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Darwin Praises the Lord!

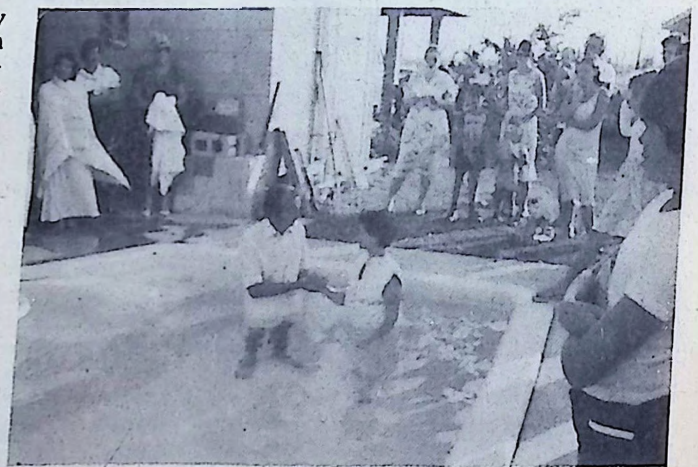
Darwin's dry spell has broken in more ways than one! This week not only saw welcome rains, but an excitement as the Darwin church held its first 'clean-up' working bee! All hands were on deck as bricks were cleaned, dirt spread and ute loads of rubbish removed. A new Christian, George, had the privilege (though in Darwin's sweltering heat it was a task of love) of being the first to sweep our floor, while women washed window frames and children helped collect bricks and even out dirt.

For all those that have contributed to the building fund we wish we could share with you the excitement felt to see our dream materialise. No more wanderings from

school to school or temporary sign posts. The cross has been hung, and we feel like a family about to move into its first home!

Thanks be to God for all our brothers and sisters who have made this possible. Christmas '74 may be remembered for the cyclone; but Darwin will never be the same after Christmas '81. The Church of Christ intend changing the place with ever greater gusto than Tracy! Praise the Lord for giving us the opportunity to do so! Praise the Lord for all those that have contributed to the building fund! Praise the Lord for the willing workers who can now see a reward for their efforts! Darwin — here we come!

— *Melanie van Haaren*



Baptism at Peter & Dianne Feenstra's pool.



Morning "cuppa" at family camp.



Digging the foundations

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Feb 6	Jan 27
Feb 20	Feb 10

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ON MY MIND

A MATTER OF MOTIVATION

Judy Gordon

Judy Gordon, born in Western Australia, was a qualified nurse. She graduated from the N.S.W. Bible College in 1969 and worked at Penrith (NSW) for 4 years, in team ministry. In 1974 she joined the Department of Christian Education in NSW as Assistant Director, working primarily amongst Sunday Schools and with children.

What motivates us in our Christian behaviour and attitudes? The reason for our actions is very important not only to ourselves, but to the church itself.

Evaluation Necessary

It is good to stop and evaluate why we do things. So often I hear Christians say how busy they are. It is true that we are very aware of responsibilities and 'things that have to be done'. Sometimes being forced into roles that we are 'not made for', we run the risk of becoming so frustrated that it is difficult to see where we should be going.

Doing it for Him

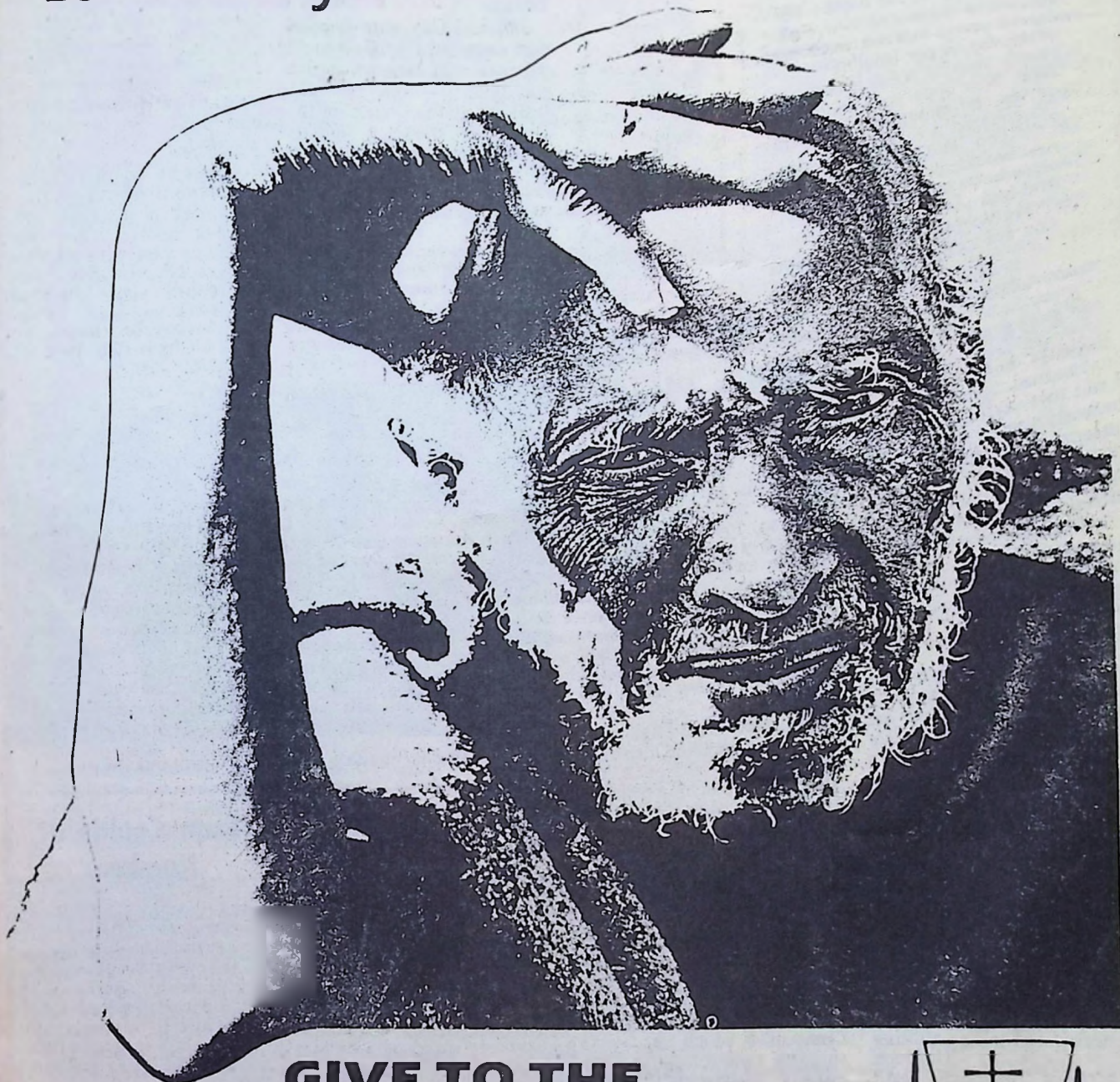
For this reason I have ON MY MIND, a particular verse which has become the controlling thought in all I do. It is Colossians 3:17, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." I found that it was possible to be one of those 'busy Christians' and also to be deeply frustrated and battered. However, when I turned to this verse, and similar verses throughout Colossians, I became aware of the importance of a Christ-centred Christian life-style. This meant a transformation in the things I was doing. For now I found that I was doing them for Him. It gave purpose to every detail. Each menial task was done for Him. To be involved in successful children's programs was also done for Him. He was continually in mind when preparing camp studies and often work would stop so that He could be consulted. It was no longer a matter of doing a job because it had to be done or being over anxious about the results. Rather there was a deep sense of team-manship in knowing that everything that was done was for His glory. With this awareness of being in a partnership with Him came the precious gift of peace.

Goodbye Frustrations!

There are many roles and tasks that we do as Christians that are frustrating, such as picking up children for Sunday School and finding them not interested. Preparing programs and finding that there is little support. Thinking of a great idea and having it knocked down. Being frustrated with some aspects of the church. All these experiences are for many of us, a common occurrence. However, when our motivation is changed, when the prize program or idea, is given to the Lord and discussed with Him, then we are not concerned to achieve self satisfaction, but rather to see Him glorified, and thus do not feel frustrated.

Those of you who read this article, I trust that this is your experience. That for you too, is the awareness, of being involved in the most dynamic partnership that there is, and thus to be "giving thanks through Him to the Father".

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.



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TAKE US BACK TO BETHLEHEM

Take us back to Bethlehem
Who have wandered far,
Take us back to Bethlehem
And into your care.
We have lost the pathway, Lord,
Who have lost your love,
We are groping in the night
Who have wandered off.
We were young and we were rich —
Wallowed in our sins,
We have sunk to feeding swine
Who were once your sons.
Once we had enough to spare —
Squandered it in sin,
We are poor and hungry now
And would rob the swine.
Take us back to Bethlehem
And into your heart,
We have wandered far from home
And are lost apart.

— John J. Alderson

Peace — is Child's Play

Recently a German Cardinal warned against the sale of war toys saying, "Peace in the world already starts in the nursery room". His statement coincided with a campaign aiming to "disarm the nursery". One consequence was that the West German Government was able to encourage some companies to restrict their production of war toys.

Birthday Gun

Recently at a five-year-old's birthday party a beaming grandma gave her present of a toy gun. Her grandson was then encouraged to play at shooting us all. So there he was, smiling away at the impact he was having, as the adults feigned mild agony and death.

This was in the same week as the media carried accounts of adolescent Americans driving along, shooting strangers. Interviews with these adolescents indicated that they hadn't really connected the trigger pulling and people falling with blood splattered footpaths and distraught relatives.

As people concerned to live by the truth revealed in Jesus these stories evidence the competing view of life. They speak of making violence seem normal, even fun, through a child's toys; they speak of the consequences

when people are rendered out of touch with the destructive impact of their actions.

At the party I watched my child drink in the interplay between the grandma and grandson. Previously he had been fairly clear that people want to love each other and not hurt each other; that guns only hurt people and so they aren't fun to play with. Now he was watching this grandma falling about whilst grandson shot her again and again.

Christmas War Toys

The approach of Christmas paradoxically sharpens the dilemma of teaching peaceful attitudes amidst a violent view of life.

No parent wants to prematurely disturb the fantasy about Santa at the North Pole who loves children and brings them the things he has made. But what else can one do when a child gathers from the Christmas advertisements in the mail that "Santa makes guns for children"? Companies which use Santa to push such products have already destroyed the fantasy.

If we believe that, by the grace of God, family life and international affairs can be ordered without violence, then clearly there is much to do.

One activity which is accessible to all of us is to

The Lord Owns a Caravan Park

It is true that God owns a caravan park 10 kilometres south of Nambour, called "Forest Glen Holiday Centre". His stewards who hold the title deeds are Jeff Weldon and Ray Kronk and their wives, all members of Churches of Christ.

From Farm to Rain Forest

Jeff and Ray were farmers who dreamed that God could use their wide experience with the land, as well as Jeff's training at the College of the Bible, to create a holiday centre where people could enjoy God's fresh air and wonders of nature, and perhaps get to know him better.

The caravan and camping park is on 20 hectares of land, including rain forest with nature walks through it. The site is right in the heart of the Sun Coast Hinterland and central to all of its

attractions. It is a short drive from Mooloolo Beach, and central to all of the other Sun Coast beaches.

Park with a Purpose

Ray and Jeff plan to find ways of sharing the gospel with campers through gospel films and concerts, children's "beach mission" type programs and a nature display honoring Christ as Creator in terms of Romans 1:20. The nature display includes a shell collection and an aquarium and 4000 butterflies.

Facilities

As well as the usual modern park facilities there is a swimming pool, indoor and outdoor sports areas, and some van sites with ensuite.

Forest Glen Holiday Centre was recently opened by Evan Adermann M.P. Free descriptive brochures are available from P.O. Box 216, Buderim, 4556.



Official opening by Evan Adermann, M.P.

prevent toy weapons reaching our young people; protesting, preferably in person, to companies which use Santa in ways which affirm a violent view of life and asking local members of Parliament for legislation to ban the production of toy weapons.

— Philip Huggins
(for Clergy for Peace)

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.

Ruth Coultis at Nambour

Ruth Coultis, Youth Activities Co-ordinator of the Q.D.C.E. was guest speaker at the 25th Sunday School Anniversary at Nambour (Q.) with a school of 70 supported by a congregation of 300. It was a great day. Judy Mead, local poet saw it this way:

The corridors of heaven
Surely rang with joy
As young voices were raised
Singing praise.
One of the sweetest days
Of the year was blessed
By those innocently faithful
And loving little ones.

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

When the Motilone Indians of Colombia, South America, first saw 19-year-old American Bruce Olsen, their response was the same as to every white intruder since the Spanish conquistadores: they attacked him with bows and arrows.

Olsen was not, however, a mineral prospector or a land poacher, but a young Christian desiring to see the Motilones reached with the gospel of Christ. Olsen's leg wound healed. The infection and fever subsided. And Olsen stayed for 20 years.

The story of his experiences with the Motilones is coming to be regarded by many as one of the brightest chapters in the long chronicles of Christian missionary endeavour.

Those who have studied Olsen's ministry have marvelled at the way a man with no formal training in the traditional skills of missionary work has achieved such results. And the results are certainly remarkable. In a recent article in *The Other Side*, Faith Annette Sand (the assistant editor of *Missiology* magazine who visited Olsen in deepest darkest South America) wrote:

"Personally, I wonder if in this case his lack of preparation didn't help. Bruce was able to enter Motiline territory without preconceived or traditional ideas on how to go about evangelizing a tribal people. Of necessity he had to be sensitive to the tribe and its culture — and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

"While most missionaries learn a second language as a functional tool, Bruce learned his as a linguist — with a love for the language itself. Because the Motilone language is so difficult and because there is no textbooks,



BRUCE OLSEN

Bruce could only live among them — not jump in with all the answers. For the two years before he could really communicate, he learned to appreciate and respect them as a people."

Olsen shared with Sand his concern that so many missionaries come with pride, technology, and a set understanding of the gospel — ready to show the people something. In contrast, Olsen affirmed that he had learned as much from the Motilones as they had from him, which precluded any feelings of superiority on his part.

"Perhaps because of that," Sands says, "what he has been able to accomplish has been phenomenal. Not only has he communicated the message of Christ to these people within the context of their own images and myths. But he has done it in such a way that the entire tribe — happy to know of the Messenger who came to earth to show them the path to their Creator — decided to follow Jesus Christ."

★ ★ ★

Faith Sand reports how Olsen refrained from preaching to the people but concentrated instead on communicating with his 'pact-brother' Bobarishora (or Bobby).

Olsen's prayer was that Christ would show himself to this people as a Motilone. So he explained the gospel to Bobby in terms which Bobby could understand.

To find God, he told Bobby, you have to walk on God's trail. But God's Son, Jesus, is the only one who can show us God's trail. So we must tie our hammock strings into Christ and suspend all our weight on God.

After Bobby made the decision to walk in Jesus' path, he went to a tribal Arrow Festival. There he sang to the assembly in the Motilones' age-old method of relating legends, stories and news. When he finished his fourteen-hour song, the entire tribe (in what anthropologists call a 'people movement') decided they wanted Christ to lead them over the horizon to where God was to be found.

"Because the Motilones found Christ within their traditional ways," writes Faith Sand, "they have been able to preserve their tribal integrity while accepting a revolutionary new concept. This same pattern, with Bruce's help, has occurred in other areas of their life as well.

"From the United States to the Amazon and from the African plains to the Australian outback, indigenous people are being systematically pushed off their home lands — and robbed of all they possess. Yet Bruce Olsen and the Motilone have managed to preserve 95 percent of their traditional land in Colombia — 83,000 hectares."

★ ★ ★

The results of this style of outreach, which affirms the traditional culture and the people's attachment to their land is readily apparent:

"The entire tribe considers itself committed to following Christ to the horizon," writes Faith Sand. "Bruce has translated the entire New Testament into the Motilone languages. Yet the tribe has no formal expression of its faith. Eight celibate young men, who are avoiding certain foods, currently are being trained as priests, in the general manner of Motilone customs. But the tribe has no churches, no Sunday morning services. "One Motilone explained it to me saying, "Why should we sit in a line in a building for one hour each week to worship God, when I worship God daily walking in the jungles, singing my song of faith? It is in the jungles that we expect to hear God. The wind of prophecy that rustles through the trees has always given us the answers of life, suffering and death."

★ ★ ★

As always, a copy of the source material is available on request.

JASON'S HOUSE

... BUT ALL JASON WAS SAYING WAS THAT WITH 6% OF THE COMMUNITY PHYSICALLY DISABLED, THEN 6% OF CHURCH MEMBERS SHOULD BE DISABLED...

... AND SINCE JESUS CALLED THE BLIND AND THE LAME ESPECIALLY, THE PERCENTAGE SHOULD REALLY BE A LOT HIGHER!

I STILL SAY HE SHOULDN'T BRING MATHEMATICS INTO THE PULPIT...!



7th Basketball Tour of Philippines and Hong Kong

A truly national team of Australians have been selected for the Venture for Victory Basketball team to share in an exciting outreach of cross-cultural evangelism in the Philippines and Hong Kong.

A gifted group of men will use their ability on the basketball court to provide them with the opportunity of sharing their personal faith in Jesus Christ with thousands of people who will attend the games.

Players come from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and include a full blooded Australian aboriginal of the Wongi Tribe who also speaks the Pitjinja language.

There are two Accountants, a Civil Engineer, Radiographer, Hostel Manager, High School Teacher, Bank Officer, Automotive Industry Buyer and two University Students — Medicine and Teaching. These men worship at Uniting, Church of Christ, Salvation Army, Baptist Churches and Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. The itinerary is: December 26-29 — Sydney, — training and orientation; December 30-January 18 — The Philippines in the Cebu area; January 19-26 — Hong Kong; January 27 — Return to Australia.

It is anticipated that the team will play at least 30 games which will give them an outreach into High Schools, Colleges, Universities, provincial towns and many burrios.

At each half-time break in the basketball game, a

program of Christian witness is presented through singing and testimonies. Each spectator is given a brochure with photos of the team and a plan of how to become a Christian. A free Bible Correspondence Course is available for all who send in their name and address on the coupon provided. The ministry of follow-up for the hundreds of people who enrol in the Bible Correspondence Courses is cared for by the Philippine Crusades in Manila and the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Hong Kong. The local Pastors assist in the follow-up ministry by making sure that the material is personally handed to the enquirers and they are given opportunity to share in the local churches in their area and so a personal relationship is established which ensures positive and regular follow-up.

The team learns to quickly identify with the people as travel is by jeepney, accommodation is in a variety of facilities and the food is the same as that enjoyed by the local people.

The budget this year for each Team member is \$1,850. This covers overseas travel, travel within the Philippines and Hong Kong, food, accommodation, brochures, Bibles, a contribution to the Bible Correspondence Course and set up arrangements, uniforms and basketball equipment. Each member of the Team is expected to raise his own finance.

Enquiries can be made to the Australian Venture for Victory Basketball Board, Box 1717, G.P.O., Adelaide, S.A. 5001.

Explo Leader featured at Belgrave Heights

The Rev. Brian Willersdorf whose vision brought into being Explo '80 in Brisbane and Explo '81 in Perth will be a speaker at this year's Belgrave Heights Christmas Convention.

Other speakers will be Rev. John Balchin a Presbyterian minister from New Zealand who will lead the morning Bible studies, Rev. Don Churchman an Anglican minister from England and three Melbourne men, Rev. John Coleman of the Camberwell Baptist Church, Bill Gaunson of the North Balwyn Church of Christ and J. Eric Reid of the Christian Brethren.

The Convention this year will commence with the 7 p.m. meeting on December 26 and conclude with the afternoon meeting on Sun-

day, January 3. A children's program is conducted by the Scripture Union — C.S.S.M. team and young teenagers are catered for each morning with special activities. The main meetings are held in the large auditorium seating just under 2000 persons.

The Convention grounds at Belgrave Heights feature ideal picnic facilities for day visitors and there is a well equipped caravan park on the grounds for those who are able to stay. Young people can be accommodated at the many youth camps in the district run in conjunction with the Convention.

Further information and program details can be obtained by contacting the Convention Office, P.O. Box 4, Canterbury, 3126.

Missionary Challenge at Northam

Much prayer and planning went into the preparation of the Missionary Challenge program which culminated in a challenging and inspirational time at Northam, W.A., November 11-15. Thanks to the church at Swanston Street, Melbourne for releasing their pastor Allen Webb, whose messages were truly inspiring.

All the programs were centred on the theme, "Go and Tell" and representatives who gave information of their work were R. Lansky from Bangladesh, and workers from O.M.F., H.C.J.B. and D. Hammer of Aborigines Mission. Displays in the hall showed the work being carried out by C.O.C.O.A., Ariel Missions, Bible Society, Home Missions, World Vision, Perth Bible College, O.M.F., S.I.M., W.E.C., M.A.F., H.C.J.B., and A.B.F.

A very colorful parade of flags of 20 countries on Friday night was added to by several women in national costumes. The men's breakfast on Saturday was an inspiration to all who attended and the culmination of the challenge was Sunday morning when Faith Promises were received which exceeded the set goal when an amount of \$22,560 was promised. The evening service was one of Thanksgiving when the choir presented the Cantata, "The Greatest Story Yet Untold," and as a vesper, "Witnesses" from "By My Spirit" and a greater thanksgiving when a young woman made her decision.

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Christmas Bowl trains Women in Pacific

Women whose husbands are doing theological studies at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji, are receiving leadership training and joining in other educational courses as a result of a grant from the Christmas Bowl of the Australian churches. A grant of \$8,000 from the Christmas Bowl, together with an equal subsidy from the Australian Government has provided the means for establishing the Women's Village Development Program and Day Care Centre at the Pacific Theological College.

Subjects available within the Centre's program include food and health, community development, handcrafts, and Pacific studies. The Christmas Bowl grant assisted with the purchase of typewriters, audiovisual and gardening equipment, materials for homecraft courses, and equipment for the Day Care Centre.

Wives of pastors and priests play a very important role in the church and in the village life of Pacific Island countries. The church is very much the centre of village life and the pastor's wife is given a leadership role by the community and looked to for advice on a wide variety of matters from counselling to advice on gardening.

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Shepparton's Centenary Success



Choir and platform personalities at Centenary Worship service.

— Courtesy of "Shepparton News"

The Shepparton, Vic. church has marked its 100 years of witness with a successful week of celebrations November 1 to 8. A family banquet opened the week and this was followed by a Centenary Worship Service, Crusade meetings all week, daily coffee mornings, the launching of a Centenary Booklet and a well attended men's breakfast.

More than 200 people attended the opening banquet and visitors had an excellent opportunity to reminisce and meet old friends. Shepparton's minister, Greg Deuble presided over the Centenary Morning Worship and over 300 people heard special guest Ron Elbourne.

A basket luncheon was then held followed by a program of light entertainment entitled "A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon." Excellent performances were given, which included Fiona Petrie of the Victoria State Opera

Company, Jenny Tonkin, a classical pianist and the popular singers Vicki Watt, Virginia Every and Bob Foster.

The Centenary Crusade led by Ron Elbourne was held each evening based on the theme "Let There Be Life." A choir of 30 led by Ethel Marriot added greatly to the meetings. During the week eight people committed their lives to the Lord, and one person rededicated herself.

Through the untiring efforts of Darrell Jeffries the church was able to launch its Centenary Book. It traces the history of the Churches of Christ both overseas and in Australia even prior to November 1881, when evangelist Stephen Cheek conducted a meeting at Shepparton marking the commencement of the local church.

Some 60 men attended the Saturday Men's Breakfast to hear Ron Elbourne speak on "A Man Amongst Men."

The week was a tremendous success with considerable efforts by many people. Prayer was a vital part of the preparations and regular prayer meetings were held prior to the celebrations.

It was great to see the participation too from the neighbouring Mooroopna church.

YARRAWONGA (K. Pitt). 56th church anniversary speaker Greg Deuble. Thanks offering \$1242 ... C.W.C.I. coffee morning speaker Phil Davis. 180 attended ... Bible Society film "The First Christmas" shown. Speaker Arthur Beale (Bible Soc.), Singing by "The Sonlights", piano solos by Raeleen Pitt ... Sonshiners Club scavenger hunt and barbecue ... C.W.E.F. lamington drive \$70 ... Parcels sent to social services and Aboriginal missions ... Church supports Korean orphan.

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OPEN FORUM

Correspondence to Open Forum limited to 150 words.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

To the Editor,

Phil. 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus." In John 4, After teaching the woman at the well Jesus allowed her to go into Sychar and preach his Messiahship to the men and women of her city. In Matt. 28:9-10 and Mark 16:6-7 women were told to go and tell the resurrection story to the men and to remind them of instructions which Jesus had previously given them. This is both preaching and teaching.

In John 3:6 Jesus said "that which is born of the flesh is flesh" (either male or female) and "that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit" (neither male nor female). Does the church operate according to the life of the flesh or according to the life of the Spirit? We are all baptised into one Body. Can the body of Christ be divided into types and classes? Let us stand fast in the liberty where Christ has set us free.

— E. A. Barton (Port Lincoln, S.A.)

TRIBUTE

To The Editor,

At the November meeting of the Federal Literature Department the members unanimously expressed their support for a motion of appreciation for the work that Ralph Rankine had performed over a number of years in assisting his wife, Ethel, in her role and for looking after the Department's financial records during those years.

The Committee expresses its love and sympathy to Ethel, the Secretary of the Federal Literature Department, on Ralph's recent death.

— K. J. Clinton (Chairman)

GRANT TO VIETNAMESE

To the Editor,

Doubtless the list of A.C.C. grants is very long. However, \$7000 was released for 1981 for the work of the Vietnamese Association of S.A. There are now about 5000 Indo-Chinese in S.A.

Secondly, our S.A. Churches of Christ have spent in excess of \$1000 to support pastoral care for the ethnic Evangelical Church of Vietnamese in S.A.

— Ron Saunders (S.A.)

(P.S. All issues of "A.C.C." are very good.)

A MATTER OF STATISTICS

To the Editor,

I agree that statistics never tell the whole story, but that when we listen to them with care, they do tell us something. Don Stewart's analysis of states' growth rates over an eight

year period is interesting and instructive.

However, I draw attention to another perspective, one that reflects recent trends over a shorter period. Current State Conference handbooks reveal that all but two states have shown an increase in membership over the last 12 months. To this should be added Federal Home Mission initiatives whose figures are not included in State Conference Handbooks. Both Darwin and the A.C.T. have had some growth over the last year, even when transfers are taken into account.

What I see is a statistical picture that tells us to be encouraged, because we seem to have arrived at a turning point, yet admonishes us because we still have far to go. Perhaps this should urge us even more to take notice of Don Stewart's suggestion and seek to learn from centres where sound principles of church growth are being applied.

— Dennis J. Ryle (Canberra)

WANTED, EVANGELISTS

To the Editor,

In a recent "Australian Christian", under the heading, 'On My Mind', I was thrilled to know that we are reminded about great evangelists of the past. Arnold Caldicott reminded us of the Campbells and our beginnings with Gore, Ewers, Suber, Stephen Cheek and others. There are those whom we can mention, Hagger-Clay, Hinrichsen - Brooker, MacNaughtan - Saunders. It is good to know that Bill Gaunson has been appointed as State Evangelist for Western Australia and John Timms has been State Evangelist for Queensland. Surely evangelists can be found for all the other states. I have prayed that God will call men for this task for people are dying without Christ.

— A. C. Mudford (Vic.)

JUSTICE FOR AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

To the Editor,

What has been our response to the WCC Report — Justice for Australian Aborigines? It is great to note positive responses. Those denominations that have held conferences since the report was issued have proposed various projects and in two cases at least property valued at more than \$250,000 is being given to Aborigines.

I am pleased that a Churches of Christ member is on the ACC Follow up Committee and thank him for his

contribution and I am sure there are others who heed the call for self-examination and act to improve Aboriginal living standards.

But I get depressed when I hear that some people bypass the contents of the report to attack the manner of the report and the integrity of those involved. Is it a psychological trick of a dormant conscience to speak of the limitations of the report — which after all, tell of injustice and describe conditions that should not exist in this generation.

So let us take it as it is — a call by Christians to Christians and the community as a whole, then we can recognise the facts and turn to God for forgiveness and guidance.

— A. Page, (Vic.)

WILLIAMSTOWN (C. Wilson). Great rejoicings when new manse was dedicated on Dec. 6. Ceremony was led by President Elect Bruce Alcorn. Fellowship tea was enjoyed and Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, past

minister, spoke at night. Many ex-members returned for the day ... Youth Fellowship entertained 30 older members at Christmas party ... Good Companions and Explorer Boys enjoyed weekend camp at Mitcham Hills ... Annual meeting voted to hold services at 10.30 a.m. commencing January.

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LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER

To the Editor,

It's disgracefull The commercial world doesn't even have the decency to wait until December before plunging us into Christmas. The big stores are so eager to "get in first" that they have let Christmas spill back into November. In November we saw TV pictures of 50 Santas all dressed up and in a School for Santas, learning how to handle child bites, exorbitant demands and wetness of the knee. From early November our letter box has been so crammed with Christmas shopping catalogues that there is no room for the usual bills. And canned carols echoed up and down the aisles of our local supermarket from November 14th.

Probably next year commercial competition will have Christmas hitting us in October, and by the turn of the century, if there is any "peace on earth" left, we will be observing Christmas from June to December.

I got so worked up about it that I made an eloquent speech to my wife. She always listens patiently when I mount a soap box and follows my oration with a word of wisdom that sorts it all out, whatever it is. This time she said, "But what if we do celebrate Christmas in November, or June. The fact that God came into the world in Jesus is just as important in June or November as it is on Christmas Day." Of course she's right, and I suppose that every day is Christmas Day.

Happy Christmas!

TERTIUS

Small boy drowns



Rohan Michael Strack was just two years and four months when he wandered away from his parents' home late in the afternoon of December 2nd. Soon missed, his parents and neighbours, and later the police, searched for him in vain. Just before dark the family dog came in wet, and Rohan's father immediately thought of the Gininderra Creek running some hundred or so metres away. Quickly he raced there and found the little body in a metre of water. Mouth to mouth resuscitation and treatment by ambulance officers and at the hospital failed to revive the lad.

Rohan is the youngest child of **Greg and Andrea Strack**. He is the brother of Simon (10) and Tina (7). Greg is one of the ministry team of the Canberra (A.C.T.) churches.

On the afternoon of December 4th Rohan's body was privately cremated in the presence of the Strack and Mott families and the A.C.T. ministry team. At 6 p.m. at the Ainslie church a public thanksgiving service was led by Neil Gilmore with over 200 people present to help Andrea and Greg to give thanks for the all too short but precious years that Rohan was with them, and to give thanks for a God in whose plan death is not the end.

It was 8 p.m. before the last of the people departed as so many wanted to stay to express their love for the families concerned. Andrea and Greg, in grief and faith and courage, gratefully received the support of a caring church.

Greg had been busy producing and directing the musical "Mary" for the A.C.T. Conference Christmas Celebrations. The performance was on the Sun-

The record crowd of 1,200 people which filled Blackman Hall to overflowing on November 20 set the tone for a major inspirational event. The graduating students, as they were introduced to the congregation gave brief, inspiring comments about their faith and the way in which their college experience had helped them to grow as Christian people and to prepare for Christian service. They also shared their hopes for their future ministry.

10 of the total number of 20 graduates will enter full-time pastoral ministry in W.A., S.A., N.T. and Victoria and two will be chaplains with the Victorian Council of Christian Education of Schools. Joan Fewster, who has been in a team ministry at Flinders Park, S.A., also graduated upon completing her College Diploma. Seven will be involved in significant "lay ministries", one flying with M.A.F., one in charge of Christian Education at a girls' school, one responsible for media in a Melbourne Christian community and several as ministers' wives.

Frank Chipperfield, Chairman of the Board of Management, presented the Diplomas and Certificates. Selected Course Certificates — **Cris Jones, Evenlyn Peterson, Julie Walladge, Margaret Webber.** Certificate — **Samuel Dean.** Diplomas — **Joan Fewster, Robin Harrison, Doug Morffew.** Honours Diploma — **Ross Bourdon, Phillip Bradley, David Brooker, John Clapp, Tom Frazer, Greg Shaw, Faith Smith, Doug Walladge, Philip Webber, Jeff Weston, Sandra Wilson, Peter Wing Tang.**

The principal, **Dr. Bill Tabbernee**, made a presentation to **Dr Keith Bowes** who retires from the faculty after 18 years of service to the College. The congregation showed their appreciation of his work.

day night following Rohan's death. It was in the Ainslie chapel with 350 present. The Motts and the Stracks were able to be present as the story unfolded of another child who was later to make victory over death possible, and who in his life said, "Suffer the little ones to come unto me."

C.O.B. Graduation



Ordination

Commencement 1982

On February 19, 1982, 75 years to the day since lectures began at C.O.B., the Commencement service will be held. This will feature historical highlights and new initiatives in the theological education of the ministers for the future. A commemorative booklet is being prepared for the occasion.

Ordination Service

Barry Grear, Federal Conference President conducted this service which followed the Graduation Ceremony. In his address,

Kevin Harvey challenged the 13 being ordained to be carers, enablers and leaders in the work God has given to them. The meaning of ordination was expressed simply and meaningfully through responsive readings, those being ordained affirmed their faith and their commitment to ministry and the congregation acknowledged them as ministers for Jesus Christ. With an illuminated cross for the background, those chosen by the Federal Executive as representatives of our Australian churches laid their hands on the kneeling ordinands, each of whom held an open Bible. This expression of concentrated prayer was a moving and holy moment for all present.

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BOOKS TO READ

THE PUFFIN CHILDREN'S BIBLE

retold by Pat Alexander (Puffin Books) \$5.95

An excellent retelling of a selection of Bible stories with beautiful colour illustrations that would be enjoyed by children. The stories are well told and easy to read and understand. The size of the print and the pages is good and the price is excellent. A beautiful selection of Bible stories that could be given to children of a wide age range as a present. This should be available in many ordinary bookshops as well as religious booksellers. Recommended for children who can read as well as those who need stories told to them. Teachers may also find this helpful in telling Bible stories. Paperback but sturdy.

THE LADYBIRD NEW TESTAMENT

Text by Jenny Robertson (Ladybird Books) \$14.95

This narrative of the New Testament story is based on the script for an English television show. The stories follow the history of the New Testament from the birth of Christ to John's vision of the new Jerusalem. The language is simple and yet true to the Bible. The stories are primarily about Jesus and his life and ministry and of the birth of the church. Once again the full colour illustrations are interesting to children. The only problem is that of the price making this book more of a present from grandparents.

THE ILLUSTRATED ATLAS OF THE BIBLE LANDS

text by Theodore Rowland-Entwistle. (Longman) \$8.95

A large sized hardcover Bible atlas designed for children. With each period of Israel's history and then of the New Testament are maps accompanied by a double page of text on the history of the period. The language is not too technical nor are the maps. As well there are some excellent colour photographs showing some of the features of the time. Items of interest are given a paragraph (e.g. Baal, the Ark of the Covenant, dress, animals of the Bible, the 12 Apostles). This book has an index and a time chart and is better than many Bible atlases designed for adults. For older children with a real interest in the Bible. Would make an excellent present or presentation.

THE WORKAHOLIC AND HIS FAMILY

by Frank Minirth, Paul Meier, Frank Wichern, Bill Brewer, and States Skipper (Baker) \$8.95

Workaholism — its symptoms, causes and cures — are probed in this book which is written by five former workaholics who are honest about their own problems. The authors are doctors, counsellors, pastors and teachers and they aim to help people realise they are workaholics and to work through the practical steps to overcome work addiction. Help and counsel for the family are also offered. There are many in our churches who are workaholics (including some in the ministry) and this book would help in counselling them or as a self-help book. The principles that the authors always attempt to spell out are based on the ultimate impact of workaholism and a person's relationship with God.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW TESTAMENT CITIES IN WESTERN ASIA MINOR

by Edwin Yamauchi (Baker)

For anyone interested in archaeology this book is very interesting. 12 cities in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) are covered and only one of these is not mentioned in the New Testament. This very readable book, which is well illustrated by photographs and sketches, looks at major archaeological discoveries that throw light on the history of the area. Edwin Yamauchi makes special note of any discoveries that shed new light on the Christian church — its history and its faith. The author is a very knowledgeable man in the area of study yet this book is not technical and is easily understood.

LAST SUPPER AND LORD'S SUPPER

by I. Howard Marshall (Paternoster Press)

A scholarly study of the Last Supper and the Lord's Supper from the New Testament references. The author also deals with a number of the current literature in scholarly circles in each of the areas discussed.

This book is more for the scholar who is concerned to look at the New Testament teaching on the Lord's Supper rather than on the devotional aspect.

JESUS — ONE OF US

by Chris Davies, Brede Kristensen and Ada Lum (I.V.P.) \$6.30

This is a Bible study book designed for people who are not Christians. There is a wealth of material in the book with 43 studies arranged into seven series. Almost all the studies are on passages from the gospels. Each study has practical help for leading a group study, background information, notes on the text, suggested study questions and ideas for further discussion and personal reflection.

The studies are excellent and are not only suitable for enquirers but also for mature Christians. At about \$6.30 it would be better for group study if each of the series were available in booklet form at about \$1 to enable all in a group to have a copy.

GUILT AND FORGIVENESS

by William G. Justice (Baker) \$5.50

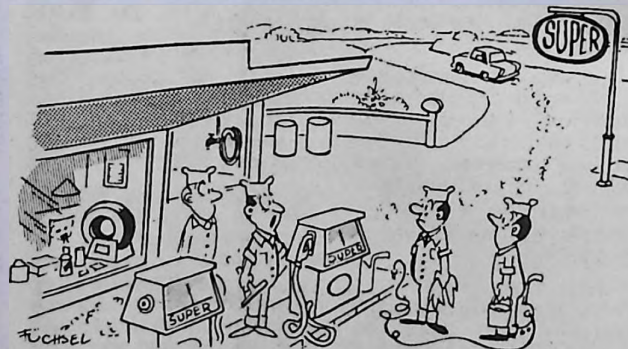
The writer of this book attempts to help those who are struggling with a sense of guilt. William Justice is a hospital chaplain and the director of pastoral care at a hospital in Knoxville. This book shows the destructiveness of sin and the reasons why man needs to feel atoned. He points towards the new life that is in Jesus Christ and how this can remove the guilty feeling that many have. The book is subtitled "How God can help you feel good about yourself".

BIBLE QUIZZES FOR EVERYBODY

by Frederick Hall (Baker).

A reprint of this book of quizzes that could be used in many situations. Some problems arise because the King James Version which many do not use today and also the section of the Bible and the poets when many do not know any poetry. Many of these questions could not be answered by the general church goer or Sunday School scholar because of the current dearth of knowledge of the Bible.

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.



"You don't mean to say that he didn't pay any of us any money!"

The Christian Connection

Eric P. C. Hollard

Thinking of a tour to England and the Continent? To think about it is to raise up the first hackles, and all of the enormous problems of travelling, of where to stay and then the desire goes! It can be so easy, if you only know how!

We have just had four delightful months in England and the Continent, and never dreamed it could be so easily handled! We didn't go near a travel agency.

A few years ago a Christian in England thought about people coming from other countries who might want to see his country, still maintain Christian connections, and go home feeling that travel isn't all being alone, bruising oneself looking for accommodation. So, he has gathered up a listing of people from all over Britain who are willing to open their homes to Christians from abroad, and for days or weeks they share together.

We selected five areas and made them our headquarters, and visited the surrounding countryside from there. Dinner, bed and breakfast, Christian fellowship; and it was made for us! He even has arranged good contacts with car rental firms to make it even easier.

When we landed in Munich, Germany, we were housed with English Christians living in that city. Just now it seems a wonderful dream that in five great British centres we have links with the stream of Christians who make up God's Kingdom there. And what a mixed bag

it was! United church, Brethren, Apostolics, we worshipped with them all as guests of our hosts, and ran into some real warmth.

The charges were minimal and worth much more than we agreed upon. Little extras like picnic lunches, cups of tea and late night chats about Australia and the church all made a "plus" experience. It is to be recommended.

If any readers are planning a trip to England and would like to walk through the doors of Christians, then it can be so easily done. I am not acting as an agent in any way, but simply want to pass on information. I can be reached at 9/50 Broadway, Glenelg Sth., S.A. 5045, and questions answered and an introduction to the man organising the business (who is doing it in spare time as a service).

George Wood in Australia

George Wood, Minister of Central Church, Wichita, Kansas, and graduate of the College of the Bible, has been in Australia recently to recuperate from an illness and to visit his mother at Bordertown (S.A.).

His quick visit enabled him to visit friends from his ministries in S.A. and W.A.

George has resigned from his present ministry and will specialise in evangelistic crusades and in seminars relating the Christian faith and life to personal health and fitness.

Do you use your Duplicator Efficiently?



Forms are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to MediaCom Associates Inc., 6 Sheffield St., Malvern, S.A. 5061.

Churches of Christ: Ecumenical Fellowship (W.A.)

Recently a group has been formed by some members of Churches of Christ in Western Australia who wish to provide a means of association for those who are concerned about the unity of God's people, and who wish to be linked with and give support to the work of the W.A. Council of Churches. The group will seek to promote ecumenical knowledge and win acceptance by members of Churches of Christ in W.A. of the vital place that Councils of Churches play in the work of Christ today.

General public meetings with guest speakers on various topics will be held several times each year and regular mailings of relevant information are planned. Churches in W.A. are being informed of the formation of CC:EF by an open letter and members of Churches of Christ in W.A. are invited to become members of CC:EF by payment of an annual subscription to the secretary-treasurer J. Somerville. Further information regarding CC:EF is available from the secretary by phoning (09) 341 5086 or writing to 57 Venntor St., Scarborough, 6019.

— John Somerville

A workshop in duplicator operation and maintenance will be held in Melbourne on Saturday, February 13. It is being arranged by Media Com Associates in co-operation with Gestetner. The venue is Gestetner's showrooms at 198-202 Batman St., West Melbourne, and will be on between 2 and 5 p.m.

The workshop follows successful workshops for editors of church magazines held in July, attended by 100 parish editors from throughout Victoria. Several people specifically asked for a further training program in duplicator operation and maintenance. Training officers from Gestetner will lead the workshop.

Areas covered will include the preparation of stencils, the correct use of stencil aids, the operation and maintenance of a duplicator, the scope and potential of electronic scanners, and an introduction to offset printing.

Registration for the workshop is \$10.

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HAPPENINGS

12 Christians have been indicted in a court in Nepal for contravening Article 14 of Nepal's constitution which states "It is forbidden to change one's religion". There are now over 50 Christians in Nepal's prisons charged with "Christianisation".

A recent survey of Norwegians found that a quarter of them consider themselves practising Christians, more than nine in 10 did not attend church the previous Sunday, three in five had not been to a Sunday service in the last year, and about one in 12 attended church on 10 or more Sundays in the last year.

Russian Orthodox priest Gleb Yakunin has reportedly begun a hunger strike in support of his right to have the Bible and other religious literature during his imprisonment.

A religious service at Saboba, north Ghana, brought together both Christians and Muslims to pray for peace and unity among those engaged in a recent tribal war in the area. The Christians included Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and members of the Assembly of God.

The latest British idea is a "Cathedral Camp". A businessman who thought up the scheme invited young people to spend a week or two in a "cathedral environment" cleaning, painting and tidying. Winchester and Ripon Cathedrals were offered and the camps were quickly overfilled.

The Ethiopian government has released Bishop Paulos of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church after five years of imprisonment.

A priest in England has a novel method of presenting his message at harvest festival time. He scratches texts on marrows when they are quite small and by harvest time they are big enough to see.

The U.S.A. uses more energy for air conditioning than China uses for its entire industrial production.

One of those assassinated with Anwar Sadat was one of the Coptic Church's leading figures Bishop Samuel.

Three different church organisations representing East Germany's 7 million Protestants will form a single church group. After 10 years of discussions the Evangelical Church Union, the United Evangelical Lutheran Union and the Council of Evangelical Churches will form a common synod.

Two computer specialists and a Bible scholar at Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa have concluded that the book of Genesis was the work of one author, not at least two as current biblical scholarship generally suggests. On the other hand, their computer analysis of language in the book of Isaiah suggests multiple authorship for it.

A study of Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, and Roman Catholic clergy in New Zealand says nine in 10 affirm public protest by clergy against racial discrimination, but only one in six has taken part in such protests. Similar differences between affirmation and participation were evident on such questions as clergy roles in industrial conciliation (75%, 5%) and therapy for drug addicts (90%, 10%).

Jarl Wahlstrom, a 83-year-old Finn, has been elected the 12th

worldwide general of the Salvation Army. He succeeds the retiring Arnold Brown, a Canadian, in mid-December.

Two bishops of the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden have urged obligatory pre-marriage instruction. Said Uppsala archbishop and church primate Olof Sundby, "Nobody is even permitted to drive a car without proper training. Why then should people be permitted to marry without any training in how to make a go of it?"

One in four pregnancies in the world is terminated by abortion. In the Soviet Union the figure is one in two.

A Danish Lutheran parish in Copenhagen is allowing Muslims to worship in its church hall. No objection from parish members is reported, though a few complaints from outside have been registered.

INNER SPRINGS

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Firstly I wish you love, for that is what Christmas is all about. Love that seeketh not her own, is not provoked, thinketh no evil, but is patient and gentle, giving without thought of self.

Then I wish you laughter and joy in simple things, a clear conscience and a forgiving spirit. May the decorations that delight your eyes remind you that our hearts are made for the jewels of faith, love, loyalty and compassion and not the baubles of materialism we are so often content with. May you see in the lights of Christmas the One who is all Light, who said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." His light shining in us and breaking up the world's darkness for this is the lovely purpose of light.

Let there be a time of silent meditation when your heart goes out to the poor, the sick and the lonely and to those who have not yet found their way to the Manger. Whilst hands and feet are busy about their many tasks may your spirit know that peace that passes understanding.

Lastly I wish you the inner strength that comes with the lovely consciousness of God, and the song of the angels in your heart to lighten whatever burden you may be carrying.

And amid all our gladness let us each remember the tree that fashioned a cradle also carved a cross. Between the two stands the Beloved Carpenter who gave Himself.

"Dear Lord, as Thou didst give
Thy life for me
May my own life be
An offering unto Thee."
Amen.

1 Cor. 13; Matt 5:16; John 14:27.

Florence Rosier.

A Hundred Years of Churches of Christ in Queensland

It was somewhere between October 1882 and October 1883 that Stephen Cheek set up the first congregation of Churches of Christ in Queensland. So a hundred years later the 5000 members of Churches of Christ will celebrate with a Centenary Year from Conference 1982 to Conference 1983, both in October at dates to be announced.

1983 Climax

The 1983 Conference will be a week long convention to which people from all over Australia are invited. It will be followed by fellowship tours, one to Cairns and Central and South West Queensland and one to Cairns, the Barrier Reef and Ayers Rock. It is expected that this Conference will be in the City Hall and that the Sunday service will be televised. During the Conference there will be a cavalcade of witness, and a plaque will be set at the site of the first meeting of Churches of Christ in Brisbane.

The first Conference was held in 1883 in Toowoomba and this will be celebrated in that city with the Half Yearly Conference early in 1983.

A History

Arrangements are being made to publish a history of Queensland Churches of Christ, to be available in the Centenary Year. There is also a song competition. Every Conference Department and every local church is preparing a special event to celebrate 100 years of Churches of Christ.

WHO BELIEVES IN SANTA?

Page 13

The Santa Claus legend is part of the small child's conscious life for only three or four years, until some sophisticated six-year-old tells him, "There ain't no Father Christmas. It's like the devil, it's only your father."

Network of Deception

But during those years parents are part of an inherited network of deception which involves them in a large number of fibs (we dare not call them lies), the unkindest of all being the threat, "If you are not good Father Christmas will not come," when the presents are already on top of the cupboard.

Many Santas

To add to the deception is the confusion to the small child when the Santa who miraculously climbs down the blocked up chimney on Christmas eve turns up in every store, at every Christmas party and even at Sunday School break-ups where he frightens the under threes, awes the fours and fives and has the six plusses speculating who it is underneath the tattered whiskers and the motheaten red jacket.

As if the deception of Santa is not enough for harassed parents to cope with, we now have the Easter Bunny and that infamous manipulator of the inflationary situation, the Tooth Fairy.

Receiving and Giving

Not only are parents and others involved in deception for three or four years of a small child's life, but the Santa legend also involves them unwittingly in a more subtle way of hanging millstones round small children's necks. Unfortunately the Santa legend emphasises receiving rather than giving during a Festival that is a celebration of giving. This encourages innocent little children, and indeed their innocent parents, in soaking up even more of the spirit of ego-centric materialism that is rotting out the very heart of western civilization.

Putting Christ Out of Christmas

But greater than the implicit deception and the encouragement of the spirit of materialism is the problem that the jolly, red robed, obese "Saint" has pushed Christ out of Christmas for millions of children. And unwittingly Christian parents can allow Santa to steal the show on the birthday of the Christ child, just as at Easter they can condition their children to seeing coming out of the empty tomb, a bunny with a bag of presents.

Santa Here to Stay

But of course we cannot dismiss Santa from our homes. As mature Christian adults young parents could decide that he creates more negatives than positives for children and re-arrange their Christmases to be like most Christmases are once

the children are over six and have survived, with the usual childish resilience, the trauma of the discovery that the infallible and colorful Santa is only their fallible drab dad.

But we cannot expect to be able to isolate our children from Santa Claus in our sort of world. He is there, and at four or five the little ones are not mature enough to make adult judgements on him and his effect on their lives. But Christians can do something to lessen the negatives and increase the positives that surround him.

Emphasize the Birthday

At Christmas Christian families can play down Santa and emphasize the birthday of Jesus. The Christmas stories can be told and retold. Model mangers and pictures and books can keep the awareness alive. The fibbing that often unnecessarily garnishes the Santa legend can be diminished. And when the child asks the inevitable question parents can tell him that Santa Claus was an old man called Santa Nicolaus (Saint Nicholas) who loved little children and on Christmas eve went round the town putting gifts through the windows of the homes where poor children lived. And ever since then parents have been playing Santa Claus giving gifts to their children.

Giving at Christmas

The materialism of the Santa legend and of the whole western Christmas scene can be handled by a family emphasis on giving rather than receiving. A way to do this is to have as Christmas guests people who would have a lonely time otherwise. The local social worker can provide names of families that could do with Christmas food parcels. There can be the "Christmas bowl" on the table. And money gifts can be tied on to the emptied tree for "those who have less".

Fact and Fancy

There is no way in which we can abolish Santa Claus who invades for a while the child's world of make-believe along with Pooh Bear and Eeyore and Kanga and the others. If he is kept in proportion the maturing child will soon sort him out as he learns to distinguish between the worlds of fact and fancy and reality and fiction, and he will be none the worse for the experience.

But if Santa is allowed to become the god of Christmas and the patron saint of greed and materialism and the commercialisation of spiritual values, he could become a devil in a Father Christmas outfit.

NSW

THORNLEIGH (Paul Cameron). The Girls' Brigade conducted a mini fete and car wash in the church grounds on October 24... A banquet was held in the hall on October 31 to which the parents of the children attending the Play Group were invited and young marrieds in the church... Bible School anniversary was held November 1. Guests at Kindergarten session were Mr and Mrs Hunter with puppets. Upper School presented evening program with Paul Cameron speaker.

WA

SOUTH PERTH (Kev Denton, Bruce Eagles). Ministers, jointly with Y.F.C.'s David Yardley used church bus for students from Kent St. Senior High for seminars at S.Perth over five weeks. Whole morning sessions with tea-break were well attended and received. Many now attend Campus Life Club run by Dave Stanford and Kim Macnish... Ralph and Irene Mitchell have returned to Kalimantan with W.E.C. ... C.W.F. raised \$500 toward new church bulding at Madang.



ALBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Minister: Bob Aldred
(060) 21 4047. 25 4508.

NORTHAM (M. Randell). The Bible School anniversary October 25 has as guest speaker R. Maxwell who held the interest with the assistance of puppets in the afternoon and an illustrated message at night. The program was centred on the life and ministry of Paul... Fellowship enjoyed with Mr and Mrs Allen Pallett, outreach workers with Norseman mission... C.W.F. sent gifts to women workers with Aborigines Missions... Office bearers for next year L. Huggett and S. Smyth (joint pres.), P. Budd (sec.), G. Cook (treas.).

BRUCE ROCK, MERREDIN (D. Good). Kevin Caulton, Youth and Christian Education Director, visited Bruce Rock and teachers from Merredin also shared in looking at the revised Sunday School material 'Living Faith'... Recent baptism at Bruce Rock... World Vision rep visited both churches for midweek night to thank those who supported the 40 hour famine appeal... Special edition of the 'Australian Christian' distributed in Merredin.

QLD

ALBION (D. Gurney). Monthly family service and tea continues to be well supported... Last month S.S. anniversary had a number of non-members attending. Theme "This is our Father's World." There was a puppet show and gifts were presented for Maryborough Children's Home. S.S. prizes were T-shirts with 'Albion Church of Christ Search Squad' printed on front... Jennie Nichols (from Nambour) welcomed into church... Kedron joined with us for visit of G. Stirling.

REDCLIFFE (A. Taylor). We are all rejoicing and praising the Lord for great things he has done. For 25 years we have worshipped in Arthur St., commencing with seven members and now nearly 80. Sept. 26 we opened our new building in another area. Mrs Holden, 100 years old, turned the key and Nell Machin and Jess Rankin, remaining foundation members, opened a door each. Over 200 present. Risson family from Ipswich presented program. Conf. Pres. Ron Sansome addressed gathering.

SA

FULLARTON (W. J. Philp). Bible School anniversary included items with tambourines and puppets. Most parents attended... Fullarton-Glenunga Uniting Choir gave program at Helping Hand Home for Aged and at Christian Rest Home... We held our evening service at Christian Rest Home on Oct. 25... Lyn Pederson showed slides of Vanuatu at Guild... Conf. Pres. M. Thompson was speaker at 56th anniversary in a.m. "The Endeavorers" gave program at P.S.A. and told of attending centenary celebrations in U.S.A.

VIC

WARRAGUL (P. Broadbent). Part of the fellowship travelled to Morwell to attend the annual Gippsland Gathering. Guest speaker Ron Brooker. The afternoon format of electives proved a very popular experience... Chapel filled for musical presentation by 'Simplicity'. People present witnessed the baptism of two young men, Stephen Duncan and Matthew Hollard...

The officers board was involved in an overnight retreat the time being spent facing the whole possibility of our church growing.

CHELSEA (P. Bradley, S. Ogden). House Groups have studied "Being the People of God Today" studies on our life together as Christians in the 1980's. Nearly half the members plus others joined in five groups in homes of board members... H. Taylor and K. Holt re-elected as Elders... Annual planning meeting began after 10 a.m. morning service with "Ideas from the House Groups", picnic lunch, and decision-making for 1982 church program.

NORLANE (John Elliott). Church packed for Bible School anniversary. Paul Burnham from Nunawading with talking dogs... Ian and Julie Adams returned for 24th church anniversary with Jesus Is Alive Today musical group from Werribee a great success... Special youth services with Paul Downey, Y.F.C. Geelong... Movie "Anyone Can"... Visits by Ian Tippett most appreciated... Boys' Club, Girls' Club with up to 20 children participating.

ORMOND (G. O. Stibbe). Drop In Centre still popular, new persons attending. Meetings held fortnightly... Church fete great success over \$3500 raised... Members conducted evening services at Emmaus during October... Small group leadership classes concluded... Good Companions took part in evening service Girls' Sunday. Also had fund raising night for 1981 service project, river travel in Papua New Guinea... Dandenong entertainers were enjoyed at E.W.F. meeting.



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7.00 p.m. Gospel Service

8.30 p.m. Coffee Hour

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SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND ALL YEAR ROUND —
The Green Valley Y.P. Choir (Focus FSR 1041)
MERRY CHRISTMAS — Love Honeytree (Birdwing BWR 2029)

Well, it's THAT time of the year again! It's time to experience something of the reality of Christmas through the commercial hoo-ha. Here are two albums that will help. The first is by one of Sydney's most well-known and popular youth choirs. It isn't just a choir record though — there are instrumental versions of four well-known carols, as well as two Quartet songs. In the choir pieces the diction is surprising in quality. Although the songs are generally traditional, they are usually dressed up in new arrangements. This, and the use of synthesizers and a soft rock rhythm section makes it an interesting album, well worth having for those Christmas get togethers.

Honeytree is one of the more interesting female singers from U.S. On this album she combines some very familiar carols in a Christmas suite, and then introduces some new (to me anyway) although traditional carols, and one of her own. I feel the Christmas suite works best. A combination of Honeytree's guitar and a chamber orchestra turn Joy to the World, Silent Night, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and What Child is This? into a real highlight. Recommended.

FINER THAN GOLD — Barry McGuire (Sparrow SPR 1052)

I'm thankful to God for both Andrae Crouch and Barry

McGuire, for they finally convinced me that Christian music can be contemporary. For all that, I seem to be regularly disappointed by Barry's post-Word/Myrrh albums. Nowhere to be found is the real strength of Seeds, Lighten Up and To the Bride. His songs seem to be less personal and less relevant, sung with less power. There is nothing to be faulted musically, the backing and production is excellent, but it doesn't really grab me. But — if you have come to know Barry since he started recording with Sparrow, you'll probably find this an excellent album — it's certainly better than the last couple. Best songs: Heartbreaker, Lonely Love and Christ is Coming Soon.

ALSO RECEIVED: GOD LOVES COUNTRY MUSIC — Various (Maranatha MM 0080A)

Traditional Nashville versions of generally praise songs. Very well done if you like that sort of thing.

THE BEST OF PRAISE (Maranatha MM 0083A)

A good summary of Maranatha's Praise albums. We are (or should be) singing many of these in our worship services. An excellent introduction to the top-class Praise series.

THE BOOK THAT JESUS READ

by Geoff Treasure (IVP) \$3.75

Many Christians find that the Old Testament is a hidden book to them. They do not see how it all fits in with what God has shown of himself in the New Testament. This book has been written with these people in mind. Written in a breezy, easily read style Geoff Treasure as a story-teller sets out God's plan which was worked out in Israel's history. Along with the weaving of the Old Testament narrative, poetry and prophecy into a continuous moving interesting story the author discusses themes such as 'Covenant' and answers questions such as 'Fact or fiction?'. An excellent, very readable way to open up the Old Testament.

Christian family

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- In spirit — from slavery in sin to new life in Christ.

Your own children too will benefit by learning to relate to an under privileged child overseas. They will love to exchange letters, drawings and photos. You can more easily teach them to pray and encourage them to give in a meaningful way. Beyond this God will reward you abundantly. (Lu. 6:38)

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Keeping the Bible Society Flying

The Bible Society has an extensive aerial program in Northern Australia, operated by a pilot based in Darwin. This year for medical reasons he has been grounded temporarily and to keep the program in operation, one of the elders of the Ivanhoe (Vic.) church, **Russell Clinton**, spent eight weeks between June and October as their pilot. The work extends over a large area from Western Queensland through the Northern Territory, and Arnhem land to the Pilbara in Western Australia.

Bibles Supplied

Program 1 of three weeks, saw Russell loading the Cessna with cartons of Bibles and other books, and with various ministers and missionaries landing at isolated places such as **Yuendumu, Hooker Creek, Victoria River Downs, Timber Creek, Katherine, Ngukurr** on the Roper River, where services were conducted for both aboriginal and white people, and interest was shown in purchase of Good News Bibles and other books for both children and adults.

A vivid memory lingers of

landing at **Warrabri Aboriginal Reserve** and motoring out 30 km to Murray Downs settlement with **John Whitburn**, the Baptist missionary. Arriving at the end of a rough bush track in the dark, all that could be seen were eight or nine camp fires. John spoke to some aborigines about holding a meeting and slowly 30 or so dark forms gathered around and made a camp fire and started singing choruses to the accompaniment of a guitar. During 1980 there had been a spiritual revival amongst these people and to see white teeth flashing from smiling black faces as they sang "God is so good" and "This is the day", made one very conscious of the Holy Spirit as a living presence in their lives.

Translation Work

Program 2 commenced from Canberra, with the pick-up of the Bible Society Translation Secretary, **Rev. Euan Fry**, enroute to Alice Springs. He makes an annual visit to the various translators working with the Aboriginal helpers. At present work is progressing on 12 different

languages. These flights covered areas between Alice Springs, Hermannsburg, Hooker Creek, Katherine, Roper River, and north along the Arnhem land coast to Groote Is., Yirrkala, Elcho Is., Milingimbi, Manaingrida, Oenpelli, to Darwin, (where Russell found time to share in one of the mid-week "small group meetings" with our new church in Darwin and found their enthusiasm an inspiration). These visits demonstrated the ecumenical nature of the Bible Society work as it covers the whole spectrum of the Christian church from Uniting, Baptist, Anglican, Roman Catholic and others.

On these visits, there were many sales of Good News Bibles, etc. and services were held with the local communities, and cattle stations such as Nicholson and Waterloo, where contacts are made with station staff and aboriginal workers. The work extended as far as Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia and to isolated stations at Billiluna, Turkey Creek and Balgo Hill Roman Catholic mission where a warm welcome was

given by both priests and sisters.

C.W.C.I. Safari

Program 3 was to pilot a safari team of **Christian Women's Convention International** speakers, who travelled from Darwin, "down the track" stopping at Katherine, Hooker Creek, Elliot, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs. The gospel was presented to the women of these areas in a living vital way and decisions and rededications were made as a result of their visits.

The whole program was a memorable experience and one of which Russell felt very proud to have been a part.

VIC

WARNAMBOOL (H.A.L. Clark). Following the baptism of four members of Johns family, three ladies committed their lives to Christ... Recent Explorer Club activities include raising \$280 for a local quadriplegic by a walk-a-thon and bushwalking in the Grampians. Bruce Black is Explorer leader... Evening service speakers have included Don Smith, B. Linton (Wycliffe Bible

"WITHIN THE VEIL"



**DON SMITH COMMENDS
"WITHIN THE VEIL"**

Within The Veil is another product of the discussions by state representatives at the National Evangelism Strategy Conference held at Monbulk, Victoria in March, 1980. At that conference the representatives formulated a list of national objectives which included the stimulation of a national Bible reading programme. The representatives recommended that one of the aims of such material should be to correlate the studies with the Sunday service readings.

Having had the privilege of perusing much of the material prior to publication I believe that the outcome is an effort of real significance. The book continues the fine record already established by the Federal Literature Committee and deserves to be widely used among our Australian churches.

The selection of the additional three readings for each week and the high calibre of the comment can only be commended. Ken Clinton's familiarity with the scriptures is continually evident throughout the writing. As a first attempt I feel it is a remarkable effort of sound exposition and sensitivity to the message. We look forward to the forthcoming issues in 1982.

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**FEDERAL PRESIDENT COMMENDS
DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES**



BARRY J. GREAR, the thirty-fifth Federal Conference president writes: "I have recently read a selection of daily devotions written by College of the Bible Senior Lecturer, Ken Clinton.

The collection under the title "Within The Veil" provides each day with three significant pointers —

Firstly Ken has given us information to allow the daily reading to speak and enlighten us in the context of the situation from which the readings are taken. The comments are brief but informative and clear. Secondly, the daily meditation thoughts compel the reader to evaluate the potential of their lives as Christians and to daily reaffirm their relationship as children of the great and only true God.

Thirdly, the brief prayers are compiled to act as an approach between the individual Christian and God or Jesus as the simple yet searching words develop a sense of closeness and assurance of everlasting life as thoughts of praise and love and obedient service are offered to God.

I commend these volumes to the Brotherhood as an effective prompt to our daily devotions.

VITAL PUBLICATIONS

Translators) and N. Kellam (Belgrave Heights) . . . Afternoon C.W.F. hold lunchtime meetings in homes of shut-ins.

MALVERN (P. Nelson). Morning service speakers K. Ludgater, M. Stevens, Fusion Community Group . . . Family service Nov. 15 led by Mary Murdoch . . . Film "Down but not out" at recent evening service; Durran Durra Players also have presented Christian drama . . . November Bible studies combined with North Caulfield Uniting Church. Sister Rosalie of Shalon presenting series on 'Worship in the Bible' . . . Student minister Robin Harrison graduated and moving to school chaplaincy.

WCA

ARMADALE, KELMSCOTT (Des Nelson). Meetings continue to grow — a.m. 170, p.m. 180-200. In 20 months of D. Nelson's ministry membership has increased from 35 to 165 . . . Church has installed new electronic Technic organ for \$4000 . . . 10 home prayer and share groups operating effectively . . . Wednesday night Bible teaching at chapel with

60 attending . . . Youth work flourishing in all age levels . . . Sunday School growing . . . Youth choir commenced with 40 members.

BUSSELTON (John Tocknell). A prayer seminar held with David Drew as leader . . . South-West churches combined picnic held at Boyup Brook Flax Mill followed by overnight camp for young people . . . Robert Dunleavy was recent speaker at morning service as President of the South-West Conference . . . Film enjoyed at evening service was "Who Love His Appearing" . . . Meetings held by Dave Yardley (Youth for Christ) with missionaries Heather Miller (Regions Beyond) and Ben Bakker (T.E.A.M.).

SOUTH PERTH (Kev Denton, Bruce Eagles). S.S. anniversary Nov. 29 featured 'Its Cool in the Furnace' . . . George Wood of Wichita, U.S.A. preached Oct. 18 . . . Both ministers invited to extend engagements to 1985 . . . Elections resulted in new elders K. Ballantine, T. Scott and J. Swift, A. Urquhart, deacons D. Bond, L. Cox, G. Faulkner, R. Mayes, C. Munsie, J. McIntyre, Ron Raymond, D. Stanford, R. Wild, deaconesses B. Cavill,

L. Scotland, J. Turnell . . . Combined communion Nov. 8 with luncheon following marked 34th anniversary.

Historical highlights by Keith Ballantine included fact that 12 ex-S. Perth men ministering around Aust.

Deputation Itinerary of Barry and Maureen Jenkins

Vic.-Tas. 1982

Sunday Services
Feb. 14 11 am North Fitzroy; 7pm Ringwood; Feb. 21 11am North Balwyn; 7 pm Hartwell; Feb. 28 11 am Oakleigh, 7pm Ormond.

Mar. 7 Collins Street, Hobart; 14 Launceston, 21 9.15am Belmont, 11am Belmont, 7pm South Melbourne; 28 Outreach Camp, Monbulk, 7pm West Preston.

Apr. 4 9.30am Warrnambool, 11am Warrnambool, 2pm Port Fairy, 7pm Portland; 11(Easter) Mildura; 18 11am Castlemaine, 7pm Bendigo; 25 9.30am Malvern, 11am Prahran, 7pm Footscray.

C.W.F. Meetings
Feb. 23 8pm Coburg; 25 1.30pm Essendon, 8pm Dandenong.

Mar. 2 1pm Oakleigh; 16 8pm Briar Hill; 17 2pm South Melbourne; 22 8pm Cheltenham; 25 10.30am Cheltenham, 1.30pm Nunawading (Surrey Rd.); 31 10am Hampton.

Apr. 22 10am Footscray; 26 8pm Hartwell; 29 10.20am CWF Conference — Moorabbin Town Hall.

Other Meetings

Feb. 17 7.30pm Box Hill (home) (Y.P.C.E.); 18/19 Gisborne; 24 Tootgarook.

Mar. 3 10am La Trobe Terrace, Geelong (Regional Rally); 4 Tootgarook; 6-15 Tasmanian Churches; 20 8pm Manifold Heights; 24 Tootgarook.

Apr. 6 Horsham; 7 Kaniva; 14 Warracknabeal; 15 Stawell; 16 Ararat; 17 Maryborough; 20 Echuca; 28 Tootgarook.



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Volume 1 will be forwarded by early December, 1981 and the remaining volumes as they are printed — Vol. 2 by April, 1982 and Vol. 3 by August, 1982.

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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.

LUETH, Rona Bell

Rona Lueth was the elder daughter of Dorothy and Reg Bolduan, and was born in India, where her parents were missionaries, in 1930. She was born in the historic Dhond Hospital, its founder Dr Oldfield being in attendance. Baby Rona Bolduan was known throughout Church of Christ in Australia. Schooling for Rona meant being 100 miles from her parents at six years of age. When she was 12 she was baptised at Shrigonda by an Indian preacher. Rona was 17 when her parents returned to Australia and first at Gardiner, then at Cheltenham, she was member and worker in those churches in the ministries of her father, particularly in teaching and singing. Her musical studies were done in India, with exams through Cambridge, England. Through Mr S. Gilmour of Gardiner, Rona obtained a business opportunity which was the beginning of a notable career. She joined the staff of Heine, Importers and exporters, and spent 12 years in Japan in charge of the office there, her birth in India giving her an advantage among people of another country than that of her own people. Rona was married to Harald Lueth, an associate director of the business, on December 7, 1968, at Kaniva, Victoria, her father then being minister there. The funeral service was at North Balwyn on November 20, E. L. Williams sharing in the service.

— A.B.W.

RIVETT, Dorothy May.

Dorothy May Smith was born in 1912, as the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. A. Smith who were pioneer members of the Dunmunkle (Vic) church. In her early teens Dorrie was baptised into Christ and continued in Christian service from then on. She taught in the Minyip Sunday School and held office in Christian Endeavour. It was at Minyip in 1939 that she married Bert Rivett, and they moved to Portland (Vic) where they built up a strong farm, a strong family and a very strong faith. Bert and Dorrie played a leading role in the founding of our church, and continued to provide an example of true commitment to Christ as the church struggled and developed. Dorrie took an active role in the Christian Women's Fellowship, and her faith illustrated Paul's advice to Titus in Titus 2:3-6. Dorrie discovered she had cancer and the last five months of pain provided an example of God's strength being made perfect in human weakness. It was a privilege to see the way she was enabled to convey peace to visitors and her family. An overflowing service on October 9 was one of praise to God for lending to us such a strong and gentle person. Dorrie is survived by husband Bert, and sons, Brian (London), Max (Wembley W.A.), Ken (Knoxfield, Vic.) and daughter Janet (Portland, Vic.) and five grandchildren. — Noel Mitxax.

WHISSON, Katherine E. On September 8 Mrs Whisson slipped quietly away to be with the Lord she had loved and served through all her days. This ended a two year period of patient suffering in which a stroke had kept her in bed or in a wheelchair and robbed her of her powers of speech but failed to quench her joyous relationship with Christ or her

radiant smile. Kath Rickett was born in Kalgoorlie in 1904 but in her teens moved to Northam where she began a life-long work in the Sunday School where she was Superintendent. In 1938 at the Subiaco church she was married to Herb Whisson and they moved to a farm in Cowaramup where the Lord's Table was set up first in their home and then in the Town Hall. When they went to Busselton in 1947 they again conducted a Communion Service in their home and out of this the Busselton church was born. A crowded church for the memorial service was a comment on the respect and love in which this humble servant was held. Loving sympathy is extended to her husband Herb, children Merrill, Lloyd and Cheryl, and her grandchildren.

VIC

BENDIGO (G. Wegner, L. Melberg). G. Chapman from Ballarat, was the guest speaker at the church anniversary . . . At recent youth rally Bill Gaunson was guest speaker . . . C.W.A.F. have distributed parcels to "shut ins" . . . Bible School picnic was held at Lake Eppalock . . . The film "Word of Fire" has been screened . . . Berwick group "Sugar and Salt" presented musical evening . . . Boy's Club conducted recent service.

MT CLEAR (M. Dunn). Sunday School anniversary held on consecutive Sundays. Speakers Rev. Ronald Barnes and Albert Graham . . . Church shared in presentation of 12 Good News Bibles for the library of the new Mt Clear Technical High School . . . Good Companions led family service for Girls' Sunday, their theme being "Rainbows for All." 140 attended . . . 19 men enjoyed a visit to Gason's Factory in Ararat.

BELMONT (B. K. Ryall). New Board Chairman Graeme Fleet, Secretary Joy Bromley . . . Refugee family sponsored from Vietnam by congregation have settled in well . . . Most successful fete yet, over \$2000 raised for building fund . . . Special appeal for Year of Disabled Persons raised \$1000 to purchase 30 sheep for Karingal. Mentally Retarded Farm Project, to provide vocational training for those able, and wool to be used for craft activities.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

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LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). Bethel final exams held on October 29 . . . Peter Smith, former student minister at Invermay, on furlough from Kalimantan, speaker at combined service on November 1 . . . Family camp held at Bicheno with capacity crowd and with Ian Corlett as leader . . . A large number attended screening of the film "Joni" . . . Covenant Players featured at Bible School and at worship service on November 15 . . . R. E. Byard reappointed board chairman.

HOBART (G. E. Powell, J. D. Morrow). Board members attended 24 hour planning seminar at Woodfield Lodge to formulate 1982 program . . . Howrah celebrated 6th anniversary with Jim Hohnke of Devonport as guest speaker. Combined service followed by church family picnic and in the evening Covenant Players presented a dramatic program . . . 64 members attended the Hobart premiere of "Joni" in a group booking. They also sponsored a number of disabled persons to attend.

VIC

MONTROSE (Louis van Laar). Our Spring Fair attracted good crowd and brilliant sunshine. About \$1500 was raised (after expenses) in a day of fellowship and outreach . . . Annual General Meeting voted to proceed with investigations into new buildings. Authority was granted to the Building Committee to have working plans prepared . . . The new board of officers devoted their first meeting to a planning night for 1982 including visitation/outreach program, planned giving review and small groups.

PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (J. Manallack, C. Jones). Jack Manallack unwell and in hospital at the time of writing . . . Open Door enjoyed an end of year bus trip to Monbulk . . . 21 folk had a great weekend away together at Portland . . . Property Alteration Committee ran a progressive supper . . . Seven ladies had an enjoyable time at Monbulk C.W.F. camp.

Good News



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P75.141

MUNDULLA (S. Kitto) Junior and Senior combined churches youth group met for film night recently. Juniors also had long weekend camp at Wrattobully ... Loyd Paviers long service as church Secretary has been very much appreciated ... The church during the year lost a loved member Mrs E. S. Milne. Her lovely witness and kindness will be missed ... Mr and Mrs Pillay are homeward bound after visiting their family in South Africa.

MURRAY BRIDGE (D. Kuhl, B. Wills, P. Bobrige) Gospel singing group "Son Struck" entertained and challenged the young people October 30 ... Don Stanton, guest speaker morning services November 1 ... Reverse Christmas tree November 20. Gifts to be sent to Norseman Mission ... Frank Hunting gave teaching on "What the Bible Says about Church Elders," November 21-22 ... Preparations for Christmas include float depicting manger, cross and empty tomb, entered in town Christmas Festival.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Keith Milne). Church celebrated its 28th anniversary with guest speakers Ted Keating and Alan Avery ... 35 adults, 15 juniors played in annual tennis tournament ... Five young people baptised ... Two care groups met for tea fellowship ... Church family picnic/BBQ held in Jells Park following morning worship service ... Pam Steele Good Companions Co-ordinator for 1982 ... Counselling Centre held public seminar on communication.

PEEL ST. BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham) Seating packed to capacity for morning worship services ... Weekly offerings have reached record level, far exceeding planned giving budget ... New hymn books given by the family of Kevin Douglas were dedicated at recent morning service ... New drop-in Craft Day commenced by Beth O'Brien ... At recent annual church meeting new deacons elected were Bruce Harmer, Neil Reed and Harry Yates.

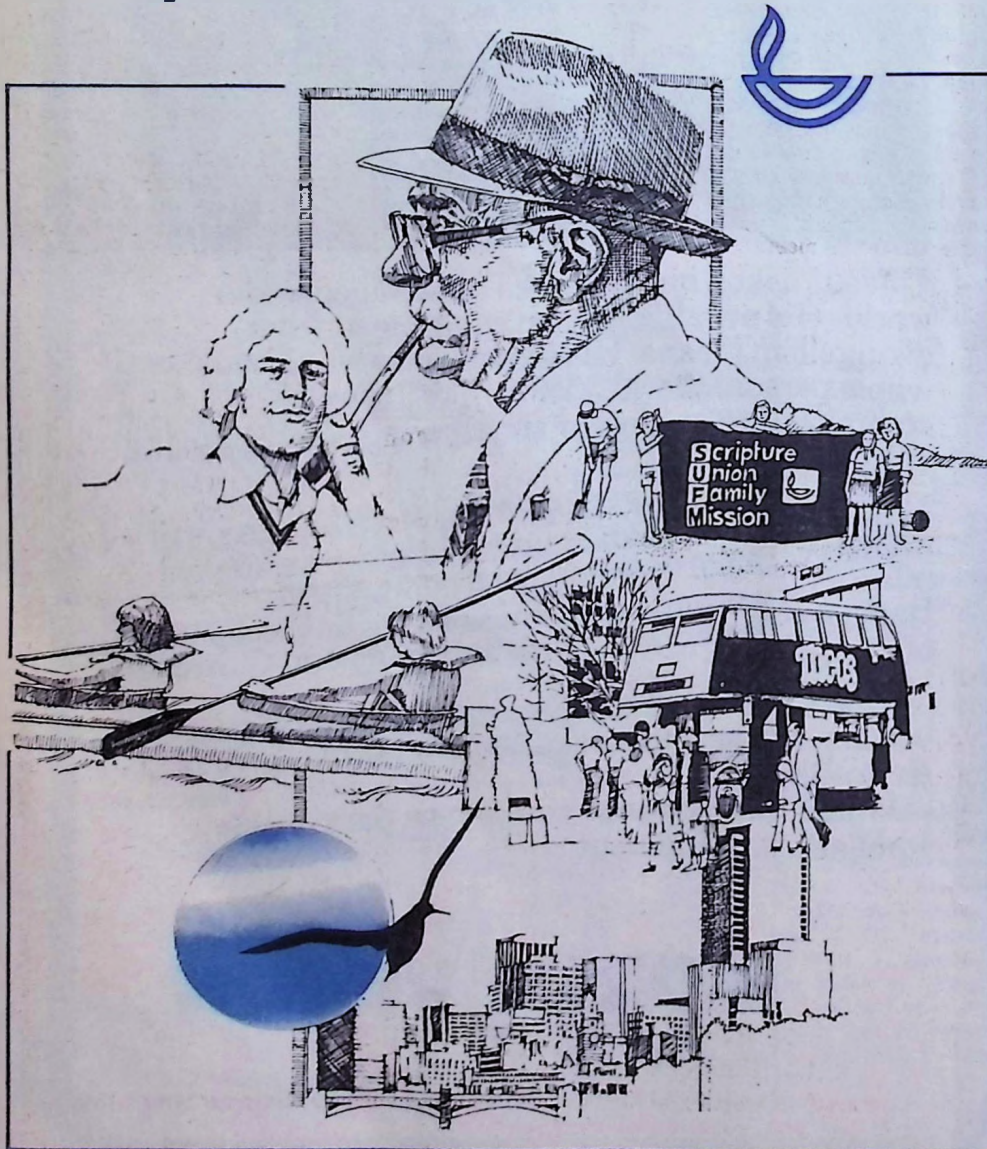
OCEAN GROVE (Laurie Barker). Annual business meeting held, followed by luncheon and discussion ... Ladies Fellowship held successful fete raising over \$210, part of which to be given to Disabled Persons group ... David Merriman visiting speaker over Christmas, New year period ... Song services being conducted by Keith Haggood ... Arthur Wilkins speaker at recent Inter-Church Council service.

CASTLEMAINE (Peter Haylock). Family barbecue followed church anniversary ... Michael Kuhle replaces Rosa Sainsbury as organist after 40 years of faithful service ... Malsbury venue for B.S., church picnic ... Prize-giving included in happy family service of B.S. to conclude years activities ... C.W.F. annual meeting. Cake stall result \$170 ... Evening at home of Elder George Sheen concluded meetings of Discovery/prayer group ... K.Y.B. studies concluded.

WEST PRESTON (D. Wissman). Church annual meeting held as part of morning worship service ... Minister Denise Wissman invited to minister to church for another three years ... Family camp held at Taggerty ... Young people had live-in at church for one week ... Mini mart held in youth centre resulting in \$680 being raised ... Fancy dress social enjoyed by all ... Working bee held to clean up church property.

HOW WILL THEY HEAR?

Many hear the GOOD NEWS because Scripture Union is there



Hold this paragraph close to your nose and blow on it. If it turns green, call your doctor. If it turns brown, see your dentist. If it turns purple, see your psychiatrist. If it turns red, see your bank manager. If it turns black, call your lawyer and make a will. If it remains the same colour, you are in good health, and there is no reason on earth why you should not be in church next Sunday.

— Central Times

Across the Great Divide

— Bob Smith,
Director
D.C.D.E. (NSW)



Building blocks of the Orange Church.

Fred Stephenson, the much travelled New South Wales Conference President, recently made the trip across the Great Dividing Range to visit our mid-west churches accompanied by the new Director of the Department of Church Development and Education, Bob Smith.

Orange

The Orange church has been in existence since 1968. The locality is booming. Hundreds of houses have been built around the church site. The road past the church is a main thoroughfare. What was once a paddock in an out of the way part of town, has now become highly visible and accessible.

The church consists of about 50 members under the leadership of their minister,

Graeme Sonsie. Its ministry is directed particularly towards families. The church hall is used during the week for a Christian School. Even though this is not run by the church (although the minister sits on the Board of Management), yet people identify it with the church. Consequently it is providing further contact with families.

The Orange church is about to start a building programme, which will double the size of its meeting space. This development is being financed through an I.C.A. (Inter-Church Aid) scheme, with the Mayfield and Austral Churches.

Bathurst

To the east of Orange is Bathurst, a city of approximately 26,000. It is a growing city. The projected

population by the year 2000 is 45,000.

The only evangelical church in Bathurst is the Baptist Church. Its congregation includes many people who are not Baptists and have retained their previous church membership while attending the Baptist Church. Amongst these are several Church of Christ families.

Recently five of these families have come together under the leadership of Warwick Gilbertson, and have formed the nucleus of a Church of Christ. They comprise 10 adults and nine children. Every second Sunday afternoon they meet together in the home of Warwick and Jenny Gilbertson for worship. They plan to start regular weekly meetings on February 6, 1982. They are investigating the possibility of using a local public school. The commitment and enthusiasm of these five families is most encouraging.

They are particularly anxious to contact any Churches of Christ members who have moved to or are contemplating moving to Bathurst.

Warwick Gilbertson assured me that Bathurst is a fine place to raise a family. There are many employment possibilities. Land and housing costs are considerably less than those in Sydney. An average, good quality, three bedroom, brick veneer house, in a nice area,

sells for about \$60,000. Land costs vary from \$10,000-\$20,000. Bathurst is only 3½ hours from Sydney. There is an excellent College of Advanced Education.

Anyone wanting to contact the Bathurst Church of Christ should write to Warwick Gilbertson, 3 Cangoura Street, Bathurst 2795 or telephone (063) 31 3398.

Gilgandra

Gilgandra is in the wheat belt. Bob Smith's first association with this church was as a new Christian in the early 1960s. Each year young people from his home church, Padstow, used to share camps with the Gilgandra young people. They called them Padandra Camps. In those days the Gilgandra church had a thriving group of young people. Several of its members went out from there to do very significant work as ministers and missionaries of Churches of Christ; people like Lyall Morris for example. Over the years the Gilgandra church has contributed much to the work of the Brotherhood. However, today, it needs the help of the Brotherhood.

Its biggest need is for regular pastoral leadership. The Department of Church Development and Education is looking at ways of providing adequate pastoral ministry. If ever there was a church that deserved some return on its own giving, then it surely is the Gilgandra church.

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.

The Scripture in Song Revolution

The church is changing. One of the beautiful changes from the '70s has been the increasing availability of short scripture based choruses suitable for worship. The tunes are catchy and modern. The words are usually direct scripture quotes, sometimes slightly altered for musical balance.

At the forefront of this movement has been a couple from New Zealand — **David and Dale Garratt**. From a humble beginning, the Garratts now have records and songbooks distributed worldwide. They have also conducted seminars on worship in a number of countries. Recently David was in Sydney on a promotional tour for their latest album "Songs of the Kingdom." Whilst there **Paul Cameron** had the opportunity to meet and interview him.

Paul Cameron — Most of us have probably heard something about "Scripture in Song," we've seen records, songbooks and tapes, but where did the whole concept of "Scripture in Song" start?

David Garratt — As far as we were concerned, it began in 1968, when in New Zealand, Dale and I were just

beginning to see the emergence of some songs from the Scriptures. The particular way that they were coming was just to take, at that stage from the authorised version of the Bible, a verse or two, or a segment of a verse, and write a simple melody to it and sing it. We felt right then that the Lord was encouraging us to pick up some of these things and present them, or market them, in such a way that people who weren't able to learn them because they weren't in the location for that, could in fact learn them. We did a 45 rpm, put nine songs on it and called it "Scripture in Song." And that was really the beginning of something which became, I think, a sort of catalyst for a concept. Because, although "Scripture in Song" may be our name, as it were, in essence it has become a very popular concept that's been now used world-wide under different titles.

P. C. — You've had a number of records produced.

D. G. — Right. We did four E.P.s for a start, and then we've done 12 L.P.s, four of which have been doubles.

P. C. — It's a world-wide thing now, even though it started small.

D. G. — It is now, yes. We have them manufactured under licence for us in North America and England, South Africa and Japan, and as well as that, we produce in New Zealand for Australasia and Pacific and so on.

P. C. — Why sing Scripture?

D. G. — It's a good question. It reminds me of what I felt the Lord said to us at the beginning; which was, that the songs, as a part of his word, were to get into the hearts of the people as a means of teaching the people. Colossians 3:15 says "speaking to each other with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." Admonishing, teaching each other with the use of these sorts of things. That's one of the major reasons. Something else is

interesting; right back in the early '70s I really felt that the time would come when we wouldn't have free access to the written word, and that to have the word of God in our hearts as a sort of reservoir of truth was something that we could draw from. To sing it is a very easy way to learn it.

P. C. — The words of the songs that you use can be a challenging thing, one to another. But what do you see as the main aim?

D. G. — Our major aim has been worship, right through. I see we can use our music either as a means of teaching, exalting, a prophetic thing, or you can use it as an expression of worship and praise, thanksgiving, prayer directed to God. But from the beginning, the main emphasis that we've had has been in the worship area.

P. C. — What is worship?

D. G. — Worship is man's response to God. So worship in itself doesn't relate to music, but music is really a tool through which we can worship God. I think we need to make sure we see that in the broad sense. Romans 12:1 talks about the giving of myself as an expression of worship to God. If I limited myself to music I'd obviously be limiting a lot of people that could never be involved in music, and God doesn't do that sort of thing. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in John 4, he gave a very concise account of the way God saw and sees and desires worship, when he said "the Father is seeking for those that will worship him," not because they go to a certain location, but out of the heart that loves him. In that, there is reality and truth. I think that's the real key. The church, in the broad sense has failed really to see this. The church's worship is often out of tradition, learned by rote. I'm not saying tradition is bad, but tradition for the sake of tradition is going to become meaningless after a time.

I think worship is received by all of God's creation. He created creation to worship him, to be an expression of praise to him. Every year the peach tree out there goes through the same form, and God doesn't get tired of it, because there's something tremendously creative in what is happening, even though it's the same. Now with us we have the unique

ability to be able to worship God in a variety of ways without being restricted. But that creative ability within us is something which we can use if we want to; or we can decide to stick to the known. I think the Lord delights in seeing you and me worship him in a way which is meaningful and maybe simple, but is something which is also creative.

P. C. — What sort of things can stop us from worshipping?

D. G. — Well, to be a worshipper, you have to really love the Lord. We have to want to worship him. There has to be that desire for a start. One thing we must recognise, is that worship is not the outward expression of what we do, but it's what is within us which is expressed outwardly. The thing that stops us is the lack of that desire, or the real inhibition that fills many, many people when they think of something that's perhaps taken them out of the known into the unknown. Because worship for many of us in this day, definitely involves change. Or, what's going to stop me is that I feel that the tradition, or the way that I am now expressing my worship, satisfies me. I don't want to do any more.

P. C. — Music has always been central to revival in the church. Music is really "happening" at the moment. Are we in the midst of a revival, or is it just around the corner?

D. G. — I think perhaps both. Most revivals from what I've seen have been accompanied by fresh expressions of worship. Often these have been musical changes and developments. I think basically we are, and have been really for more than a decade in Australasia, in the midst of something which you could call a revival. It hasn't been a revival in the sense of something as dramatic as many in the past. But at the same time it is a revival of the Holy Spirit in a

● Continued on page 23

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The Scripture in Song Revolution

● From page 23

very real way. I also feel that perhaps the Holy Spirit is preparing his people for a new thing. I'm convinced that the Lord is wanting to bring a real sense of maturity into the people of God in these days. I think that worship is a key within that whole realm.

P. C. — What is the role of the worship leader?

D. G. — It's difficult to answer that very quickly. I do a whole seminar on it. But, being concise, the role of the worship leader is to exhort and encourage the people so they see God and want to express in a variety of ways their love for him. My goal as a worship leader, is to take the people just a step from where they are to understanding what I call intelligent worshipping really is. That's worshipping with understanding, not just by rote.

The other goal would be to endeavour to make worshippers out of the people, because God wants to receive worship out of our whole lives. Imagine what it would be like if your church, every Sunday morning came with worship to give to God. Worship is an offering we make. That would be different. The creativity and the spontaneity, the joy that would come out of that, because people were expressing their lives to the Lord, together. I see that as a real goal.

P. C. — The corporate worship, then, has to start with a personal thing?

D. G. — Well, it should do, although people can learn to do something corporately, and sometimes it's easier to learn something corporately. I know that when I worship God, I find it's a lot easier with someone else. There is the mutual encouragement and stimulation. When I worship God personally, I try to use natural things. Whether it be the reading of a scripture, whether it be the excitement gained from creation, whether it be the consideration of Jesus and just a desire to express my love to the Lord, whether it be the offering of thanksgiving to God for different situations.

● Continued next issue

Mobile Bookshop for Retirement Ministry

When **Jim and Dorothy Rogers of Acacia Ridge (Q.)** retired they wanted to do more than watching paw paws grow. They decided to enter the Christian book selling ministry.

Campervanning With Books

They found their campervan an ideal way of transporting books locally, up country and interstate. However, when going long distances they have to unload their book bins and stands at the local church or family camp before settling down at the local caravan park. Loading, unloading and setting up takes about six hours.

The Lord's Business

Dorothy had earlier experience in bookselling and this has helped in their dealings with wholesalers, in stock accounting and generally in running the book business as stewards of the Lord's enterprise. They pay all of their own expenses and plow profits back into stock. As well as the usual Christian

Seniors Go Bush

"I'm so happy," she said, with tears rolling down her cheeks. Another had tears in her eyes as she said, "I've enjoyed myself so much." Another said to the woman who organised the trip, "I'm so glad you came to the Home to be the occupational therapist or we might never have come up here."

21 residents of the **Christian Rest Home at Glen Osmond, S.A.** including one from the Nursing Home, had spent the day at **Kooringal Homestead, Williamstown.** They were aged between 74 and 86. Kooringal is a centre for the enrichment of family, marriage and personal life, conducted by **Kevin and Gwyn Harvey.**

The Homestead sits on top of a hill. On three sides extend farm country and bush. On the fourth side, the

paperbacks their stock includes children's books, prizes, greeting cards and gifts with a Christian motif.

Headquarters for Dorothy and Jim are at **18 Mistral St., Jamboree Heights, Queensland 4074. (07) 376 1931.**

Homestead overlooks the beautiful Barossa Reservoir, with its famous Whispering Wall. Part of Kevin's dream has been a setting in which senior adults could come together to explore and share the past, find real meaning in their present lives, and new hope for the future.

On this particular day, the party from the Home relaxed, wandered about the property, went off into the bush, walking sticks and all, looking for spider orchids and other wild flowers and enjoyed a Devonshire morning tea and lunch. All of them wanted a return trip.

Next year, groups of six will go to Kooringal for five days at a time. They will practise and teach each other some of the skills they learned in their youth. They will do their own cooking, milk the cow, grind the wheat to make their own bread. They will share their stories, relax in an atmosphere so different from that of their daily lives. Yet it will be an extension of the caring community of the Christian Rest Homes.

After this one day's introduction, the first six needed no recruiting.

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel...



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4,000 Volunteer Missionaries in Action

This summer over 4,000 Christians from many different churches and a great variety of occupations will spend some of their holidays in missionary work in Australia. Scripture Union's summer outreach program begins on Boxing Day.

The familiar red and white banner will again be flying on over 100 beaches, parks and suburban centres. This year many of these banners will carry the name **Scripture Union Family Mission** instead of the traditional **CSSM** initials indicating the century old Children's Special Service Mission. This change signals an attempt to reach out more vigorously to all members of the family with the Good News of Jesus Christ. All kinds of methods will be used to attractively present the Gospel to families on holidays.

Special youth work will take place at teenage holiday locations in many states. THEOS frontier youth ministry is strongest in Victoria and this year 12 teams will set up short-term drop-in centres. The double-decker Theos bus will support the teams at two Melbourne suburbs — Craigieburn and Dingley. The Movement now owns a second Theos Bus. Scripture Union in Queensland has recently

purchased a red, white and blue former disco bus complete with coffee shop fittings and stunning decor. A team has been recruited and the bus unit will be deployed along the Gold Coast during January.

While all this is happening, nearly 2500 children, teenagers and families will enjoy the varied camps being offered at S.U. campsites and other locations. For some, the camp activities include rafting, bushwalking, bike touring and rock climbing; for others, music, photography and agricultural tasks. All activities provide the opportunities for Christian leaders to build bridges of friendship and to share their faith with the campers.

In previewing the Movement's extensive summer program, the National Director Ron Buckland commented.

"The major ABC TV series 'The Sunburnt Soul' challenges a number of myths about Australians and religion. David Millikan argues in the series that it is not true that Australia has rejected Christian faith. He also asserts that the main issue is one of style — the style of Gospel presentation. I think Millikan is right. We have to work hard at presenting this given Gospel



Ron Buckland, S.U.
National Director

with a style that makes sense to contemporary Australians.

This summer, Scripture Union will be there again around the nation ... at beach resorts, country towns, suburban and inner city locations and at camps. We call on all Christians to pray with us and support us as we set out on this venture at Christmas time."

Correction on John Newton

The Editor's attention has been drawn to the recent biography "Amazing Grace" by John Pollock (Hodder and Stoughton) in which the author states that according to further information John Newton was not writing hymns at the time he was involved with the slave trade.

New Field Director for Vic.-Tas.

The Department of Mission, Education and Development has appointed Jim Keatch as a field director. He succeeds George Warren who moves to position of team leader of the Eastern Suburban Regional church. Jim will have responsibility for the Department's field program in educational services. He is married to Gayle. They have a three-year-old daughter, Amy.

Prior to commencing training at the College of the Bible, Jim trained as a primary teacher at Bendigo Teachers' College where he completed a Diploma of Teaching. He taught for four years at South Mildura and Keilor Park schools. During this time he completed additional studies in developmental psychology. He completes his theological training in 1982 with a B.Theol. degree. Jim has been active in the Department's camping program at Hall's Gap and Banksia. During 1982 he will work with the Department and be available to the churches for field work.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Mrs Rita Mason and Alison Phillips wish all their Christian friends a happy, blessed Christmas and New Year 1981/82.

HOUSES FOR RENT

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DONCASTER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Warmly welcome you to their services which will be held

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 a.m. and 9.15 a.m.

DECEMBER 27th

9.15 a.m. only

JANUARY SERVICES

9.15 a.m.

(followed by coffee fellowship)

7.00 p.m.



C.E. Celebrating Centenary with Convention

The Australian Christian Endeavour Union, is celebrating the World Centenary of the movement through a Convention to be held in the Brisbane City Hall, January 7-14, 1982. The Convention will include as speakers Bishop Clyde Meadows from America, Honorary Life President of Christian Endeavour and Rev. Graeme Smith North Blackburn Baptist Church.

Features of the Convention will be leadership training, prayer and Bible Studies and a visit to Aged People's Homes in the Brisbane area. A program has been arranged each night in the City Hall at 7.30

p.m. (except Sunday) with one of the key note speakers and special presentations will be made to mark the Centenary.

The incoming President at the time of the Council meetings to be held in Brisbane prior to the Convention will be Douglas Rea, a member of the Uniting Church in Queensland.

QUEENSLAND C.W.F.

The Queensland C.W.F. Annual Conference theme was "You shall be holy unto me." Mrs O. Scott spoke on the theme. The Caloundra C.W.F. rendered a group item. Mrs Jocelyn Clancy told of the work being done with her husband among Aboriginal folk around Acacia Ridge. One of their greatest needs is a bus to transport children. An Audiovisual report was sent by Ern Paddick who has recently started work amongst Aborigines at Mareeba. Townsville C.W.F. was represented and musical items were rendered by Mrs M. Smith, Mrs J. Watkins and Mrs J. Milligan. Mr R. Sansome, Conference President for 1981 led in a dedicatory prayer for the incoming Executive. Mr R. Elbourne, Conference Guest Speaker brought a greeting. Miss Helen Trudgian, incoming President then introduced her theme, "Neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female" (Galatians 3:28). She spoke of prejudices against people of different races, colour, wealth, status and sex. We must remember that we are all one in Christ Jesus. — Dell Kiesecker (Q.)

Overseas Study Tour



Pictured above are a group of Modbury (S.A.) church members greeting the minister Keith Fechner and his wife Joy and son Simon at the airport following a four month study tour in America.

They spent the time looking at 12 churches who have significant church growth statistics and while at each of these churches Keith looked at the areas of evangelism and pastoral care and Joy gathered information on youth work, women's activities and family life concerns.

The highlight of the trip was Keith's involvement in the training program for evangelism called "Order of Andrew". This is the main thrust of the Disciples of Christ outreach in the 1980's and a pilot training group is

already operating in the Modbury church. Information on this program can be obtained by writing to Keith Fechner at 511 Milne Rd., Ridgehaven, S.A. 5097.

Eastern Suburban Regional Church of Christ

INDUCTION SERVICE for MINISTRY TEAM

(All Welcome)

Speaker — Stanton Wilson
Soloist — John Marshall
Leader of Induction — Don Smith

AT HARTWELL CHURCH
3 p.m. FEBRUARY 7, 1982

MINISTRY TEAM — George Warren, Ron Hewitt, Jack Edwards, Bruce Clapp, Viney Longthorp.

STUDENT MINISTERS — Adrian Clark, Rod Foster, Keith Ridge.

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Address all enquiries to: The Registrar.



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- 1. VISIT NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN** — Departing on March 14th the basic 18 day itinerary covers both Islands and we offer an optional 4 day extension to the Bay of Islands. Fares are from Melbourne \$1165; Sydney \$1129; Brisbane \$1159. Supplement for Bay of Islands extension \$223. Two meals each day are included, and our Group Leader is Rev. Fred Savage of Sale.
 - 2. SEE TASMANIA IN THE AUTUMN WITH A.C.T.S./TRANS OTWAY** — Departing on March 15th our 10 day itinerary takes you to most places of scenic and historic interest. We have good accommodation and modern coaches, and two meals each day are included. Prices are from Melbourne \$645; Adelaide \$757; Sydney \$768; Brisbane \$884.
 - 3. SPECIAL TOUR TO ASIA** — Departing March 22nd we visit Singapore, Thailand, Burma, Nepal (with an optional flight over Everest) and Hong Kong. Sightseeing is extensive with adequate free time. Sponsored by the Pocket Testament League of Australia. our Leader is their N.S.W. President Mr George Glazier. Fares are from Sydney \$2665; Melbourne \$2694.
 - 4. VISIT U.S.A./CANADA IN 1982** — This 36 day tour departs on April 6th and includes San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Phoenix, New Orleans, Washington, New York, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park, Canadian Rockies, Victoria, Seattle and Honolulu, etc. Group Leader: Rev. Gordon Kemlo of Nunawading. Price from Melbourne \$3850; Sydney \$3796.
 - 5. A.C.T.S. HIGHLIGHTS WITH REV. KEVIN CURNOW** — THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL TOUR — designed for those who want to re-visit Europe without going over old ground. 11 nights are spent in Israel, 10 nights in Greece, 4 nights in London and 7 nights in beautiful Norway visiting the Fjord areas. Time away may be extended and optional tours are available. Price from Melbourne or Sydney is \$4568.
 - 6. SEE THE LOVELY FLINDERS RANGES WITH A.C.T.S./TRANS OTWAY** — Departing April 21st this 10 day tour is ideal for those who have limited time. We travel via Mildura, Broken Hill, Wilpena Pound, Port Augusta, Barossa Valley, Adelaide, Mount Gambier and include a tour of the Flinders Ranges. All meals are included except one lunch in Adelaide and the Rev. and Mrs W. M. Constable will accompany the party. Price from Melbourne is \$565 — but make your reservation early.
 - 7. GO NORTH DURING THE WINTER — SEE BEAUTIFUL CAIRNS WITH A.C.T.S./TRANS OTWAY** — Departing on June 26th from Melbourne we take the coast road to Sydney, then on to Surfers to Brisbane to Townsville and Cairns. Return is via Tamworth and Wagga Wagga avoiding duplication where possible. Highlights include cruises to off-shore islands, Atherton Tablelands and other places. Price from Melbourne is \$1649 and from other places on application.
 - 8. VISIT CHINA WITH A.C.T.S./S.M. TOURS** — DEPARTING EARLY JULY for 21 nights 23 days of which 17 nights are spent in China. Visiting Guangzhou (Canton), Kunming, Chengdu, Xian, Urumqi, Beijing (Peking) and Hong Kong. All meals are included while in China, and brochure will be available shortly. Send now for details. We also will have a departure for China leaving late September/early October.
 - 9. THREE TOURS WITH A.C.T.S./AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC** — 1. Alice Springs and the Red Centre — August/September. 2. West Australia at Wildflower time — October. 3. Nor'West Coaster — to Perth then by coach along the north west coast to Darwin, return by air. A new tour for A.C.T.S. full of interest. Details available soon.
 - 10. AUSTRALIAN CHURCH TRAVEL SERVICE 21st ANNIVERSARY TOUR — 37 days** — To celebrate our 'coming of age' we will do Britain 'in depth'. Departing on July 31st we will spend 4 weeks touring England, Scotland, and Wales. Adequate time is spent in London, and highlights will be the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Isle of Skye, the Island of Iona and a 4 day Kuala Lumpur/Singapore stop-over on the return journey. While away we will enjoy a 21st Birthday Function complete with cake, and past passengers with A.C.T.S. will receive a rebate of \$100 off the fare. Price from Sydney or Melbourne is \$3590.
 - 11. 1984 — 350th Anniversary of OBERAMMERGAU** — A.C.T.S. will be operating a number of tours which include attendance at the Oberammergau Passion Plays in 1984. Final details and costs have not yet been released, but we are taking advance registrations without obligation and will forward details when available on a preferential basis. SEND NO MONEY NOW — simply register as an interested person and we will forward details in due course.
 - 12. CORAT SUMMER SCHOOLS — Canterbury 15-27 July and Rome 18-30 June** — A.C.T.S. is again agent for the Summer Schools being organised by the Christian Organisations Research and Advisory Trust. Brochures and Registration Forms will be sent on request. CORAT is both INTERNATIONAL and ECUMENICAL.
- GO CRUISING WITH A.C.T.S./SITMAR IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRSTAR**
- Cruise 81 — from Sydney on March 14th for Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Bora Bora, Papeete, Nukualofa and Noumea. 23 nights/7 ports from \$1430-\$3500 with Rev. Jim Drysdale.
- Cruise 82 — from Sydney on April 6th for Vila, Lautoka, Sava, Savu Savu, Nukualofa and Noumea. 17 nights/7 ports with Rev. Vic May. \$1090-\$2250.
- Cruise 85 — From Sydney on May 23rd for Rabaul, Guam, Yokohama (for Tokyo), Kobe, Kagoshima, Keelung, HONG Kong and Singapore. 29 nights/11 ports from \$1900 — \$4570 with Rev. Alec Hilliard.
- ALSO — Cruise 86 for eastern ports with Rev. Wesley S. Pidgeon, and Cruises 88; 89; 90; 93 and 97. Send for details.

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NSW

DARETON (B. K. Spencer). Planned giving program held in Oct. led by Jeff Deuble ... Morning coffee held with \$1 donation towards the Bible Society. \$32.50 was raised ... Film night held for International Year of the Disabled ... Brian Spencer and Jean Williams attended the Uniting Church Synod in Melbourne ... The annual flower show raised over \$1,000 ... Women's group held a non-alcoholic wine and cheese tasting night.

SA

BLACKWOOD (T. Giles, J. May). A work party of 12 went to Esperance, Norseman and Carnarvon to use their skills in necessary renovations ... Bible School specials included the Story Telling Man by Junior/Inter. and "It's Your Move" by Youth 3 ... Adult social group formed ... Planned giving review program with Ian Tippett has raised level of giving ... Church family camp attended by 130 provided good fellowship.

ALDGATE VALLEY (J. Dow). November 1981 was to be the 92nd anniversary until one church member claimed it was 114. Anyway what is 22 years? Activities included a prayer breakfast on the Saturday morning, a youth meeting that night, morning service followed by the traditional basket lunch and an evening service ... Minister James Dow suffered minor heart attack and was admitted to Royal Adelaide Hospital.

BORDERTOWN Sonny and Wendy Pillay move into the Bordertown manse commencing ministry in Jan. 1982. Bordertown circuit ... Bordertown C.W.F. raised \$202 from fashion parade for orphans in Dr Chae's home in Korea ... Bordertown Junior Youth held a successful bush camp over weekend Nov. 21-22 with canoeing as a highlight.

WA

SCARBOROUGH (Leroy Randall, Fred Hay). "Let the Earth Hear His Voice" theme for 1981 Missionary Challenge. Geoff Bingham speaker, assisted by many missionaries, audio-visuals and displays. Final offering of 1980 faith promise received and realised target of \$35,000. \$59,000 promised in 1981 Faith Promise Challenge ... Naomi and John Dekock and family leave for further missionary service in South Africa ... Pleased to welcome ministers parents Mr and Mrs M. Randall, from America.

CARNARVON (B. Yesberg). Bob and Pat McKee travelled "over the top" to Eidsvold F.A.M.B. work ... Cliff and Jane Manning have returned to Adelaide after helping Ron and Kate Roberts establish new Crisis Centre work ... Mrs Molly Damer now in Carnarvon ... Outreach fellowship evening featured safety for children with guest speakers Dr Graham Denner and Mrs Rae Reinertsen ... A badminton club for young people has commenced.

VIC

MORWELL (Grant Simpson). A total of 40

church folk attended a camp held recently at Inverloch, the study theme being "The Church family". A great time of fun and fellowship ... Morwell church once again hosted the annual Gippsland Gathering with folk from Warragul, Traralgon and Toora churches joining in morning worship and afternoon activities. In excess of 100 joined in combined service and luncheon.

BORONIA (H. Miller, I. Lawson). "Realising Our Full Potential" special weekend series with Gerald Rose of S.A. ... A.M. held new board members Max Collyer elder, David Deith and Neil Lawson, deacons, Errol Gilbert associate sec. ... Good Companions conducted evening service on Girls' Sunday ... 60 attended family camp at Anglesea ... I.Y.D.P. recognised at special evening service ... C.O.B. Principal, Bill Tabbernee, recent speaker ... Portable P.A. system available for church halls.

NOBLE PARK (K. J. Clinton). Ian Munro, a member of the Noble Park church, but resident in Queensland, conducted a series of renewal rallies at Noble Park, Prahra and Mt Evelyn. The theme of his program is summed up in his words, "God has so much for us today that each time we come together for worship, we should be so expectant and excited that our hearts skip a beat".

PYRAMID HILL (C. G. Henderson). The church has been painted at a series of working bees under the direction of A. Streader ...

The O.A.C. were speakers at the Jolly Juniors break-up and the Sunday School anniversary ... Young people sang at the "Youthquake" in Bendigo ... Recent speaker, Bob Barreau, Dept. of M.E.D. ... C.W.F. stall raised \$629 ... The C.E. are finishing the year with a barbecue at the Boort Lake.

QLD

CHINCHILLA, HOPELAND (C. E. Dinning). Sunday School anniversary program theme held at Chinchilla was "Building for Eternity". Blocks were placed by the children on two separate foundations, the Rock of Ages and Sinking Sands. Hopeland's afternoon commenced with a fellowship lunch, followed by plays on "People God Used". Speaker on both occasions was Trevor Meares of Dalby ... Candlelit dinner enjoyed by 40 Y.P. at Chinchilla. Speaker was Robyn Wall, Dulacca, on difficulties faced by disabled.

CAIRNS (V. G. Boettcher). The work of the church continues on a normal level since the tourist season has ended. Sunday p.m. meetings, which had lapsed, have been re-instituted, together with cottage meetings on Wednesday nights. Interesting studies on the Book of Romans are being undertaken ... Visitors since our previous report have been Terry and Pam Kelly, and family with Luke Smith of Kingswood Park.

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Friday 19th February 1982, 7.45 p.m.

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SEASONS GREETINGS

Gordon and Lesley Stirling and Chris and Mary Ambrose take this opportunity to express to all of our readers good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and to assure them of our prayers and of our gratitude for their support.

GRAHAM Love and Christmas greetings to all relatives, neighbours and friends. Thank you for all the kindness you have given to us in so many different ways. May the joy and peace that Christmas brings be yours. Philippians 4: 4-9. Glad and Bruce Graham, 51 Mortimer St., Rosanna, Vic.

MASON — Glad and Wal Mason, 69 Market St., Essendon Vic. extend their best wishes to all their friends for the coming Christmas and New Year.

SACK — Greetings for the Festive Period from Reg and Jenny Sack, Carinya, W.A.

WILLIAMS — Mr and Mrs E. Lyall Williams wish to extend Season's Greetings to all their friends. A gift to World Christian Action will be sent in place of the customary greetings.

BIRTHS

HOUGH (LEWIS) Robert and Sylvia welcome a daughter Robyn Sylvia Anne, 31st August 1981, sister for Naomi and Jennifer at Sydney, N.S.W.

MASON (CONNING) On the 28th November, 1981, to Richard and Janis a son, Matthew Richard.

ENGAGEMENTS

PHILLIPS — FOOT The engagement is announced of Joy, second daughter of Gordon and Rita Phillips of Heath Hill, Vic., and Wayne, youngest son of the late Gwen and Tom Foot.

RUBY WEDDING

KNEE — BLACKWELL Alf and Mervie thank God for 40 years together. Married Ormond Church 24.12.1941 by the late C. L. Lang. Still at 25 Wallen Rd., Carnegie.

STEELE-SCOTT Harold and Irma announce with gratitude the 40th anniversary of their wedding on 3 January 1942 at Box Hill by the late T. H. Scambler. 82 Surrey Rd., Blackburn, 3130.

STEELE-SCOTT Harold and Irma. Congratulations Mum and Dad on the 40th anniversary of your marriage held 3rd January, 1942 at Box Hill Church of Christ by the late T. H. Scambler. Love from your family.

GOLDEN WEDDING

THOMSON-BENTON Cec and Elisabeth. Congratulations Mum and Dad on your 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated at Gardiner Church of Christ, December 19th, 1931 by Mr Ralph Gebbie. Our love and thanks to you both — Valerie, David and families.

DEATHS

COLE Isabella. 11th November (Mt. Whitestone, Qld.). Loving wife of Ernest F. Cole, mother of Laurel Dawar, Maureen Steele, Norma Sargent, Robert Cole, Frances Chadwick.

LUTH (nee BOLDUAN), Rona Bell — on November 19th at Epworth Hospital, Melbourne. Beloved and loving wife of Harald. Loved daughter of Reg and Dorothy Bolduan. Daughter in law of Ilse Luth (Germany). Dear sister of Merle, Bob and Ray. Sister in law of Roger, Eve, Didi, Peter, Dieter and Christa. Beloved aunt of Jeffrey, Graeme, Jacqueline, Mark, Kerrie, Kirsten, Dirk, Julie and Anthony.

IN MEMORIAM

GOLDSWORTHY Memories of our wonderful parents Reginald (12.1.1941) and Amelia (2.1.1954). Until we meet again. Inserted by their sons and daughters.

KIRBY. In precious memory of Phyllis passed away 5th December, 1980. Treasured memories of a loving wife and mother, deeply missed. Jack, Joy, Robyn and John.

CHRISTIAN ACCOMMODATION

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Reflection Singers
Christmas Musical

DEC. 27
"Giving up too Soon!"
(The Short Distance Jogger)
Music: Jim Lawry

JAN. 3
"The Restless Years"
(Is youth wasted on young people?)
Music: Marilyn Bertram

JAN. 10
Guest Preacher:

Gordon Moyes,
(Superintendent, Wesley Central Mission,
Sydney).
Music: Jodie Cormack

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SONG LEADERS

Ivan Sherriff, Jon Sturgess
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JAN. 17
"Who's Been Sitting in My Chair?"
(On not getting a fair go!)
Interview with Ian Corlett

Music: Lorraine and Graham Woodroffe

JAN. 24
"Today's Most Threatening Disease"

(And it's not heart or cancer)
Music: Cheryl Connor

JAN. 31
"Spare Parts"
(For old cars, worn bodies and young Christians)

FEB. 7
"Life — A Dying Art"
(Life to the better end)

Music: Sharon Basset

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 8 a.m. & 9.15 a.m.

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 The Council for Christian Education in Schools,
 55 Exhibition Street, MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000
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PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

● Melissa Boona, Arnold Bobby, Russel Dingo, Carnarvon, W.A.
 ● Brenton Williamson, Glenn Pitchford, Lisa Maxwell, Andrew Barlow, Mark Thomas, Lisa Almond, Blackwood, S.A. ● Jim and Ethel Burns, Ian Cloak, Scott Milan, Deborah Martin, Shepparton, Vic.
 ● Jenny Wong, Karl Hoffner, Mrs Lancaster, Dandenong, Vic.
 ● George Wood, Shirley Lloyd, Darwin, N.T. ● Rob Harris, Paul Harris, Pyramid Hill, Vic. ● Scott Hargreaves, Anne Warmbrunn, Mrs Sandra Carter, Mrs Sandra Jose, Belmont, Vic. ● Val Richardson, Wendy Bennett, Terry Evans, Castlemaine, Vic. ● Kathryn Page, Vicky Taylor, Erin White, Brett Smith, David Smith, Glen Waverley, Vic.
 ● Kerry, Carleen, Christian and Bradley Johns, Warmambool, Vic.
 ● Rosemary Sims, Troy Sims, Donna Sims, Megan Johnston, Busselton, W.A.

MARRIAGES

● Jennifer Todd to Dale Martin, Blackwood, S.A. ● Lynette Morton to Allen Griffith, Leanne Oswald to David Cordy, Elizabeth Keatch to Geoff Payne, Sunshine, Vic. ● Julie Booth to Max Henderson, Boort, Vic. ● Mrs Mena Haines to Bill Elliott, Belmont, Vic. ● Patricia Croft to Robert Niemann, Bendigo, Vic. ● Kathie Curran to David Williamson, Castlemaine, Vic.
 ● Maree Doney to Robin Tocknell, Busselton, W.A. ● Richelle Johnston to Peter Booth, South Perth, W.A.

DEATHS

● Ray Megson, Blackwood, S.A.
 ● Miss Kitty Chandler, Boronia, Vic.
 ● Alan Waller, Glen Waverley Vic.
 ● George Dyson, Mrs Shannon, Williamstown, Vic.

Change of Address

MT CLEAR: Secretary — Carol Harrison, RMB 575, Buninyong, Vic. 3357, Phone (053) 34 7352.
ASCOT VALE Minister — R. Bourdon, 30 Bloomfield Rd., Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032. Phone: (03) 370 4923.

Overseas Missions News

Medical Conference — Madang — P.N.G.

Since returning to Vanuatu after spending eight months in Australia, Ishmael Bangga, Secretary of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu has been to Papua New Guinea. Ishmael was one of the three representatives from the Vanuatu Christian Council that attended a Christian Medical Conference in Madang, organised by the World Council of Churches. Ishmael writes — "It was an interesting Conference, there were more than 60 participants from 16 different countries. Paul and Judy Williams from our P.N.G. Mission attended the Conference as well. I attended church at the Madang Church of Christ Christian Centre. It is a lovely building, well built, and I am sure it well suits the people in Madang. It was encouraging to see three young people leading the service. Pastor Pekene and Paul Williams preached, and I brought a greeting from Vanuatu. I praise and thank God for His work in P.N.G."

New Missionaries

The Overseas Mission Board is pleased to announce the appointment of the following new missionaries for Vanuatu . . .

Kevin and Raeline Hull from the Morphett Vale Baptist Church, South Australia, appointed to the Ranwadi Junior Secondary School, Pentecost Island. The Hulls have three children — Grant (6), Tamara (4) and Craig (2). They leave for Vanuatu on January 16.

Kevin's grandfather was Frank Filmer, pioneer missionary to Pentecost Island.

Graeme and Linda Mudge from the Goolwa church, South Australia, appointed to the Carpentry Training Program at the Londua School, Aoba. They have two children, Teressa (8) and Karen (7). The Mudge family leave for Vanuatu on January 22.

Roger and Jillian Bawden from the Noarlunga Centre church, South Australia, appointed to the Business Office of the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu on Santo. Jill and Roger leave for Vila with their two children Troy (6) and Kent (2) on February 13.

Prayer is requested for these new workers as they plan to go to Vanuatu.

Ministry in Pune

Hariba and Shalini Waghmode are to be involved in a new ministry in Pune, India. Mr Waghmode has again been in hospital, but his health is now improved. During his sickness earlier this year, Mr Waghmode commenced worship services among a number of interested people in Pune. When they locate in Pune, the Waghmode's will follow up this earlier ministry among Marathi speaking people. Suitable accommodation is needed for a residence and meeting place.

Thomas Family in India

Dr and Mrs Thornley Thomas and family will spend December and January with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India. Dr Thomas is the Vice-Chairman of the Federal Overseas Mission

Board and previously served in India as a medical missionary at the Daund Hospital. The Committee of Management of our Indian Conference has welcomed the offer of the Thomas family to return to India for this period.

Sugar and Salt Tour

The bus reverberated with laughter and the joyous sound of children's chatter as the 43 members of the Salt and Sugar team sped across the countryside. Under the leadership of Norval Bunch, Sugar and Salt was again on tour. After a successful Australian premiere of the musical drama "Acts" at Berwick on November 1 where over 400 people viewed the 5.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. services, on Cup Day the group went on tour. Whole families, as well as singles, filled the bus containing all the staging, lighting and sound equipment.

"Acts" is a worship experience that tells the story of the early New Testament Church, through the eyes of Peter, Paul, Luke and Silas. Using music and drama and special lighting the story unfolds.

Over a thousand people attended the services in Ballarat, Bendigo, Wagga Wagga, Sydney and Albury. All churches were Churches of Christ, apart from Sydney where it was St Andrews Anglican Church in Dundas. In Dundas the crowd was so intense that the building was packed to capacity well before the due starting time.

Over the seven days of the tour the team was billeted in homes. Also the team had innumerable opportunities for counselling and witnessing.

Hymn Books wanted

The Waikerie, S.A., church is in a predicament that they are jubilant about. For the past eight months they have been holding fortnightly family worship evening services and now the attendances have reached 50-55. This means that they now have insufficient hymn books.

They are sending an urgent appeal for copies of the 1959 edition of the Churches of Christ Hymn Book that may be gathering dust in some cupboards. The Waikerie church could give good use to any of these hymn books.

If you are able to help could you contact Don Lawrie at P.O. Box 297, Waikerie, S.A. 5330 or by phoning (085) 41 2077 (Business 7.30 a.m.-4 p.m.) or 41 2070 (Home).

News of the Sacks

Friends of Mrs Sack will be sorry to learn, that she has now been in hospital for 11 months with at present little prospect of discharge. Mr Sack who last August suffered a partial stroke down his right arm and hand and for some months was compelled to relinquish the Editorship of the Western Christian and preaching engagements, is recovering and hopes to resume further preaching.

Membership Drop

Membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) fell in 1980 despite the largest gains through baptism in 33 years. The church lost 35,000 members during the year bringing total membership in the USA and Canada to 1,182,715. During the past year Disciples baptized 18,400 people which was 12% more than in 1979.

— The Christian Century

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Churches of Christ (NSW) Theological College



NT

DARWIN (P. De Wildt). Church building has its roof on just in time for the wet. It is exciting to see rapid progress ... Evening services growing ... The church has started a musical group which creates a happy and live atmosphere for the gospel service ... Sunday School launches its Christmas program and prepares for its presentation of "The Story-telling Man", a gospel musical.

VIC

ESSENDON (M. Ashworth, H. Schaefer). Alex Ferguson home again after being in hospital after illness and observation ... Members assembled for a cuppa after morning service to wish a happy 80th birthday to secretary Jim Hemsley and to congratulate Jim and Lucy on their 55th anniversary ... Welcome back to worship after holidays at Mildura and W.A. to Thelma May and Neil and Gwen Hutton ... C.W.F. Trash and Treasure raised \$710.

DANDENONG (Bill Marshall). Commenced interim ministry ... Farewells held for minister and family and Bill and Alice Bertelson ... A. Pigdon spoke at church's 89th anniversary ... Fete raised \$1,700 ... Gospel Theatre Productions presented "Beyond a Dream" ... Faith mission target reached \$1,270 ... Sunday School took morning service for anniversary ... C. Brough, Max Edward, Peter Jenkins elders, Ted Hudson, Claude Pitcher as elder emeritus ... C.M.S. recommenced with barbecue.

SHEPPARTON (Greg Deuble). Sunday School anniversary held in the church ... Two church services commenced Oct. 4, 9.15 a.m. and 11 a.m. ... BBQ held at Stones' property for the youth hay ride, hare chase and camp fire ... Centenary celebrations began with a banquet dinner Friday, Oct. 30 ... Pleasant Sunday afternoon in the Civic Centre Nov. 1 prior to a week of mission with Ron Elbourne ... Choir practising for Christmas.

SUNSHINE (F. B. Alcorn, G. Payne). 24 young people attended Y.G. camp led by Geoff Payne at Lake Epalock ... 65 members

shared World Communion Sunday in Uniting Church ... Ladies attended V.W.I. Convention at East Keilor church ... 40 children at Corner Club in Glengala during Sept. ... Church completed Journey of Power ... W.R.O.C. dinner at Williamstown attended by six ... Ladies street stall raised \$298 ... Day of prayer held.

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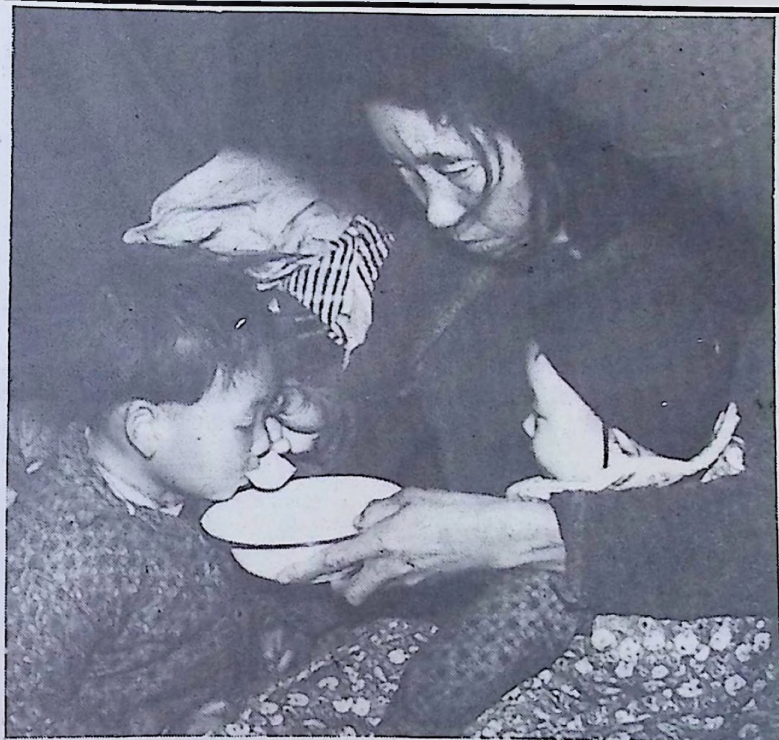
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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Recently following a Bible study a group of us were talking and Anne Runnalls from Brunswick who is a teacher mentioned that she was talking to her 6 year olds about Christmas. She asked them about Christmas and none of them know the story of the birth of Jesus. She said that they were fascinated about the story and were really impressed that Christmas is actually the birthday of Jesus. One little boy asked if it was a true story they had been told.

Hearing this brought home to me how much the true meaning of Christmas has been lost in our society. Many people do not hear the story that is so simple and yet so moving. This feeling was further strengthened by looking at the special Christmas windows in Myer, Melbourne which featured the story of — Sinbad.

Christians need to look carefully at the amount of legend and fuss we make about the things that have become associated with Christmas. Gordon Stirling in his page 13 asks us to look carefully about the use we make of Santa Claus in our homes (and churches). Many of us make special efforts at Christmas and spend lots of money that maybe could be better used.

We ought to be aware that there are commercial pressures starting to grow around Easter as they certainly have already grown around Christmas, Mother's Day and to a lesser extent Father's Day. Some of the migrants who have added to our culture have

brought a more festive atmosphere to the celebration of Easter and yet this may too detract from the significance of Easter as has happened unfortunately with Christmas.

We Christians should ourselves know the story of the birth of Jesus Christ and know how that God through this seemingly humble birth was bringing salvation to all who would accept. It is important that at whatever opportunities we have that this simple, yet compelling story of God acting in history be shared so that the true meaning of Christmas not be lost.

One thing that Anne said that really makes sense is that one of the children talked of Christmas as a birthday party. As we gather as Christians over the Christmas time then we make these celebrations a birthday party. For children, birthday parties are special and so this time should be special. In fact this birthday party is more important than any other that we celebrate including our own.

I know that many people are concerned for other people over the Christmas period. We will write cards and letters to friends and family that we neglect or do not have the time to do during the year. We will gather with family and friends and yet many are desperately lonely. We should be concerned to have people who are not able to share with others join in our 'birthday' celebrations as a part of our Christian caring.

As Christians we should also think of what we are spending and consider if we are being wise or if we are truly honoring God with our money.

THE LAST WORD

Have you thanked God for the Christmas present he gave you?

Deserving Christmas

It is not what we give before the eyes of others —

Not the extra check in the collection plate,

Not the Christmas-tree lapel pin Or the snowflake earrings.

It is not even the candle-lit service With poinsettias red as rubies in A Wise Man's crown.

It is not even being touched anew by the beauty

Of "Silent Night, Holy Night."

These are good — good for us,

But they need to be transcended:

It is time now to call on a shut-in, To take the little ladies down the street

To do their long-list shopping.

It is time to say "I am sorry" —

To reassure someone by saying, "I love you."

— Virginia Scott Miner

★ ★ ★

While discussing the abilities of some parishioners, one member commented: "There is a man who says what he thinks, without thinking."

★ ★ ★

Sign on a main street in Port-au-Prince, Haiti: "Christ the King— Electronics and TV Repair."

★ ★ ★

"Plain, unvarnished truth," as often offered by friends, could use a finish.

— Paul Armstrong

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ENGLEMAN

"How about taking down the artificial tree? It's been up so long that it's even losing its leaves!"