tibetan mountains. The new cow, a hybrid between a specially-selected compact type of Jersey and the giant Italian Chianina breed, is particularly suited to dairying terrain where slopes may exceed 45 degrees.

What the C.S.I.R.O. has achieved, in simple layman's terms, is a breed of cow with two short front legs and two long back legs.

Says the report, "Provided grazing activity is oriented uphill, metabolic interruption associated with gravitational compression of lactation pathways in normally conformed dairy breeds is eliminated."

There are, however, some drawbacks: "The new breed does exhibit gross locomotory deficiency and an unusual vent-over-udder tendency when animals re-orient downhill in the evenings to avoid the katabatic winds."

## JASON'S HOUSE

LISTEN, LUKE, IT'S WRONG TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS NUCLEAR ARMS PROTEST NONSENSE...

IT'S ALL IN GOD'S HANDS. EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL...

Hmmm... THEN WHAT ABOUT MILITANT UNIONS, PORNOGRAPHY, ABORTION, AND COMMUNISM..?

THAT'S DIFFERENT!



# OPEN FORUM

Correspondence to Open Forum limited to 150 words.

## DARWIN UPDATE

To the Editor,

We would like to thank the Brotherhood of Churches of Christ for their encouragement, support and prayers during our pioneering ministry in Darwin. As we approach the completion of our term here, due to family reasons, we realise how dependent we have been on the grace of God and the support of his people. Paul's words to the Philippians, 'Our God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus', have proved themselves to be applicable today.

Our church has grown from a handful of possibilities in 1978, to 68 in membership, with another 24 Christians in Fellowship, with a healthy Sunday School, Explorers group and six neighbourhood Bible study groups meeting during the week. Our building is being erected and should be finished before Jeff Weston takes over the pastoral care.

Please continue your support and prayers with encouragement, as the work here has only just begun.

High living costs, extreme humidity and isolation are part of Darwin community life, and the church and its pastor need all the support they can get in order to minister to that community to the honour and glory of God.

— Hennie and Peter DeWilt  
(Darwin, N.T.)

## WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

To the Editor,

Consider the modern practicalities of the role of women in the modern church.

(1) Is it against the law of the land to deny them any meaningful part in the service or management of the local church?

(2) Women are often better educated and trained than some men.

(3) Women who have their own incomes are expected to give in proportion, but sometimes have no say in the disposal of the money.

(4) Women are sent overseas and into our own outback to form churches and preach to the lost. (Proportion to men 2 to 1).

(5) Why do they train women in Bible Colleges if there is no place for them to work in our own country?

(6) I think churches that discriminate are the poorer for it.

(7) I am glad to see women are being accepted as preachers and lay assistants in some of our churches.

— Mrs. E. Laurens (Swanbourne, W.A.)

## WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

To the Editor,

For the past 25 years, it has been my privilege to be a preacher of our plea for the Restoration of New Testament Christianity in practice and doctrine. Part of that message is WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS WE SPEAK AND WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT WE ARE SILENT. It now appears from recent letters to the Editor in the A.C. that many of our people are no longer interested in that principle, especially in the matter of women and their leadership role in the church.

We who have had several generations within the Churches of Christ, and who know what our message is, and respect such, are slowly growing impatient with the fact that there are many people joining our churches with no conviction whatsoever about our message and doctrine, that are bringing with them their preconceived doctrines which are at times contrary to plain New Testament teaching. We who love the message of the New Testament are faced with the possibility of seeing the birth of a New movement for the Restoration of New Testament Christianity, wherein we can truthfully and fearlessly proclaim and practise WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS WE SPEAK AND WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT WE WILL BE SILENT.

— Kevin Christensen, Vic.

## WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

To the Editor,

In response to the "poem letter" "The Mission of Women in the Church" we would make the following comments.

The Bible is primarily concerned with salvation not with the rights of any group, including women, but with responsibilities as believers seek to be obedient to the teachings of Scripture. The Feminist/Humanist movement has placed great pressure on the church to grant women "equal rights", and sadly the churches have compromised the scriptures by ordaining women. There are very deep theological truths as to why the Bible maintains that the ordained ministry be male. According to 1 Cor. 11:3 if you invert the roles of Males/Females by ordination then you also can invert the relationship between Christ and his church, and between the Father and the Son in the Godhead, which is of course unacceptable. While it is true, we are all one in Christ (Gal. 3:28) yet the Bible teaches that there are differing

roles for the sexes. The Word does not teach a unisex society concept. The sexes are equal but different, not equal and the same.

— Lyn and Alan Barron (Vic.)

## WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

To the Editor,

Feeling so strongly as I do about "The Mission of Women in the Church" I have been reluctant to rush into print on the subject. However, the recent letter in Open Forum from O. Wainwright forces me to action!

My authority for believing women have the right to participate fully in church activities is the Bible, specifically, the Gospels, where it is recorded that the Lord Jesus Christ

gave to a woman his first message to his brethren after his resurrection. Not because she was a woman, I believe, but simply because she was there when needed. I note he did not ask her to find a man for him, but gave her the message to deliver.

I appreciated the letter from J. K. Robinson in the same issue, perhaps because I agree so much!

— Rita Phillips (Warragul Vic.)

## BIBLE IN MORNING SERVICES

To the Editor,

"Page 13", "A.C.", October 31, should be read carefully by all those who are responsible for planning church services.

● Continued on page 9

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### MOTIVATION

To the Editor,

Most people seem to be for the Prodigal rather than for the older brother. Yet the Prodigal was hopeless. The only thing in the story to commend him is that he had the common sense to know where there was a meal ticket and the right sort of honeyed words to get it.

There was no noble motivation in his return to the father. I don't think that he had any sense of what he had done to the old man. The bit in his prepared speech about having sinned before God and the father was a useful bit of rhetoric. The only one he was sorry about was himself.

He didn't go back home because he was concerned about his poor old worrying dad. He didn't go back home because he was needed on the farm. He went back home because he was hungry, and that is about as low a motivation as you could get.

But the father didn't seem to be interested in motivation. Personally I'm glad that God is like that too because a lot of my motives don't bear the light of day.

I am sure that some people come to God because they have a great sense of sin and the need for forgiveness. I am sure that some come because they have a life to give to the noble cause of the Kingdom, and some because they have become aware that the Father's heart is breaking over their prodigality. But I suppose that most of us came to God because we were "hungry". We had an idea that God had something for us such as eternal life, and that the only way to get it was to come home. Most of us came to him from self interested motives. But the Father doesn't seem to mind as long as we came.

I only hope that the older brothers who came to God with high motivations will be a little kinder to prodigals like me than the original older brother was.

Yours hungrily,  
Tertius.



# BOOKS TO READ

## BARBARIANS AT THE GATES

by A.J. Broomhall, (Hodder and Stoughton) \$7.95

This 400 page paperback is the first of a series of six under the general title, "Hudson Taylor and China's Open Century". The five following books will include the results of fresh research into the life and work of Hudson Taylor and into the missionary enterprise of the period 1850 to 1950. "Barbarians at the Gates" tells us only a little about Taylor, giving a history of Christian missions in China from the beginning. Indeed the book goes back early into Chinese history linking dates and events with those in the Old and New Testaments. It tells of the successes and failures of attempts through history to evangelise China, of hardship, of persecution and of martyrdoms. It gives extensive accounts of the quite remarkable contributions of men like Robert Morrison and Charles Gutzlaff. It tells the grim story of the Opium Wars and their stigmatic effect on Western inspired missions until this day. There is interesting material on early attempts at indigenous mission and some of its problems. This is a fascinating book for any reader and a must for students of Missions. Its documentation, appendices and charts, its notes and personalia and its bibliography and index reveal the exhaustive research that went into it.

## PLOT AND PURPOSE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

by E.A. Martens (I.V.P.) \$14.70

An excellent introduction to Old Testament theology and history for both students and general readers. The language is not too technical nor the argument too abstract. E.A. Martens has not started with the traditional approach of a systematic approach to the Old Testament. He begins with key biblical texts from successive phases of Israel's history and exegetes these passages to find the keys to the theology of the Old Testament. He finds that God has a fourfold purpose in the Old Testament — deliverance, community, knowledge of God and land. The author shows how these ideas flow through the whole of the Old Testament and extend into the New Testament and form an important part of the Christian faith. There are some excellent insights at various points in this book.

## THE KINGDOM ON ITS WAY, Risk Book Series, Box C199, Clarence St., Sydney, 2000. (\$3.95)

This little paperback is evidence that some good things come out of the WCC. It contains meditations on the theme "Thy Kingdom Come" which was the theme for the Melbourne meeting of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (May, 1980). The meditations are biblical and would be useful as a basis for group study or to "spark off" sermons or for personal devotions. The music part is a collection of 18 "scripture choruses" and hymns on the theme of the Kingdom, several of which are suitable for guitar and folk singing. The mood of the book is found in its introduction: "As we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom we affirm our trust in and dependence upon the God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Saviour, Lord of Lords and King of Kings. We pray confidently, for the Kingdom is already in our midst, yet we pray expectantly, for the Kingdom in all its fullness is still to come."

## CHRISTIAN REFLECTIONS

By C. S. Lewis (Fount Paperbacks) \$5.50

At last this collection of essays by C. S. Lewis which I had been after for some time has been re-issued in paperback. Written in his inimitable style which opens up the subject this book is a collection of essays on a diverse range of topics. Such as Christianity and literature, ethnics, church music, historicism, the Psalms and the language of religion. For the C. S. Lewis fan this is a must. For anyone interested in a spirited defence of the Christian faith any of his writings are good to read.

## THEY CRY, TOO!

by Lucille Lavender (Tyndale) \$4.95

An excellent expose of the feelings and hurts and joys of the minister and his family especially his wife. This book is written about ministers in America and in traditions that place ministers in a different light than we say (I wonder if there is all that much difference in practice). There is much that should stir us as non-ministers to care for the servant in the church. The main emphasis is on the thoughtless treatment of many ministers by church members and the grief that they endure. An excellent book on a subject that should be considered in all of our churches. Highly recommended.

## PLANTING CHURCHES CROSS-CULTURALLY

by David J. Hesselgrave (Baker) \$10.50

A detailed step by step approach to developing a master plan for entering a new community and planting a church. The approach is from within the church growth school. David Hesselgrave is the Professor of Mission and Director of the School of World Mission and Evangelism at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. The book recognises the varieties of cultures that exist in many places today and makes allowances for that fact in its setting out of the steps and needs in planting churches. The author sees the task of mission of the church as essentially church planting and the whole of the book is designed to illustrate that belief.

## THE CHALLENGE OF THE CULTS

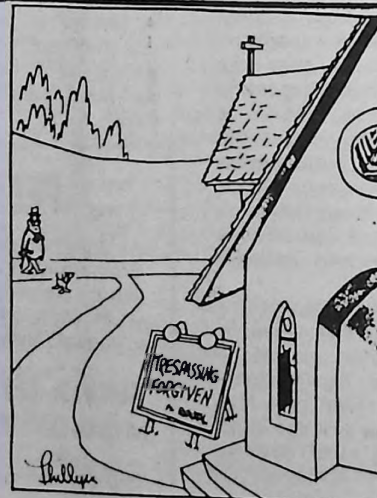
by Maurice C. Burrell (I.V.P.) \$4.95

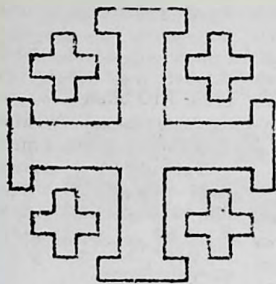
This is an excellent book which examines some of the most recent cults that are around. The author explains the history and major beliefs of each cult. There is a helpful table at the end of each chapter summarizing the main differences between the cult and orthodox Christian belief. There are also two helpful chapters examining the whole phenomenon of the cults and why they attract some people. Maurice Burrell is also concerned about how we share the gospel with cult members.

Cults examined are The Worldwide Church of God, The Family of Love (Children of God), Unification Church, Divine Light Mission, Transcendental Meditation, Hare Krishna and Scientology.

One problem about writing on current cults is that events make some of the statements out of date even before the book is published.

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





## Crossroads Launching

the place where people meet. Handicapped people are the same as ordinary people inside and the church needs to share the message that people (no matter what the handicap) belong in the heart of the community of faith. 10 per cent of Australians fall under the definition of handicapped.

Recently I attended the launching of the **Crossroads Christian Fellowship for the Handicapped** in Victoria. The main sponsoring body in Victoria is **Scripture Union**. The same week a Crossways was launched in **Tasmania**. It has also been launched very recently in **Western Australia**.

Crossroads was commenced in **Newcastle** in 1961 by Rev. John Chegwiddden with others. The main impetus was his own handicapped son. Since then many individuals have been involved in a variety of activities. Initially it was hoped for a ratio of one handicapped person to one non-handicapped person but this has not always happened.

The name Crossroads was chosen to say that this was

The work of Crossroads in **Queensland** commenced five years ago. Here the work is linked with the **Uniting Church** but as in **New South Wales** the idea is that people from all denominations are working as enablers and supporters. Individual Churches of Christ congregations in both states have been involved as host churches and in Crossroads activities.

One of the main aims of Crossroads is that **Christian family** can be a reality to all people.

The new Crossroads group in **Victoria** are hoping to initiate local church fellowships groups that are geared towards the handicapped both devotionally and recreationally.

They are also aiming to provide holiday activities for the handicapped. (**Queensland** operates an extensive touring program which includes overseas tours — **Europe, New Zealand, Fiji,** and cruises as well as local and interstate tours.)

It is hoped that along with the churches and Christian organisations **Christian education** can be given to those involved in special centres for the handicapped.

At present **Barbara Lloyd** will be involved in the **Victorian work** two days a week.

If anyone is interested in being involved in any way in **Crossroads** as an individual by finding out how their local church could help they should contact the following addresses.

**Queensland:** Rev. Ed Smith (Qld. Director), C/- **Uniting Church, Munro St., Auchenflower, Qld 4066.** Phone 371 6977, 288 2008.

**New South Wales:** Mrs Ann Chegwiddden, 4 **Normandie Place, Unanderra, N.S.W. 2526.**

**Victoria:** Barbara Lloyd, The Master's Workshop, 414a **Church St., Richmond, 3121.** Phone 428 4934.

## Muslim Expansion

In the near future, every fourth person on the world will be a Muslim, according to **Eberhard Troeger**, director of the **Protestant Mission in Upper Egypt**. He pointed out that both reform and conservative wings of Islam view their religion as the great alternative to the materialistic West and the Atheistic East.

**Troeger** cited **Muslim expansion** since the beginning of this century. In 1900, he pointed out, **Muslim population** was estimated to be 100 million — compared to about 500 million Christians. **Islam** now claims about 700 million adherents — equalling the number of the world's nominal Christians.

He stated that there are now over five million Muslims in western Europe and that they are aggressively involved in evangelism. **Troeger** estimated that only two per cent of the world's 55,000 Protestant missionaries are involved in ministry among Muslims.

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# HAPPENINGS

An ecumenical group in Brisbane has launched its own dictionary of religious signs for the deaf. The Queensland School for the Deaf has copies available at \$2.00 each.

Two 'white' witches who claim there are 200-300 practising witches in Sydney have approached the Attorney General's Dept. seeking to organise Australia's first Church of Old Religion.

Tom Howard, U.S. singer-songwriter will be in concert at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Melbourne, on December 4. The concert is a fund-raising effort for the Youth Guidance program of Melbourne Youth for Christ.

Nearly \$90 million is to be spent in Nigeria to control Malaria in that country. Part of the budget will be used to launch a massive immunization program. The health minister says that there was no cure for the disease, so the aim of the program is to attempt to prevent it.

Lord Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury has accepted an invitation to minister in Melbourne for 10 days in November 1982.

Teen Challenge, a Christian drug referral agency, based primarily in Queensland is celebrating its 10th anniversary in Australia.

The Heads of Churches in South Australia have commissioned an ecumenical study to focus on the family for mid-1982. It will develop the theme of the Kingdom of God as it applies to the family.

A mass conversion of Harijans (Untouchables) to Islam has taken place in southern Tamil Nadu, India. Asked why they preferred Islam to Christianity, some converts explained that Christian missionaries took interest in them only until their conversion. The Islamic society, on the other hand, cared for them even after conversion.

The Aboriginal and Islander Development Fund (AIDF) established in 1976 by the Australian Council of Churches has been granted tax deductibility by the Commissioner of Taxation. Donations of \$2 or more to the Fund are now tax deductible. It is a unique fund operated and controlled by Aborigines and Islanders for the benefit of their own people.

According to reports East German Baptists have baptised 1,500 new converts.

Refugees in the camp at Las Dure, Somalia, are being helped to set up their own soap industry. World Vision officials hope the new venture will be successful. It is planned that the local soap makers will be able to provide all the needs of the camp. Imported soap is very expensive and as a result most refugees wash without it. Medical teams say because of this, skin infections, hair lice and gastro-intestinal disorders are common. The final success of the project will depend on a continued supply of water.

There are 20,000 converts a day to Christianity in Africa. About 4,000 of these converts come from animism.

Churches in Indonesia have increased membership by 200 per cent since 1965. The growth from 5 million to 14 million means that half of the country's churches are without fully trained pastors.

October 4 was the 800th anniversary of the birth of Francis of Assisi.

The Christian Council of Zambia claims that the refugee problem in the western province of the country is very serious and has appealed for funds. Peter Mulenga, the council's refugee counsellor, says that the majority of the refugees are Angolans fleeing from the fighting in their country.

On October 24 a Dutch born Canadian member of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship's Central Thailand was murdered. Koos Fletje was shot, possibly by a hired killer, as people were chatting after a meeting.

Food and medical aid shipped to Poland under church auspices by mid-August was valued at about \$1.1 million.

The Vatican facing a \$25 million deficit is urging local churches to share the cost of running the Roman Catholic Church's central administration.

The United Bible Societies World Service Budget for 1982 has been fixed at \$19,644,838. The Bible Society in Australia has undertaken to contribute \$1,250,000. This is a 14% increase on its 1981 contribution.

A new board game called "Capital Punishment" is available in America. The object is to get "criminals" past "liberals" to "the chair". The person responsible for the most executions is the winner.

Action man dolls wearing priest's robes are a new craze in Britain.

Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, has been charged by U.S. authorities with violations of their tax laws.

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## The Holy Rollers Revue

"It's about time Christians learnt to laugh at themselves," said Janet Pearson from Caritas Christian Theatre. For too long, those outside the church have seen Christians as a poker faced, humourless lot — and let's face it, there are a few of them about."

Janet, who is a member of the Williamstown church, was talking about Caritas Christian Theatre's latest production "The Holy Rollers Revue" to be performed on December 4 and 5 at St Thomas' Anglican Church, Cremorne St., Richmond. This production is a shift in style of the group which has performed mainly serious dramas in the past. They also work in the medium of street theatre and perform at church services and meetings.

"We wanted to present something for Christmas that would make people laugh and be thoroughly entertained," she continued "The Revue is a light hearted look at the church and its people, but it is not without a few 'barbs' to

leave people thinking."

Costs are \$3.00 per adult with a \$2.00 concession price. Bookings and details are available from (03) 690 2664 (Leigh) and 879 3447 (Tim). Both numbers are after hours numbers.

## Lonely at Christmas?

For singles who are alone and lonely on Christmas Day Mr and Mrs Waugh and the Christian Singles group which they are associated with are organising a Christian Christmas Day dinner. This can be a very lonely time of the year and there are many reasons for people being alone at this time.

The Christmas Day dinner is designed as a time of fellowship. The dinner will take place overlooking Silvan Lake. For those who want to share, could they contact Mr and Mrs Waugh at 11 Bowman St., Mt Waverley 3149 or by phoning (03) 277 5192.

## CHRISTIANS ON THE WRONG SIDE

# Page 13

Hindsight has shown that Christians have frequently been on the wrong side in the struggles for progress and justice and truth . . . for "good Christian reasons". So it is important to learn from history lest future generations look back on us as having chosen the wrong side on contemporary issues, often in good faith, but at the risk of the church's continuing credibility.

### No Bibles for the People

A bill was introduced to parliament by radicals of the day, to allow the distribution of the Bible to the English people in the English language. It was passed, but nothing happened. The church refused to print it. Concerned Christians of that day believed that to let ordinary people have the Bible would confuse them into heresy, or even have them all "cutting off their right hands".

### "How Sweet the Name"

John Newton sat on a sun drenched deck writing "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds". It did not concern him at the time that beneath the deck in filth and stench were African slaves. Like most Christians of his day he knew that slaves were essential to the economy and that they were better off away from Africa where they existed as naked savages, denied the benefits of civilization and the gospel.

Newton, to the disgust of some of his Christian friends, later changed sides in the slavery debate, and it was he who later encouraged Wilberforce the champion of liberation, to stay in politics after his conversion.

### "Water Babies"

As children we wept over "The Water Babies" and Tom the pale faced chimney sweep. It was by Charles Kingsley an idealistic evangelical clergyman who could not keep his inexpert nose out of the world of affairs in order to get on with preaching the gospel where he was supposed to have some expertise. No wonder the millers in his congregation were upset when he said things like, "Economics or no economics, we must get the little children out of the mills." How could a clergyman understand such things? How would poor families of these children eat if their children were withdrawn from work?

### Drugs

Less than 150 years ago Britain fought two Opium Wars to force the drug trade upon the Chinese. The official reason for the wars was "to uphold the cause of justice and the right to trade". The real reason was that the opium trade was the only way to pay for the administration of the Indian Empire.

The opening of China to traders, forced by the wars, made it possible for missionaries to enter as well. So

opium and Christianity entered China together.

Christian attitudes to the Opium Wars varied. Shaftesbury and Wilberforce were opposed, but they were voices in the wilderness. Churchmen in government said, "While morality, religion and the happiness of mankind are all very fine in their own way, Britain cannot afford to lose 1,200,000 pounds a year of revenue." Others said of the Wars, "We trust the God of Nations who is about to open the highway into China for those who will preach the Word." Some, a little more squeamish, said "We recognise the inscrutability of Divine Providence in bringing so much good apparently out of that unmixed iniquity."

As patriotic Chinese saw it, Christians forced opium upon their tragic addicts, including the Emperor's three sons.

Many missionaries who rejoiced in China's newly opened door, paid with their lives later in the Boxer Rebellions, a direct result of China's humiliation in the Opium Wars. Many Chinese felt their nation avenged when eventually the Communist government drove out both the traders and the missionaries.

### Australia Today

Christians in Australia are confronted with many urgent issues about which they need to make up their minds. It would be a tragedy if later generations judged that we were on the wrong side because of economic considerations, political expediency, tradition or prejudice.

Some of the issues are Aboriginal welfare, justice for the disadvantaged, Third World assistance, social welfare, war, the ministry of women, the uses of nuclear power, moral leadership, energy resources, economic imperialism and the rape of the environment.

### Some Principles for Christians

These are complex issues with no simplistic solutions. We must find from the Scriptures, guiding principles for making the most Godly choices and decisions that we can. A few are suggested.

1. For Christians good ends never justify bad means.
2. The idealistic compassion of Spirit filled people is more likely to be realistic than the supposed hard headed realism of economic and political theorists.
3. Reasons of economic expediency are not good enough reasons for raping the resources of God's earth, or for keeping deprived, people whom God loves.
4. For Christians, people are always more important than political or economic philosophies.
5. Christian stewardship involves an attitude that puts the well being of those with the greatest needs before one's own personal gain from social, economic and political changes.

## OBITUARY

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

**COLLINGWOOD (Elsie) (7.10.81).** Mrs Elsie Collingwood, after a protracted illness, during which she endured very considerable suffering with uncomplaining fortitude, passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in Wembley Downs. Born in Perth, Elsie Langford's life and interests from a very early age have been closely linked with the Perth church. With her twin sister, Vi, she was a regular member of the Bible School and young people's groups and is remembered with affection by many of her old friends of those days.

Married in 1941 to Jim Collingwood, himself active in church and brotherhood service, her life continued to revolve around her church associations where her quiet and unassuming Christian witness gave testimony to her confidence in, and devotion to, her Lord.

She leaves a husband and three daughters, Margaret (Mrs Fred Pike), Barbara and Janice (Mrs Wayne Davey) with memories of a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and her many friends are grateful to our Heavenly Father for her life and witness.

— G. Ewers.

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**GLOVER, Frank Keith (21.10.81)** The Maylands church (S.A.) was saddened to learn of the death of one of its choice members — Frank Glover. His strong, loyal, warm personality has been a vital part of this church's life for more than 50 years. His marriage to Aileen (1928) was only the second wedding in the then new church. Since then, his record of service is impressive. A member for over 50 years, an officer for over 30 years, a teacher for 14 years, General Superintendent for 19 years, — his work must have touched the lives of so many. It was as Superintendent that maybe he made his greatest contribution, for Frank led the school through the post-war boom when enrolments were over 350. Thorough in preparation, his leading in worship was reverent and vital. In the wider Brotherhood circles, Frank Glover also made a special contribution. As Chairman of the Youth Department during the term of Gordon Stirling's Directorship, he shared in the decision to buy the property at Longwood for a camp-site. He also served on the Federal Overseas Board and Christian Rest Homes Board. It was in the local church where he was best known and best loved. No one will forget his special gift for welcoming folk at Church or his kindly visits to the sick. We commend his loved wife, Aileen, and daughters, Judith and Rona to the comfort of the Lord.

L. C.

**MORRIS John David (15.10.81)** John (better known as Jack) was called to be with the Lord at the age of 73 years. Jack was born in North Wales and at the age of two came to Australia with his parents Mary and Robert Morris. During the early years of his life the family lived at "Fernleigh", Curban, N.S.W. Later with the family he moved to "Garthowen," Balladoran, N.S.W. where the family lived

on the farm. It was while living there that he was invited by a friend, to attend a small country Church of Christ meeting at Balladoran in the late 1920's. The minister was Cyril Burns. It was because of this beginning that Jack came to accept Christ as His Lord. Later by his witness Jack was able to encourage his parents to come to the meetings and they also accepted the Lord. While living at "Garthowen" he met Daisy Holswich and later married. For many years Jack and Daisy lived with their family Lyle, Kay and Robert at "Ferndale," Gilgandra N.S.W. where Jack carried on with farming until because of ill health he and his wife Daisy retired approximately 8 years ago. Jack is survived by wife Daisy, son Lyle and daughter-in-law Hazel at Normanton Qld, daughter Kay and son-in-law David Lidgard, Bundanoon N.S.W. and Robert and daughter-in-law Annette, Gilgandra and 10 grandchildren. Jack was one who had a vision of a new church building for the people in Gilgandra and this he helped to achieve by his practical help and ambition. Jack served for many years on the office board. Jack also helped for many years to pick up and take home children who attended the Sunday School. Jack had a love for little children. The funeral service was conducted by Noel Flint a previous minister with the Church.

— W. Quayle.

**PAUL, Ernest Hamilton. (17/10/81).** Born at Berwick in 1893, Ernest Paul died at the age of 88 at Fred Combridge House in Northcote, scarcely two months after his wife's death. Ernest was the youngest of six children. At 14 he was baptized at Brunswick, the family having moved there when he was 12. When the church extended to Moreland, the Paul's transferred there. With the outbreak of the 1914-1918 War Ernest enlisted, and

served in some of the fiercest areas of battle in France. Returning home safely, Ern married Winifred Taylor of the Moreland church, and together they went to Lemnos, a Soldier Settlement outside Shepparton. Both became active in the church at Shepparton, and at Cosgrove, journeying there each fortnight, Ernest to preach, and Winifred to play the organ. Prior to the War Ernest worked in the paper trade with the firm of Cowan, and 27 years ago rejoined that firm for a few years. People at Shepparton and elsewhere will have known Ernest as a good citizen, a hard worker, a sincere and upright man and as a Christian. Prior to burial a service was held in Shepparton, Greg Deuble minister there assisting.

— A. B. Withers.

**TABER, Ethel Loretta.**

(13.9.81) Dedicated to her family and lived a fine Christian life which was an example to all who were fortunate to know her. Passed away suddenly at the age of 76 after a life full of good health and blessings. Always conscious of God's goodness and love which was reflected in her life. Born 9.7.1906 and at the age of 20 in the Lismore Church of Christ committed her life to the Lord. Was married to Ernest Taber (dec.) on 1.6.28. This union was blessed with two daughters, Elaine and Zelma and three sons, Trevor, Warren

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and Graeme. Ett Taber (Nana) was affectionately known by her 17 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. The family moved to Labrador on Queensland's Gold Coast in 1958 and from that time to her passing Ett Taber faithfully worshipped and supported the Southport Church of Christ, always conscious of bringing her children up in the ways of our Lord. The church was richer for the presence of Ett Taber. The funeral service, full of victory and thanksgiving took place at the Southport church led by minister Noel Newton.

— Noel Newton

**TOLLITT, Clara Lillian** (22.10.81). Clara Lillian Tollitt was born in June, 1906, and was married as Clara Lillian Jackson to Robert Tollitt on January 31, 1925 by the minister of the Baptist Tabernacle in Collingwood. After three years in Abbotsford, the couple moved to Northcote, where Mrs Tollitt came in touch with the church and was baptised in 1966. Thereafter she was a faithful and interested member. Where there was need, Mrs Tollitt gave sympathetically and generously. In illness and disability she had the help of neighbours and of the church. Long nursing care became necessary in recent years, and this was provided for her finally at Kalonga, North Box Hill. Here she was visited by former ministers of the church at Northcote, and the student minister G. Weston who, with W. T. Atkin, assisted in the funeral service. The churches at Northcote and North Balwyn, where Mrs Tollitt's daughter

Lesley McDonald worships, rejoice in the peace which Mrs Tollitt found in Christ, and express their love to Lesley and Ray, and to their three daughters.

— A. B. Withers.

## VIC

**NORTH ESSENDON** (Robyn Schaefer). Show bag contract of 130,000 completed ... After falls at home Mabel and Harold Reardon were both patients at R. M. Hospital but now at home ... Gwen Russell's death was felt by the members and prayers are with her husband Jim. A very impressive and packed church attended the service conducted by A. E. White and Robyn Schaefer ... The New Friendship Centre is growing and fulfills a mid-week afternoon session.

**BOX HILL** (S. Downie). B.S. anniversary held. Speakers Paul Burnham and David Brooker ... C.W.A.F. — R. Willett, former butcher, Janet Gluyas demonstrated gift wrapping ... C.W.E.F. Salamander demonstration ... Y.P.C.E. Geoff Spink, Julie and Keith Ware, George Rees ... Senior Christian Fellowship trip to Emerald Lake ... Good Companions presented Rainbow Express at evening service ... Guest artists: Joy Keeble, Sally Prince, Andrew and Dianne Robinson, Andrew Boyd and Shirley Blake.

**FRANKSTON** (Allan Avery, W. D. Mills, D. Colless). Several guest artists in

evening services ... Geoff Reed in charge of book stall ... Study groups progressing well ... Carpet bowls held Wednesdays and Saturday nights. C.W.F. purchased one mat, bowlers held stall and concert to help with purchase of second mat ... Square dance held ... C.Y.F. and Y.A.F. took service ... Creative family services monthly at 8.30 a.m. services ... Communion service included in 9.45 a.m. service ... C.W.F. purchased typewriter for office secretary.

**NORTH BALWYN** (W.J.S. Gaunson). A number of people have been baptised recently, including all four members of one family ... B.S. anniversary was celebrated with an afternoon and evening program. The musical "Cool in the Furnace" was presented in the evening ... Ron Brooker, Conf. Pres. and ex-member of North Balwyn spoke at the 30th anniversary of the church ... Our minister recently conducted a mission at Burwood East.

**FOOTSCRAY** (M. D. Keatch) Fete for Frail Elderly Home Fund raised \$750 ... Film "Cult Explosion" shown, with Maidstone members sharing in evening service ... Afternoon tea provided to visitors from Oakleigh Guest Home on bus trip, arranged by WROC churches ... Christian Trading Partners with handicrafts from Asian countries at C.W.E.F. meeting ... Vic. Tas. Pres. R. Brooker speaker on November 15 evening.

**ECHUCA** (A.V. Symes). C.W.F. have given \$400 toward building fund ... Church anniversary held, guest speaker Paul Payne ... Men's Fellowship conducted family night. Guest speaker Rob Corrie, Kyneton. Gospel Sound group gave items ... Two ladies enjoyed C.W.F. camp at Monbulk ... Visit from Open Air Campaigners.

## SD

**BALAKLAVA** (Graham Lawrie). 23 attended Gerald Rose's three workshops on pastoral care ... Church camp at Tanunda Caravan Park was great success ... Greenshield (nee Lawrie) family had 250 at centenary celebration ... Local medicos on panel for "Caring for Community Health". Special Seven service ... Ian Allsop reviewed Christian Education Curriculum with large group ... Children's segment enriched by local puppet group presentations at morning service.

**NARACOORTE** (Ron Holmes). Bible School anniversary theme "Let Your Light so shine before Men" was well illustrated by an audio-visual presented by students ... Youth group conducted recent gospel service ... C.W.F. forwarded clothing to Aborigines stations and Social Service ... Goods forwarded for Girls' Hostel open day ... Church saddened by passing of Mrs Florie Foster ... Visiting speakers appreciated while minister on holidays.

# AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP — 1983

A scholarship of \$2,250 is available for overseas study for a period of a year or less in 1983 for a minister or member of Churches of Christ who satisfies the Foundation Committee that a projected course of study will benefit his or her service to Australian Churches of Christ. The Scholarship is designed to enable the successful applicant to travel abroad for special studies that otherwise could not have been undertaken.

Applications close — May 1, 1982

Application forms are available now from:-

**THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN**  
P.O. BOX 101, ESSENDON NORTH, VIC. 3041  
Phone (03) 379 1219

Funds for the scholarship are provided by Christian Projects Ltd., a trust administered by the trustees of the Christian Building Trust of Victoria.

## Travellers Club trip



On October 13, 60 members and friends of the C.M.F. Travellers Club left by coach for Chalet Lorne. Whilst staying there they went on a day trip to Colac and Apollo Bay. Many enjoyed the walks of the area. Each night all shared in a time of devotions and some singing led by Dave Watt. An impromptu fancy dress parade was held on the Saturday night.

All attended the Uniting Church on the Sunday

morning and a communion service was held that evening. The offering of \$38 at this service along with \$300 from club funds will be given to the high rise project in Kensington led by Ian Corlett.

October 20 saw all return to Melbourne after an enjoyable holiday. It was so popular that it was voted to book again for next year.

— Jean Adkins (Secretary).

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## Swanston St. Church

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### SERVICES

9.15 a.m., 11 a.m. Communion and  
Worship

12.30 p.m. Church Luncheon

7.00 p.m. Gospel Service

8.30 p.m. Coffee Hour

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

## Overseas Missions at Home

Recently we preached at the two morning services at Swanston St. Both were crowded and it seemed that about nine tenths of each consisted of young Asians from Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

### Different Backgrounds

Some of them come from fine Christian homes and churches, some come from nominal Christian backgrounds, and some have been brought to faith in Jesus Christ since arriving in Australia. Then after several years of study and of fellowship with the impressive Swanston St. church and the very active Asian Christian Fellowship, they return home. What happens to them there?

### Problems for Young Christian

Sometimes the church back home is small, traditional, discouraged, and without a pastor (60% of churches have no pastor). Some parents are unsympathetic. Some parents are more concerned with the material prosperity of their children than with their spiritual growth. Some miss the consistent Bible-based approach of their Swanston St. and A.C.F. experience. It is easier to maintain a disciplined devotional life in the atmosphere of fellowship with like-minded students in Australia than it is when they are on their own at home. Some are on their own in the fight to maintain Christian values and standards in environments where there can be economic gain by dropping such standards. And all of those returning have to settle down quickly to using their acquired skills to carve out for themselves a career, with the

strong pressure from Mammon to edge God aside.

### Mission Strategy

With all of this in mind, the Swanston St. church not only accepts responsibility for mission to overseas students in Melbourne, but also for those who have returned home. So once again they sent Alan and Val Webb on a pastoral tour of Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong during September and October. They visited 123 graduates, scattered far and wide, 41 parents of students presently in Melbourne, and 20 Asian church leaders who co-operate in the Swanston St. overseas ministry.

### Great Encouragement

The Webbs were encouraged by the growth and commitment of most of the returning graduates. They ministered to some, who as at home, have moved back from earlier abundance of life.

They recommend that such pastoral tours should be at least annual events and should include "retreats" for renewing fellowship together for scattered graduates.

They are hoping that Swanston St. members will become involved in correspondence and cassette ministries with graduates. They recommend liaison between Swanston St. and the Returned Overseas Christian Fellowship groups that are operating in main centres. And they see the vital importance of training students while in Australia both in Bible and in practical church work.

Who can imagine what the implications of such a mission program will be in the future?

MARBURG, (Norman Gilbert). After four years of ministry 27 baptisms witnessed and 12 rededications (eight baptisms and the 12 rededications during the John Timms Mission held a year ago) ... Recently a young lad, Peter, made his confession ... Know Your Bible studies commenced two years ago and continuing ... Adult Bible study held concurrent with Bible School at Lowood of a Sunday morning jumped from four to 12 recently. Lowood attendances jumped to average 25 adults and three small children.

## With Grateful Thanks

Mrs Bess Wylie and her family, express their deep gratitude and thanks for the many hundreds of expressions of love and sympathy, in the passing of their beloved husband and father, **Lyall Wylie**. Their gratitude for the prayers and love of their family in the Lord, is beyond expression.

Bess, is now out of hospital and recovering slowly and would say "thank-you" for all the love and care showered upon her and praises God for all his marvellous provision.

Please accept these messages as their personal thanks to each and all.

"As for God, his way is perfect" Ps. 18:30.

### THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

invites applications

from persons interested in serving as

## STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

Applicants should have theological and/or teaching qualifications and experience in pastoral ministry.

### Enquiries to:

The Director,

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

## Recordings and Copyright

Colin Lawn has written to us saying that in his articles on copyright in "The Australian Christian" (October 31) he made an error.

The error related to his statements about the use of sound recordings. Section 106 of the Act allows the performance of a sound recording as part of the activities in an organisation, not conducted for profit, the principle purposes of which are concerned with the advancement of religion provided no specific charge is made.

It is legal to play a sound recording in a church service, an auxiliary meeting or a home study group provided no admission charge is made.

**MARYBOROUGH** (K. Haythorpe). Sunday School anniversary preceded by tea. Mr Haylock of Castlemaine speaker . . . Mother Of Mary Weir visiting from America . . . Church supporting Steve and Val Warwick.

## 10th Anniversary Developments

On Advent Sunday 1971 (November 28) the Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish was inaugurated comprising the Dulwich Church of Christ, the Gartnell Memorial Methodist and the Rose Park Congregational Churches. For the past 10 years the parish has operated on the basis of respect for each other's doctrinal positions and traditions. In general morning services have been conducted in each building according to the tradition of each congregation but evening services have been combined as have Sunday School, youth and sporting clubs.

After careful consideration by a task force a proposal for a combined morning worship was put to the Uniting Church Congregation and the Church of Christ congregation at special meetings on November 8. This proposal was accepted. Combined morning worship services will commence in the Gartnell Memorial Church on November 29 almost 10 years to the day from the commencement of the combined parish. The preacher at the service will be Rev. John Watt, minister of the West Lakes parish in which Churches of Christ participate.

The arrangements for combined worship services will again respect the doctrinal positions and traditions of both the old congregations. Communion will be held every Sunday, though not always at the morning service.

— K. W. Allison

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75<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

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E.L. Williams  
SPEAKER



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### APPROACHING MARRIAGE

**KEATCH-PAYNE.** Mr and Mrs Maurice Keatch and Mr and Mrs Paul Payne have pleasure in announcing the marriage of Liz and Geoff on December 5th at 11.30 a.m. at the Footscray Church of Christ.

**OGDEN - INCHES** Mr and Mrs Geoff Ogden have pleasure in announcing the marriage of their eldest son Stephen to Miss Catie Inches on December 19th at the Mitcham Baptist Church at 2.30 p.m.

### WANTED

**NAMES AND ADDRESSES** of bands, groups, soloists or entertainers suitable to perform in a Christian run coffee shop in Warragul. Send particulars to Tim Armstrong, 12 Hopetoun Rd., Drouin 3818. Phone A.H. (056) 25 1252.

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Christmas Day 25th December, 1981

8 a.m. & 9.15 a.m.

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PHONE 444 3672

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### WILLIAMSTOWN

### Church of Christ

Cnr. Douglas Pde. and John St.  
**Sunday, 6th December, 1981**

### DEDICATION OF NEW MANSE

11.00 a.m. Communion Service  
 12.30 p.m. B.Y.O. Lunch  
 2.30 p.m. Dedication Service  
 5.00 p.m. Fellowship Tea  
 6.00 p.m. Thanksgiving Service  
**All welcome**

### PERSONAL

#### DISCIPLESHIP

- Paul Turner, Fiona Hosking, Amanda Turner, Chatswood, N.S.W.
- Ron and Kathy Bradbury, Mr Knight, Leanne Lumsden, Linda Ford, Mrs J. Faulkner, Mrs M. Jones, Jane Wu Wong, Rockhampton, Qld.
- Bronwyn Thomas, Greg Phillips, Vicki Phillips, Vicki Jones, Susan Ferris, Brighton, S.A.
- Kiralee Smith, Tanya Buck, Lisa Buck, Grant Buck, Peter Godden, Mrs Joyce Godden, Miss 'Mac' Campbell, Mrs Sue Jessop, Brian Jessop, Mrs Sandra Hawkins, Bill Hawkins, Mrs Leah Briggs, Garnet Briggs, Coffs Harbour, N.S.W.
- Charlie Trill, Paul Richardson, Naracoorte, S.A.
- Penny Roberts, Grace Hollier, Peter Scattini, Busselton, W.A.
- Karl Wittek, Dawn Wittek, Maryborough, Vic.
- Mrs Coralie Hipper, Bruce Rock, Merredin, W.A.
- Noel Sherer, Ormond, Vic.
- Stephen Duncan, Matthew Holland, John Lawrie, Warragul, Vic.

#### MARRIAGES

- Wendy Peters to Roger Simpson, Port Lincoln, S.A.

#### DEATHS

- Reg Fancourt, Chatswood, N.S.W.
- Zeph Davis, Hobart, Tas.
- Mrs W. Bishop, Taree, N.S.W.
- Mrs Florie Foster, Naracoorte, S.A.
- Baby Daniel Gillman, Glen Waverley, Vic.
- John David Morris, Gligandra, N.S.W.
- Hugh Hunter, Bill Lawson, Mrs Thornhill, Ian Greenwood, Maryborough, Vic.
- Doris Locke, Radcliffe, Qld.
- Bert Anderson, Montrose, Vic.
- Les Ross, Ormond, Vic.
- Mrs Linda Overland, Fullarton, S.A.



## Centenary Conference Year 1982 - 83

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#### For Further Information —

Complete the following coupon and return to the Secretary, Centenary, Year Arrangements Committee, Churches of Christ, 428 Ann Street, Brisbane, 4000, or Phone (07) 221 7519.

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 12 Anne Street,  
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### Centenary Celebrations



CENTENARY  
1981-82

## The Editor in Queensland (2)

One Sunday morning saw us on the road to Hervey Bay and Maryborough at 6.30 a.m. We passed the "Big Pineapple" and the "Big Cow". (We have also seen most of the other "Bigs" — the Strawberry, the Lawn Mower, the Bull, the Banana, the Flower Pot and the Golf Ball).

Hervey Bay is one of our newest churches and already thriving. From here is run the Churches of Christ Home Care and Play Group program for both Hervey Bay and Maryborough. Ross and Shirley Burton are completing a splendid six year first ministry before returning to W.A.

### Team Ministry

Maryborough has a team ministry led by Don Herbert, with Jim Deutschmann as administrator and Ray Charles as youth minister. One family supports Ray, part of whose work is to look after a 300 strong Sunday School which uses three buses.

With 200 active members Maryborough supports a large social service program at Fairhaven with hostel and nursing home accommo-

dation for the aged and with cottages and equity housing units. They also run the Frank Gilson House, a family group home for 12 children.

### Small Groups

Maryborough run small groups with a difference. As well as Bible study and "share and care" each group has an outreach project. One visits the hospital. Another runs a home Bible correspondence course. Another sends goodwill letters with "Living New Testaments" to everyone in Maryborough who gets married or who celebrates a wedding anniversary, and to families that are bereaved. The testaments (60c each), the correspondence material and the booklets for the sick, are all high quality, printed with some colour and are obtained from the World Home Bible League.

The church has a Membership Directory with full colour prints of its activities and of every church family involving over 110 pictures. It includes the interests of everyone concerned.

It is a rule of the Maryborough church that



Youth group — Maryborough (Q.)

when any group or auxiliary of the church loses its evangelistic viability it is wound up.

At night we were back at Caloundra for the service held in the "temporary" chapel on part of the Camp Cal property. Though not large yet, it is growing fast, especially as former Brotherhood leaders of the quality and experience of Cora Connel and George and Ruby Haig move in for Suncoast retirement. They have "Sunday School" on Fridays and call it Bible Club with 50 children.

### Ministers and Leaders

Our "tour director" Alan Male arranged three separate meetings in different areas to enable us to meet ministers and leaders, including newly elected Conference President, Bruce Scott and C.W.F. President, Helen Trudgian. We were delighted with their good will and positive suggestions. An outcome of the meetings will almost certainly be a seminar for writers for the church and secular press.

### Gold Coast

The jungle of high rises way above the blue water was our first glimpse of "Surfers" on this trip. It is Australia's most stupendous "Side-show Alley". We preached to a packed church (with extra seats brought in) at 8 a.m. at Southport. At 9.30 we were meeting with the new church at Nerang, and back to Southport for 11 a.m. Our time table precluded us from attending the other two services at Golden Age Retirement Village and at Lady Small Haven. Southport with its 500

members is led by Noel Newton and his team. They seem to have the most over-worked baptistry in Australia.

### Tropical Rain

David Gurney (Albion) and David Hamilton (Kedron) had graciously arranged for their two churches to come together for the evening service. These historic inner belt churches have given fine people to newer churches, but both have vitality and vision still. We met for the first time Nathaniel Hamilton (13 months). We had been allowed to share the long and anxious waiting time of his delighted parents. He was worth waiting for.

We left to return to Caloundra as five inches of rain began to flood Brisbane. It was like driving a submarine without a periscope.

### Final Sunday

Our final Sunday was shared between Ann St., Springwood and Sunnybank. Ann St. is 98 years old and still has a fine congregation and a healthy Sunday School. The large premises are meticulously cared for by volunteers. New minister David Eagling starts soon.

Springwood is seven years old with a growing congregation in a splendid utility building. They have an annex to their cry room for nursing mothers. There have been five new babies in the last few weeks. Arthur Clarke is minister. What a warm, gracious and devoted team the Clarks are!

Springwood's twin is Pine Rivers church. We were in

● Continued on page 21



At the play centre Maryborough (Q.)

**The Editor  
in Queensland  
© From page 20**

camp with them on the Saturday, 70 of them with new minister Neil Proellocks. They meet in the historic bakehouse at Strathpine until they build on their 3 hectare site. These two churches have lots of young couples, youth and children.

Sunnybank was once rural and is now suburban. The church is alive with talented young people. The chapel was full on Sunday night. Minister, Barry Brookes and Joanne are leaving to take charge of the child welfare project of the Southport church.

**Children in Church**

A children's segment was introduced into Launceston's morning worship service 12 months ago. We wanted the smaller children to know that their presence in the service was valued, and that we loved and cared about them. In the process of publicly sharing with the children, it was hoped that older worshippers would also be led closer to God. The segment was to add vitality to the whole of the service, rather than be an isolated interlude for the children, and we believe these

**Fishing Aid**  
World Vision is determined that "the big one won't get away" in Kampuchea. The Christian agency has been a driving force in the fishing industry since private relief groups were allowed back into Kampuchea following the overthrow of Pol Pot.

To make sure of a big catch, World Vision is increasing its budget to the community fishing industry. An additional \$40,000 will purchase inboard engines, fishing rope, nets and sinkers. So far World Vision, with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, has provided assistance to 100,000 fishermen.

goals are being achieved. Those who lead the segment are given five to seven minutes, and are free to use whatever gifts or talents they may have. The theme set for each week in the Churches of Christ calendar, and the Bible readings, are used as the basic resource for ideas and stories. That the segment has added "something" to our worship services is evidenced by the rapt attention of the adults, as well as of the children.  
— David Wright.

**Centenary Celebrations**

Queensland Churches of Christ celebrate their Centenary from October '82 to October '83. Every Conference Department and every church will sponsor a "special" during the year. The October '83 Conference will be a Convention and it is hoped that many interstate visitors will be there and also in the subsequent tours.

**The Name is Smith**  
Col Smith has just been appointed Home Missions Director for Queensland. Robert Smith has just been appointed to a similar position in N.S.W. And of course Don Smith has held the post in Victoria - Tasmania for many years. It only needs a couple of aspiring Smiths in S.A. and W.A. for a total Smith family take over.

**Christian Projects Limited in High Rise Experiment**



Ian Corlett

Ian Corlett, retiring minister at Ascot Vale (Vic.) has had a burden for the families in the high rise flats at the Kensington end of his parish. In association with Ascot Vale church Ian with his wife Glenda is moving into a full-time ministry in the flats.

One of his aims is to make worship a significant part of the lives of these people, many of whom care about God but are alienated from the church. The new ministry which commences in January 1982 is being partly supported by Christian Projects Limited. Apart from this support and some other specific commitments, Glenda and Ian and family are going into this ministry in faith.

**C.P.L. Matters**

Two vacancies on the C.P.L. Trust have been filled by Ian Corlett and Heather Judd. Heather is the new Trust secretary. She is a

stenographer. She spends a great deal of time as a voluntary assistant at Halfway House, run by the Ascot Vale church to assist in the rehabilitation of alcoholics. The new Trust chairman is Dave Watt.



Heather Judd

**Secretary for Orthodox Relations**

The Victorian Council of Churches has appointed Fr P. K. Skariah as its Secretary for Orthodox Relations. Fr Skariah, who is a priest of the Orthodox Syrian Church, has been in Australia since 1980, and ministers to an Indian community of his church in Melbourne.

Fr Skariah has had experience in both urban and rural Indian parishes, and has been engaged in ministry to a Calcutta steel town, and to the military forces.

He takes up his part-time appointment on January 1, 1982 and will act as liaison for the V.C.C. with its five Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches, and with other concerned groups.

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# nsw

**PENDLE HILL** (Ron Bassett). Manse debt reduced by second Temple Day ... Information beach mission film shown. Chris Campbell, church member, active in this work ... "Dove" Toongabbie Baptist group gave sweet gospel message in song ... Evening services 7 p.m. for summer ... Half yearly business planning meeting Nov. 10.

**GILGANDRA.** The church was saddened by the home call of the Lord for our brother in Christ John David Morrison on October 15. He had served with the Gilgandra church for many years ... A family service is held as suitable opportunities are available to interest Sunday School children and their parents ... Teaching mission to be held November 24-29 with Richard Pearce.

**CHATSWOOD** (D. Hayman). Minister and Mrs Hayman joined in Bethel studies in Queensland ... Church joining other Northside churches in "Good News is for Sharing" series in connection with Northside Reachout ... 365 Friendship Centre exhibition and fete successful. Money raised

towards community bus for disabled.

**EPPING** (Bob Whan). The annual meeting of the church was pleased to learn of a net increase of 10 during 1981. Sunday morning attendances have averaged 140 ... Many of the membership have joined in discussions on Christian hospitality in studying the book "Open Heart, Open Home" ... Sunday School anniversary afternoon session featured a kinder presentation about God in Creation, followed in the evening by the older school Biblical dramatization.

**TAREE** (Maurie Pieper), **WINGHAM** (Graham Warne). Deeper Life Crusade with guest speaker Max Hall (Mayfield, Newcastle) was held recently with Wingham church. This was a rich time of teaching and encouragement for the churches resulting in commitments for Christ ... Churches have responded to the need for prayer for Stephen Billingham, who has had major brain surgery recently in Sydney. We praise God for his recovery to date ... Maurie and Diedre Pieper move to Tweed Heads in 1982.

# QLD

**KEDRON** (David Hamilton). State Conference President, Ron Sansome, was guest preacher Fathers' Day. At the basket lunch we renewed our fellowship with him and wife Joy ... East Ipswich C.W.F. joined with us for a casserole tea and later conducted the gospel service with the significance on Mirrors ... Don Stewart brought the message at the favorite passages of scripture service ... Jeff and Michele Weil's was the venue for meal when Dr Colin Webster (Christian psychiatrist) spoke.

**ANN ST.** The Ann St. church celebrated the 98th anniversary of the witness and worship of the church at both services on Sunday November 1, together with a special function organised by the Bible School in the afternoon followed by a tea. Bruce Armstrong, senior minister Toowoomba, was the guest speaker and at the afternoon function was assisted by his small companion Sergeant Leon.

**ROCKHAMPTON** (David Woodward). Ron and Kathy Bradbury were received into membership by F. & B. on

July 26 ... Our mission with State Evangelist John Timms (Sept. 16-Oct. 4) commenced on the first Sunday with the Bible School giving items morning and evening. The gospel singing group "Doulos" from Mackay came down to minister on the second weekend. Mrs Elke Benz from Austral, Sydney, came up for the last nine nights as soloist. Results saw five baptised, one restoration and nine reconsecrations.

# sa

**BRIGHTON** (Neville Moore). The church family camp was at Victor Harbour on the October long weekend. About 40 families ... The Sparetimers Club went to Belaire Retreat again for their annual weekend Nov. 19-21. Col Curtis, Hedley Thomas and Neville Moore leaders ... Val Russell and committee organised fortnightly "Meet N' Eat" evenings for sharing meal and friendship. All comers welcomed ... Craft and fellowship each Tuesday 10-2.30.

**PORT LINCOLN** Church excited by laying of foundations and steady progress of extensions to chapel ... Visit from Pat Erlandsen, Evangelist from Queensland, very inspiring ... Large scale visitation program carried out by Bible School during winter ... Support of a child through "Compassion" approved by board ... Good News team visited Eyre Peninsula ... Family involvement encouraged during 11 a.m. services ... Ecumenical Men's Ministry invited wives to dinner at Lutheran church.

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel...



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## Hear It from a New Christian A Testimony by David Beaven

Trust in God! What a simple and naive thing to say. Trust in God? How? How many times have you asked yourself this question? What do you believe in and why? If you are like I used to be you may have trusted or believed in yourself. What a lonely position to be in. In times of trouble, where do you turn? To whom? For what? Humans as we know are so changeable. What is good advice today may be bad advice for tomorrow.

### When God Came.

What sense can be made of God? When God came to me he made sense of my life and gave me a perspective that was missing, and which I had felt was missing.

I felt God that day. I stood there and felt pure indescribable goodness flow into my body. I felt like a child, as if my body was brand new, my mind washed clean in a matter of moments by the incorruptable goodness of God. It was a feeling I will never forget. I didn't know what to do, so I knelt. After a time I got up and not realising there was more to come, turned, took a pace and

(Nailsworth, S.A.)

received the Holy Spirit. The only way I could try to describe this was as an infusion of pure energy, as if a beam of light unseen had been focussed on me.

### Then Repentance.

Next came repentance, not a pleasant experience at all, but, afterwards such a feeling of release and wholeness and completeness and calm. A great calmness and stillness as if something had settled in place at long last. How simple it all sounds, but in a short period of time the whole course of my life had been stopped and restarted. My value system had been changed. My concepts and even physical desired changed. I wanted to run down the street calling out "God has come!" Love welled up in me, a different kind of love, love generated by and for God and his glory.

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CHRISTIAN'  
AS A GIFT**

## Truck Demolishes Church Hall



Congregation at Gawler view the wrecked hall after 62nd. anniversary service.

An early morning call on October 29 from neighbours brought minister **Ralph Oke** to the Gawler (S.A.) church to find a heavily laden semi had left the road on the bend, missed the 60 year old church and cleaned up the hall. The truck driver was treated for shock as his vehicle stopped against a tree.

Insurance will cover the loss and give the church board an opportunity to

match the freestone work in rebuilding.

The accident happened just hours before the Home Missions brochure on strategy for evangelism was printed saying about the local church public relations in regard to: Property — "To be well presented and convey the clear impression of ACTION to passing observers". That was not quite what we meant. — Ted Heard.

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# Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

## COMMUNICATION

Recently I attended a church service which was conducted by a Christian group. They had an excellent message for the Christians at that service that made me think about how we give our whole lives to Christ. But that is not what has prompted this column.

As part of the whole service one of their number gave his testimony. He probably had a very interesting story about how God had changed his life. At one stage he certainly implied that he had been radically changed by God's action in his life. The trouble was that the whole of his testimony was comprised of a series of phrases, that seemed to have come from the King James Version by the language, just strung together. I had difficulty knowing what was the meaning of some of the words and I knew that it certainly meant nothing to a group of children, including our own, with whom I was sitting.

Then this week I heard a talk by David Millikan from the Zadok Centre on his current series the **Sunburn Soul** on ABC television. He said that 18.8% of Australians now attend church each week compared to 36% 20 years ago. Given that for Western countries Australia is one of the most secular some 80% still believe in God and surprisingly the same percentage consider themselves Christian. Yet they are 'turned off' by the worshipping church today.

Obviously those of us who are in the church are not communicating effectively what our faith means. Nor are we communicating effectively to ordinary people that it is still O.K. to go to church and worship God.

I know that I have and still do find it difficult to express to people outside the church what my faith means without resorting to jargon. Alongside this I realise that I have had some training that should enable me to be more honest in my sharing and also less nervous. If I get up in the pulpit and constantly preach that all of us should be out sharing the good news of Jesus Christ I know that many are terrified of doing just that and feel totally inadequate. They need someone to come alongside of them and train and encourage them to share their faith in the way that they have been gifted.

It is vital if the church today in Australia is to be true in its commission to share the good news that we communicate clearly with our own society. The leadership of our churches, if we are to grow in the 80's, need to train each of us to share our faith naturally and in words that are understood by those who will listen. The first item in Alan Austin's column this issue shows how an intelligent man had gained a false impression of Jesus Christ that blinkered him to the truth about Jesus.

One of the first things that we have to do is to use ordinary language in sharing our faith. I guess I am calling for us to tell it like it is. Alongside of this openness is the need to point out the demands of God and the fact that living the Christian life is not a breeze. If we are honest and open then I am sure that God will use what we say in ways that may completely surprise us.

Have a go now at expressing your faith in words. If you feel game let us have a copy and we may print some of your experiences to encourage others in communicating their faith.

# THE LAST WORD

To know whom you worship, let me see you in your shop, let me hear you in your trade, let me know how you rent your houses, how you get your money, how you kept it, and how you spent it.

—Theodore Parker (1849)

"Did You Call?":

Was that You  
Who called,  
O God?  
Why did You  
Want me  
To come  
To church  
Today?  
To pray—  
As if I didn't  
Know.  
What did You  
Have in mind  
For me?  
As if I could  
Pretend  
I'm deaf and dumb  
And blind.  
Amen.

David Redding

★ ★ ★

If you really want the last word in an argument, try saying, "I guess you'r right."

★ ★ ★

The mother of five-year-old Nancy told her if she didn't eat more the doctor would have to give her liver shots.

"I don't want liver shots," Nancy fussed, "but I'll take hamburger shots."



"I just can't bring myself to say grace for a spinach casserole."

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