

The Year of the Handicapped

ABORIGINES

Handicapped because of

Discrimination

Exploitation

Ignorance

Careless Thought

Pressure Groups

White Dominance

Lack of Respect



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by your Sacrificial Gift**

ABORIGINES ANNUAL OFFERING

MARCH 15th



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My Friends**



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ON MY MIND

IT COULD BE YOU

Dare Stevens

Dare Stevens, Tasmanian, ex-policeman, is a graduate of the College of the Bible. After a ministry at Wangaratta he accepted the challenge of becoming the first full-time minister to the Church of Christ in the growth centre of Gisborne on the fringes of Melbourne. In a fresh and interesting way he says what has been said so many times before, but apparently still needs to be shouted from the housetops!

★ ★ ★

It's that time of year again. People are moving. Last year your church may have gained a few members. This year you may lose some. Our churches are affected by these "shifty" people.

We must inform one another about who is moving where. Now is the time!

Gisborne is Alive

The church here at Gisborne, Victoria is vital, alive and growing — thanks to God, and to the Brotherhood, and to the W.R.O.C. churches in particular.

This year we will lose three families but we have new contacts coming, and we are continually reaching out. We are excited about the future.

Discoveries

During 1980, as the church's first minister, I discovered some Churches of Christ people in our region which spans from Sunbury to Woodend. We hadn't been notified that they were here.

One couple had been living in the district for four years. They had seen our advertisements in this journal which, fortunately, they still subscribe to. They rang me and are now valued members of our congregation. The church at which they had been members, and at which the husband had once been the secretary, did not tell us they were here.

I visited another couple in my work as a Police Chaplain. I discovered that they were married in one of our major Melbourne churches several years ago. Only three weeks before my visit the lady had been in hospital in Melbourne where she was visited by the same minister. That church still hasn't told us that this family live not 10 minutes from the church.

Credits

All is not lost. One couple transferred here from a W.R.O.C. church. Representatives from that church came to the service at which we welcomed the couple into our membership!

Many have let us know of relatives living in the district.

I heard recently through a friend that a couple are soon to move to Mt Macedon. I wonder if we will be informed by the large Melbourne suburban church who know about it?

It Could Be You

We here at Gisborne really appreciate the support given to us by our sister churches. We have told this story as an example of what is happening throughout our Australian Brotherhood. It really affects us here.

I wonder how many Churches of Christ people you have in your area that you haven't been told about? We don't want to be responsible for some being lost to the kingdom.

We must notify one another. Remember, it could be you.

Aborigines Missions

Where do we Go from Here?

In recent months there has come a deep concern to know the mind of God in relation to the involvement of Churches of Christ in the work of the Gospel to the Aboriginal people. A number of our staff, Aboriginal pastors and Board members recently met together to consider the future of the Aborigines mission work. At the outset it was resolved that in looking to God to see where we should be heading in the future we should firstly look at the past to see the trend in development historically in order to help find the will of God for the future. The following is a summary of that meeting. The review covers 10 year periods.

In the 60's to the 70's as a church we were involved in the following: **Child Care and Hostels for Educational purposes:-** Carnarvon W.A., Norseman W.A., Esperance W.A.

Christian Centres:- Carnarvon W.A., Norseman W.A., Eidsvoll Q.

Vocational and Educational Aboriginal Training:- Fairhaven Esperance W.A.

Evangelical Outreach from:- Norseman W.A., Carnarvon W.A., Eidsvoll Q., Esperance W.A.

Campsite:- Mandurah W.A.

In the 70's to the 80's there came a widening activity particularly in relation to adult Aboriginal contact and the development of Christian Centres/Churches throughout Australia. The following summarises the 10 year period:

Child Care and Hostels for Education — all purposes:- Carnarvon W.A., Norseman W.A., Eidsvoll Q., Esperance W.A., Roelands W.A., Perth W.A. An increase of three on the previous decade.

Christian Centre/Churches:- Carnarvon W.A., Norseman W.A., Eidsvoll Q., Onslow W.A., Port Hedland W.A., Normanton Q., Mooroopna Vic., Tamworth N.S.W., Brisbane Q. An increase of six on the previous decade.

Vocational and Educational Aboriginal Training:- Fairhaven Esperance, W.A., Workshop Esperance W.A., Carnarvon W.A., Nedlands W.A., Onslow W.A., Port Hedland

W.A.; Perth W.A., Normanton Q. An increase of seven on previous decade.

Evangelism and Outreach from:- Norseman W.A., Carnarvon W.A., Eidsvoll Q., Esperance W.A., Albury N.S.W., Normanton Q., Roelands W.A., Adelaide S.A., Onslow W.A., Port Hedland W.A., Brisbane Q., Mooroopna Vic., Port Lincoln S.A. An increase of nine on the previous decade.

Campsites:- Busselton W.A., Roelands Village W.A. An increase of one on previous decade.

Other involvement in this decade:- 1. Outreach to Looma W.A. 2. Outreach to Derby W.A. 3. Staff on loan to faculty of Bimbadean Aboriginal Bible College N.S.W. 4. Assisting Aboriginal Housing societies throughout Australia. 5. Liaison officers on staff working with tribal communities. 6. Assisting Aboriginal community development. 7. Aboriginal aged persons accommodation. 8. Involvement with Aboriginal communities over mining and land rights. 9. Involvement with Aboriginal communities re-registering of Aboriginal groups etc. 10. Aboriginal pastors working on Australia wide program amongst Aborigines.

With this background the Committee then applied itself to seeking where God would have His work amongst the aboriginal people develop in the next 10 years. The following is a realistic approach to the need across Australia at this point in time but still bearing in mind that Churches of Christ cannot do all the Christian work that is urgently sought.

In the 80's and the 90's then there is a vision for the following development. **Child Care and Hostels for Educational purposes.** It was considered that our present involvement in caring for aboriginal children in six centres would be maintained. Trends across the world show an increase in child care due to family breakdown, child abuse etc. There will be a shift in child care in the next decade to provide **Crisis Accommodation** for families or for mothers and children or fathers and children. Total — six centres plus transit accommodation.

Christian Centres/Churches. Here the Committee set goals of an increase of at least one Church/Centre for each year — an increase of 10 in this decade. Calls have already been received from Ceduna S.A., Brisbane Q., Taree N.S.W. and Darwin N.T. The Committee saw very urgent needs for Aboriginal Christian centres at Alice Springs, Townsville Q. and Cunnamulla Q., Collie W.A., Sydney and Nowra N.S.W. A survey would need to be made of these towns and cities as well as other possible areas of involvement. Total 19 an increase of 10 on 70/80 period.

Vocational and Educational Training.

It was felt that this was an area of tremendous need. Churches of Christ have built up a high reputation at Fairhaven Girls Training Hostel and the Esperance Workshop for Boys. The aim of 15 training programs was set for this decade an increase of seven on the 70/80 period.

Evangelical Outreach from bases at Carnarvon W.A., Norseman W.A., Esperance W.A., Eidsvoll Q., Roelands W.A., Albury N.S.W., Normanton Q., Adelaide S.A., Onslow W.A., Port Hedland W.A., Brisbane Q., Mooroopna Vic., Port Lincoln S.A. Added to



these would be evangelical outreach from the 10 new Christian Centre/Churches established in the 80's/90's — total involvement from 23 bases — an increase of 10 on 70's/80's period. 2. Cross cultural relationship to Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia should be explored. Aboriginal pastors to visit these places and Island Christians to visit Aboriginal communities in Australia. 3. Cross cultural contact to white churches should be made in an endeavour to build bridges of mutual support and recognition as equals in God's sight.

Other Involvement. The same as listed in the 1970/80 period plus future development as follows: 1. Aboriginal Mission publication (national paper) bi-monthly to take place of current newsletters. 2. Use of Aboriginal speakers at Federal level as well as State Conference level and in local churches. 3. Development of Aboriginal Christian leadership/pastors/missionaries etc. 4. Development of a discipleship and evangelism dept. 5. Aboriginal aged care. 6. Aboriginal community development in administration and self-development. 7. Church development in general church administration. 8. Aboriginal involvement at State Committee and Federal Board level. 9. Overseas deputation visit to U.S.A. by Aboriginal team. 10. Encourage Aboriginal Bible graduates to come into one of our Centres for two years practical training before being put into ministry. 11. Encourage graduating Aboriginal Bible students to spend one year of study at one of our Bible Colleges.

It was felt that the keynote for the Aborigines work in the 1980/90's should be **FLEXIBILITY.**

As can be seen from a study of this paper a very great involvement is currently being maintained by Churches of Christ workers to the Aboriginal people of Australia. The vision of future development in the 80's/90's is one that comes as a challenge.

Without a vision the people perish. The Lord has seen fit to use Churches of Christ in a remarkable manner over the past 35 years to reach Aboriginal people with the Gospel. This futuristic look is presented with thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness over the years and to the Brotherhood for its untiring support and interest. Can we all catch the vision of what God wants to do amongst the Aboriginal people of Australia in the 80's and the 90's?

A people who have been handicapped, by discrimination, exploitation, ignorance and white dominance are emerging. To what? Help your Federal Aborigines Board to use this time of emerging to bring to thousands of Aboriginal people the enlightenment of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.



The aim: to reach people for Christ



Alan Pallett
outreach worker W.A.

Location — Victorian Desert, W.A.

Reason for trip — Delineation of sacred sites.

Who were involved — Three tribal elders from Cundeelee (Nullarbor Plain) plus two younger men, Chris Clark, W.A. Museum and A. Pallett, Liaison Officer Norseman Mission.

Why the Involvement as a Christian Missionary? — I would like to give three reasons.

- 1). Jesus said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel".
- 2). Jesus did not say go ye into all the world and encourage cultural genocide. (Romans 14).
- 3). Because as Christians I believe we have a moral obligation to at least bring some order out of the chaos European society has already imposed on our Aboriginal brethren.

What then are the Issues at Stake? — It would be good at this point if we could put from our minds any preconceived ideas we may hold or may have held about Aborigines and for a few moments endeavour to see through the eyes of the older tribal Aborigines. To do this we would invite you to join us in spirit in the front seat of the Toyota and come with us out in the Victorian Desert. Sitting next to us are two senior tribal leaders who have been delegated by the tribe because of their power over evil spirits (suffice to say this) and because the areas in question are their home grounds. The conversation is extremely limited because the men can hardly speak a word of English.

The area into which we are going is a huge tract of land, covering in size an area in excess of 200 square miles. We have now turned north of the transline to an area North East of Rawlinna. The wheel tracks we are following are literally strewn with limestone chips and boulders. Extreme care is taken so as to minimise tyre damage. Even after recent rains the limestone Nullarbor is still not willing to yield much vegetation. Here and there are patches of Mulga, Myall and a type of low shrub belonging to the saltbush family called Bluebush. Mile after mile of this open white country is crossed and then the soil content begins to change. Again because of recent rains we now come into

What Price Human Life?

vast seas of green grass belonging to the spear grass family. How beautiful it looks as the breeze sends ripple after ripple across its top reminding one of an inland lake that is stirred by the wind. Now the country is changing again, the land is beginning to undulate. Dense patches of Mulga and Myall and other shrubs abound. The wheel tracks are harder to see now and quite often we have to back off and look for them. Suddenly we come into acres of Sturt Desert Pea, brilliantly red with their coal black eyes. The Aboriginal people call them devils eye. Unfortunately, under the wheels they go as we move on towards the sandhills, where our work really starts. The country begins to change once more as the reddish topped sandhills come into view. Spinifex grass now begins to appear. It literally covers the sides of the sandhills holding them together. If it wasn't for the spinifex the sand-dunes would blow unchecked into huge mountains of sand.

ABORIGINES MISSION OFFERING MARCH 15

After battling our way over what appears to be countless sand-dunes guided by the unerring directions of the men — proving to us that the European compass is not all that far out!!! These men haven't been home for years yet we have been down in the middle of endless dunes and the men know exactly where we are going. The mulga stumps are deadly between the dunes, especially on the return trip into the late afternoon sun. One morning we woke up to find four flat tyres between the two vehicles. One of the younger Aboriginal men mended six tyres that morning.

As you journey with these men suddenly the whole significance of the place begins to dawn upon you. Over the past seven days you have seen three or four sacred areas delineated. The men have pointed the direction to sacred area after sacred area all through that country. The paths of their ancestral beings follow to some degree, set patterns from north to south and from east to west. In retrospect you think of the hopelessness of the situation. You then begin to wonder how much land the Government would be prepared to annexe around each sacred area. The men have an air of expectancy. There is no thought of minerals in their minds. They have been home again. Every rock formation, every sand dune has meaning to them.

A. Pallett
Aborigine Liaison Officer, W.A.

The people — The Aboriginal people from this area are called simply "the spinifex people". These people are actually part of a larger group call the Pitjantjatjara. There are possibly 100 to 150 of these people left at Cundeelee. They form part of a once larger group scattered throughout the Victorian Desert.

Why then are the people at Cundeelee? — In the years following World War II, Woomera Rocket Range was opened up, and because these people happened to be in the way of the test area, they were gathered up and taken to Cundeelee where they have remained to this day. For all these years they have lived in an artificial situation. Caught in the web of white man's convenience unable to extricate themselves. Yes, these people were brought out of their natural situation and were forced to live in an estranged environment where disciplines were suddenly lifted off their younger people.

We can be thankful for the early Christian missionaries who made sure that all were brought in away from the harmful effects of radiation and who so willingly fed and clothed them.

Let's pose some Questions.

Q.) But you say the people still practice their law?

A.) They practice a form of their law.

Q.) Then where is their real law?

A.) Way out there scattered throughout the sand-dunes.

Q.) Why did the men cry at the site we visited?

A.) Because they remembered their association with the stories of the place. The place is so sacred that the men scarcely breathe its name.

Q.) The disciplines are there?

A.) Yes the disciplines are there in real form and essence.

Q.) What value might a person place on those disciplines?

A.) The value these people place on those disciplines is the right to life.

Q.) Isn't that an overstatement?

A.) No, it's a factual experience.

Cundeelee one Classical Example — The young men partly initiated, drunk in Kalgoorlie, bringing back strong drink into a make believe situation where their elders have little or no power. Are we so deaf that we are unable to hear the cry of the old men "We want to go back, this is not our home?" You question the elders on certain young hopefuls who once followed the Christian way and had even been through Bible college. You are on your way back home after the trip. "Home — Cundeelee — home — is that our home? No, our home is back there." "What about so and so," you ask? A hard look comes on the face of the old men, "keep going they say". You question them further. "It's all back there they say."

They mention certain laws. It all starts to become clearer.

What is the Option then? — All we want is a place out there away from Kalgoorlie, a place to set up camp.

Q.) Think of the cost you say?

A.) Well, what's 50 to 100 older men plus their families worth? How do you measure that sort of cost? What was the cost of Woomera — how much to set it up?

Q.) But you'd have to put a bore down?

A.) Yes you would need water.

Q.) Where would this be?

A.) Approximately 100 miles north of Loonganna in an area known as Coolgabbinn Lake.

Q.) What else would you need?

A.) An airstrip, a supply truck to the transline. A Community Advisor with a four wheel drive vehicle.

What Price Human Life? — But you say "the cost would be astronomical". Who then is responsible for the cultural genocide of these lovely old people? Maybe if we put it off long enough the problem will go away. It's certainly good to be on the right side of the fence. But you say "there is big money involved, think of the mineral possibilities. Think of the wealth to the country!" "I'm sorry, first I must think of the wealth of human life". Aren't you in favour of the present Government you may ask? My constant prayer is "Lord, lift up the right and take out the wrong". If the present Government is doing the right we must uphold it. If it has lost its sense of values because of the dollar, then it must change or be changed. "Oh," you say, "you want the people to return to the stone age?" No, but to reach them for Christ it must be done on familiar ground, not destroying a culture but inculcating into it a sense of well-being and freedom from fear. Are you against projects then? No, but there are proper moral and social channels open to us through dialogue and recognition of equality where amicable agreements can be entered into.

What of Cundeelee Then?

1. Coonana Station should be purchased as a project for the younger men.
2. Cundeelee should remain for those who want to stay.
3. The "Spinifex People" should be allowed to spend their remaining days out in the land to which they would so dearly love to return.

**JESUS GAVE OF
HIMSELF TO BRING
FREEDOM.**

**GIVE OF YOURSELF
ON MARCH 15 TO
BRING FREEDOM TO
THE ABORIGINES.**

Aboriginal witness in South Australia

Mornington, Arukun, Pitjantjatjara landrights, Noonkanbah, are well known names and almost all Australians, and even many people overseas have heard at least one of these names. Their mention turns one's mind to Australian Aborigines and their struggle for their rights which began when people with white skins settled on this continent.

In the past few years newspapers, radio and TV stations have highlighted the various conflicts that have proceeded between Governments, mining firms, welfare departments, etc., and possibly achieved some notoriety because of their reporting up to date news which has made sensational reading and viewing.

There is another struggle in which Aboriginal people are engaged, which rarely achieves prominence in the media, nevertheless this struggle is equally as real as the former, with far reaching effects.

Effective Witness

In S.A. a program of winning Aboriginal people for Christ has been quietly, but very effectively, proceeding for some years. This program began with one or two men who had a great concern for those people who were unaware of the value of living a Christian life and this movement has now gained considerable momentum.

The Aboriginal church at Prospect (Corner Pulsford Road and Watkins Street) has received notoriety because of its growth and vision. Two years ago the pastor, Frank Johnson, felt a call to go to the newly founded Aboriginal Bible College, Cootamundra, N.S.W. to become Vice-Principal and Dean of Students. Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board, realising the importance of such a college in the future for winning Aboriginal people for Christ, have kept Mr and Mrs Johnson on their payroll for the past two years as the Johnsons assisted in the pioneering of this College.

Ben Mason



When Mr and Mrs Johnson moved from Prospect to Bimbadeen in 1978 the Federal Board brought Mr and Mrs Ben Mason from W.A. to become pastors to the Prospect church. During their ministry a Sunday School has commenced, the young people's group have commenced a bus fund to assist in transporting people who find it difficult to attend, a women's fellowship is being formed, as well as regular Bible studies and prayer meetings. As the congregation is drawn from homes from Noarlunga to Elizabeth, a distance of 85 kilometres, where some 4,500 Aboriginal people live, the drain on the pastor's time has been enormous and so the church, on its own volition, at the end of 1979, called an assistant pastor from Katherine N.T., Wally Fejo. The coming of Mr and Mrs Fejo and family was a

great step of faith for the growing church as it endeavoured to meet all the expenses of the extra pastor. Spiritual growth was achieved. However, it was necessary for Mr Fejo to take other employment (hopefully temporarily) to alleviate the financial embarrassment which, of course, has considerably hindered the important work of the ministry.

Port Lincoln Ministry

In January 1979 a new graduate from Gnowangerup Bible Training Institute W.A. was appointed to commence a ministry for Churches of Christ among Aboriginal people in Pt Lincoln. Mark McKenzie, his wife Kaylene and family moved into one of the manses of the Uniting Church (for the first year) and commenced a Sunday School in the garage. Since then this work has grown to a small fellowship and the young church has now Bible studies and prayer fellowships as well as Sunday services and hoping one day to have their own building.

Bob Brown's work

Areas outside of Adelaide metropolitan area are being covered by our other pastor, Bob Brown, whose visits have taken in towns as far apart as Wilcannia to Ceduna. He also visits Murray Bridge where another fellowship is located. Although not receiving financial help from Churches of Christ (the Murray Bridge church is the responsibility of the State Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship) the pastor, a single man, Keith Mildon, is extremely grateful for help as he endeavours to train 60 new converts who live in the area. Bob's ministry is to visit, encourage and give training in discipleship.

Unfortunately items of news, such as these, are rarely, if ever, covered by daily news editions of the media but their importance is nevertheless paramount and when brought to a personal level one begins to understand the impact on many lives.

Changed lives

The many examples of families being united after a drunken father receives Christ and dispenses with the bottle (there are 7 ex alcoholics in one church) or a wayward mother repents of her sin or a teenager dedicates their life to the Saviour, and enrolls in a Bible College to be trained to tell others of him, are real news stories.

This last year has been one of heart searching for our

- (a) Federal Board as it approaches nine areas of need,
- (b) State Committees as they see the people without Jesus Christ and
- (c) the pastors as they strive to reach the individuals whose sin is ruining them and their families.

In its tight monetary situation the Federal Board is reluctant to commence any new work such as Christian Centre ministry, as effective as it is, because of the expense of maintaining such a ministry. The closing months of 1980 have been times of much waiting on the Lord's guidance as we have weighed needs against available finance.

Perhaps the real news about Aborigines has not been in our newspapers or on wave lengths but we do know that there is "Joy in heaven over each sinner who repents" and may we each have a worthy part in that celebration by our generous support.

College of the Bible honours Faculty Members and Inducts a New Principal

800 people from across Australia attended the Induction and Recognition Service which inaugurated the 1981 College year.

Dr Keith Farmer, half-time faculty member of the College of the Bible, 1979-80, was farewelled and congratulated on his appointment as Principal of the Churches of Christ (N.S.W.) Theological College at Carlingford. Dr. Farmer expressed his sincere regret at leaving the C.O.B. community, but added that he believed that his decision to go Carlingford was the right one, not only for himself and his family, but for the Brotherhood at large. Dr. Farmer also conveyed the gratitude of the N.S.W. Conference to the C.O.B. Board of Management, and to the Doncaster church, for the gracious way in which they released him from his responsibilities.

After the introduction of new faculty and students, recognition was made of Gordon Stirling's more than 45 years of devoted service to Churches of Christ. Ken Clinton, Senior Lecturer, read a letter from the New Zealand Department of Christian Education which described G. R. Stirling as having made a significant contribution to the life and work of the New Zealand Churches, as a result of his ministries at Lower Hutt, Palmerston North and as Dominion Youth Director.

Details of Mr Stirling's experiences with the S.A. Youth Department, the Canberra church and the College of the Bible were affectionately and humourously narrated by Frank Glover (S.A.), Ron Fergie (Canberra) and Dr Keith Bowes (C.O.B.). The Brotherhood expressed its genuine appreciation of G.R.'s ministry by long, sustained applause and by a financial gift presented by Barry Gear.

Mrs Lesley Stirling's contribution to Gordon's ministry was recognised

The gathering also honoured Dr Keith Bowes for his seven years of leadership as Principal of the College from 1974-80. Peter Nelson described Keith Bowes in biblical terms as a 'sundoulos', a co-worker "who hurt when his students hurt". Mr Nelson enumerated Dr Bowes' achievements as Principal, stressing his initiative in entering into co-operation with Whitley College, to form the Evangelical Theological Association.

The climax of the service was the induction of Dr Bill Tabbernee as the new Principal of the College. Mr Grear, Federal Conference President, inducted Dr Tabbernee and brought the word for the occasion. Dr. Tabbernee called upon the congregation to join him in making his dream of producing the best possible ministers for our churches become a reality.

Founders of "Crestonby" die

John and Maisie Sayers died within a few weeks of each other. Their ministry of faith at Crestonby and round Australia touched the lives of thousands, including many members of Churches of Christ.

Decades before "pastoral counselling" became the "in-thing", John and Maisie were involved in it, feeling a direct call to this form of ministry and relying on God's guidance to show them the way. The fact that their early God-given hunches are now written into contemporary pastoral counselling methodology is evidence of the care with which they listened to God, as was their daily habit each morning of their lives.

Crestonby

It was in 1947, that as an act of faith in God, in their friends and in the future, they set up Crestonby in Armadale (Vic) as a Training and Counselling Centre. They were the first to be involved in marriage counselling, and when the work load became too much for them their program was taken over by the Victorian Marriage Guidance Council, of which they were foundation members.

Their message was Christ

While John and Maisie counselled and helped all comers they always made it clear to those who came to them that their ultimate well being depended on their coming to terms with God. As one said of them, "Their message was Christ, and their epitaph those whose lives were changed through this message."

T. E. Rofe Settlement

The T. E. Rofe Settlement exists to encourage graduates of the College of the Bible to continue their studies at tertiary level in Australia and New Zealand. Students who are studying are invited to write to the College of the Bible, 7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic., 3146 for an application form should they desire assistance for such studies during 1981.

More churches reopened in mainland China

Six hundred Chinese Christians attended a Thanksgiving Service on December 10, 1980 at the Shih Chi Christian Church in Sheh Chi to commemorate its reopening. Shih Chi (Shek-kei) is a small city in Chung Shan, the county in Kwangtung Province where Dr Sun Yat-sen was born.

The idea to reopen the church, which was "donated" to the local authorities during the Cultural Revolution, germinated about two years ago in the prayer meetings in the homes of some preachers and Christians.

They explored the possibility of reopening the church and began discussing the matter with local officials. They were told that \$30,000 "ren min bi" (about US \$20,000) were needed to repay the maintenance and some repairs done to the church building by the authorities.

Earlier last year, officials told them that the church was ready to be reopened for service if the money could be paid.

The preachers began raising money and, with much help from individual overseas Christians, they finally gathered the sum as well as a renovation fee of US \$10,000. They also began organising the church board.

When all preparatory works completed, the 800-seat church was reopened on December 10 with a Thanksgiving Service.

More than 1,000 Chinese Christians celebrated Christmas in the church on December 25.

The church now has a regular Sunday Service at 12 noon. It plans to have mid-week evening meetings and some house meetings in the nearby villages. It is ministered by two ordained pastors, six male preachers and one woman preacher.

Planning to attend

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS

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Church of Christ

70th Celebration of the building of
the chapel in a day

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

Monday - Friday March 18-20,

23-29 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

220 High St., Preston

THANKSGIVING

CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, March 29th 10.30 a.m.

Speaker Ron Brooker

(Further details see article page 30)

ALL WELCOME

ULVERSTONE

Church of Christ

19 Queen St.

**Worship and Communion
with**

Sunday School 10.30 a.m.

Fellowship Hour 7.00 p.m.

NORTH FITZROY

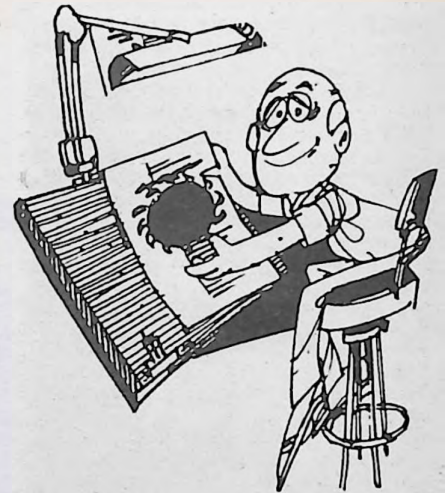
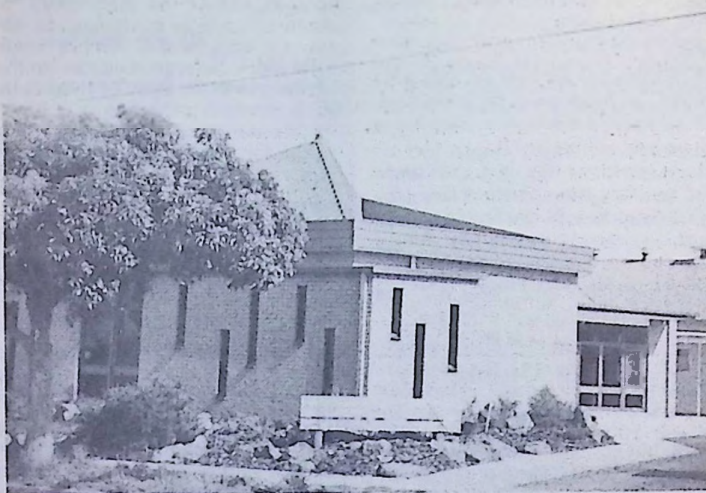
**107th
Anniversary**

Sunday April 5th

11 a.m., 3 p.m.
5 p.m. Fellowship tea

Opening of New Manifold Heights Centre

Waking up your Tired Church Paper



The official opening of the new church and Christian Centre of the **Manifold Heights** church took place on Sunday February 22. The whole day was given over to the celebration. The 11 a.m. service was geared to noting the Scripture definition of "The Temple of God" as being the Christians who fellowship in any given church. So the new buildings were dedicated as "Tools of trade" or instruments for God to use in our community.

The Opening Fellowship Meeting at 2.30 p.m. was the high point of the day with 360 people packing the new church and extensions. Members of Parliament, the Mayor of Geelong West, **Ron Brooker**, State Conference President-Elect, and visiting ministers were all part of the hour long opening celebration. **Allan Emmett** of the Properties Corporation brought a brief address and challenge.

The highlight of the opening was the unveiling of a small plaque by the only two remaining foundation members, **Mrs Alma Ross** and **Ted Barnett**. At the 7 p.m. meeting the Bible School presented the scripture musical, "Zack Junior," and a young lady made a commitment to Christ.

The Manifold Heights church was originally the **Drumcondra** Church of Christ, commencing on December 6, 1925, with 25 members. In 1962 the church was forced to give up some of its land because of the widening of the Melbourne road leading into Geelong. So a new location was decided on the buildings were moved to Manifold Heights, rebuilt and renovated, and opened on November 25, 1962. The unusual thing about this move was that it was done on a Sunday. The Council demanded that the contractor move the buildings, on two low loaders, when there was the least amount of traffic around, and as there was a railway level crossing to negotiate, when trains were infrequent.

19 ministers have been associated with the church over the 55 years, of whom only three are still alive and they were present.

The new church was designed by architect **Ray Drayton** and when completed with all furnishings, will have cost around \$150,000. \$100,000 of this was financed by the Properties Corporation. A Thanksgiving Offering taken at the afternoon meeting raised \$1886.

The church is looking forward to a vigorous new outreach into the community with the new facilities. Church attendances are now at their highest ever. Offerings and giving is excellent. There is an overall air of dependence upon God. The membership is growing, and is expected to continue. Membership is now 168 which is a 35% increase over the last three years.

The photograph shows a side view of the new church, and main entrance, with the old buildings behind to the right of the picture. The church is octagonal in shape and seats up to 200. Folding doors enable the extensions to seat up to 500 if necessary. A new kitchen, toilets and meeting rooms, make up the renovations made to the old buildings.

— Peter Pitts.

Silver Jubilee

Gumleigh Children's Home in Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee of service to children of the Wagga district at the Annual Fete on April 11. This home is conducted by a group of local church people under the auspices of the United Protestant Association of N.S.W.

A special invitation is being made to all "old boys" of the home to return to Wagga for this weekend (and to bring their families). A reunion will be held on Sunday, April 12, which will include a picnic lunch and Thanksgiving church service at Gumleigh. Full details can be obtained from the District Manager, P.O. Box 369 Wagga 2650.

"The Bulletin", "The Friendly Word", "Church Chat", "Fellowship News"; call them what you will, and they come to you faithfully each week in your hymnal. Some are masterpieces of creative writing and art work. Some of them are tired almost to the extent of unexpectedly breaking into a snore from the pocket or purse where they have been placed to be read when you get home (not during the sermon!).

They do not need to be tired any more. Media expert **Tony Nancarrow** of Adelaide has set up a non-profit organisation called **MediaCom Associates**. For \$12 per year you get a monthly kit of "Editors Clip Sheets", from 6 Sheffield St., Malvern, S.A. 5061 (Phones (08) 212 4066, 271 9588).

The one for February is on our desk. It gives details of resource materials. There are easily traced line drawings to be copied onto stencils or to be used on electronic stencils. There are short, short articles, fillers, and fun messages. There is a good story for children and a neat poem. There is a bible crossword and bible quiz. There are quotes, jokes and riddles. And there is material on format, plus lots of other delights.

MediaCom has run a successful course for local church paper editors in Adelaide and the next one is in Melbourne at the Mission of St James and St John, 8-12 Batman St., West Melbourne from 9 to 5 on Saturday July 4. Write for registration forms to Tony Nancarrow at the address above.

The Christian and Work

I.T.I.M. is running study groups this winter (five in each place), for men and women interested in Christian attitudes to technology, automation, competition from underdeveloped countries, unemployment and women in the work force. They culminate in a weekend conference in August. Study kits will be available. The cost of the program is \$7.50 per person. Information available from Box 1868R, Melbourne, 3001, or by phoning (03) 63 7175.

By the way Allan . . . How is Bill Mills going?



Bill Mills is associate minister at Frankston church. Bill does not want to be called the minister of the church because that implies that he carries the responsibility of the church. He wants to be a minister working in the church, but not responsible for it all.

Bill is a little over 60, and for quite a while after entering the ministry his health was poor. When the Board of Management of the church invited ministers to apply for a position as second minister of the church, Bill was one of the applicants.

Despite the fact that he was older than any other applicant, despite his indifferent health, the elders recommended Bill Mills above seven or eight others who applied. They are some of the reasons for the question, "How is Bill Mills going?"

Late Starter

Bill was a late starter, entering the N.S.W. Bible College at 44 years of age. He has had ministries at Peel Street and Yarrawonga.

Since his arrival at Frankston nearly two years ago, there have been over 70 additions to the church, the offerings have risen over \$200, the church has employed a youth minister and has now added a paid pastoral worker to the team.

Bill is Chairman of the Committee for Growth, Outreach and Development, sometimes known as the G.O.D. Committee.

With over 1,000 people using the buildings of the church each week, one of Bill's main functions is to capitalise on the opportunities that are presented to the church week by week. He has done that in great fashion.

Increase and Development

Because of the development and increase, the church is also planning a second stage to its present buildings costing \$200,000. Bill exhibits other skills, especially with the pen. He contributes weekly to the church's 12 page paper. He writes feature articles for the local paper, and writes and produces sketches for the evening services. If Bill was not a minister of the church he could well earn his money writing for television. So in answer to the question — How is Bill Mills going? — we will let the result speak for themselves.

— Allan Avery

OPEN FORUM

Correspondents are requested to say only what is true, kind, necessary and Christian, and to say it in no more than 160 words.

Thank You.

To the Editor,

It is with Christian love and deep gratitude that I say "thank you" to the people in our Brotherhood, who have so generously and lovingly ministered to us throughout our years of ministry.

I genuinely appreciated the love and thanks expressed at the "Recognition Service." Like many others we minister because God called us, we committed our lives to him, and because we love people.

Please accept this as a personal "thank you", and be assured that our Christian love is for you.

— Lesley Stirling.

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

To the Editor,

Some comments on Owen Wainwright's letter (A.C. Feb. 7).

1. The church has been misguided in the past, sometimes with horrifying consequences. It is quite possible that the official attitude is wrong on the divorce/remarriage question.

2. Historical attitude to divorce is based on a literal interpretation of Matt. 19:6. It begs the question 'How do you know if a particular couple is joined by God?'

3. God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen. 1:18). Paul said "It is better to marry than to burn with passion" (1 Cor. 7:8). Surely this applies to the divorcee as much as anyone else?

4. "Sin is always accompanied by consequences as well as punishment. "If this is true then the converse will often be true. One would not then expect the harmonious survival of a remarriage, nor evidence of God's blessings, but this is often the case.

5. The law of Moses allowing divorce was a concession to man's fallen condition. Are we not still in that fallen condition? (Rom. 3:23).

My intention in raising these questions is not to be divisive but to show that the theology of the divorce/remarriage problem is more complex than the literal application of two verses.

— Peter Fletcher (Adelaide, S.A.)

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

GOAL SETTING

To the Editor,

Our previous minister was a great believer in setting goals. We all agreed with him of course. How could you disagree with such a self-giving, committed enthusiast. He was usually right anyway! So he would set us an annual goal for a net increase in membership.

In earlier years of his ministry we always reached the annual goal. There were plenty of young people round then and a couple of membership classes would get us well on the way. Also our minister was a great visitation evangelist. When we reached the annual goal it was about 99% his efforts and about 1% our support and prayers. Then for the last two or three years we failed to reach the goals and we went cool on the goal idea.

Then in comes our new minister and encourages the board to set goals again, including a net increase in membership of 50. I decided to use the forthcoming annual business meeting to exercise my democratic right to object to setting unrealistic goals, or in fact, any goals at all, as they seemed to be a carrot in front of the church donkey that would always be out of reach, and thus in the long run be very discouraging.

But I've scrapped my business meeting speech because our new minister has shown us how we can reach the goal by easily attainable steps, all neatly time tabled, and involving all of us according to our various abilities and resources. It's got something to do with lists of reachable people, and socialising in our homes with these people and the minister and his wife, and special church occasions to help these people to get the feel of what we are on about, and gearing auxiliaries for growth and all leading up to commitment visitation.

It seems a sure way whereby even donkeys like our lot can eventually get to our carrot.

Hoping you are the same,
Tertius.

Traralgon is First in

The Traralgon (Vic.) church is the first to apply for free copies of the Special Outreach Issue of "The Australian Christian".

The churches of Traralgon are sharing in a canvass of the whole area to discover the affiliations or non-affiliations of the people who live there.

The minister, Des Symes, believes that there will be enough names in the housing area surrounding the church building to keep her pastoral team going for some time. They plan to use the free copies of the Outreach Issue as part of their plan.

We refer readers to "Page 13" of the February 7 issue. Churches are invited to write with their questions or with their applications for free copies, accompanied by suggestions as to how they will be used.

The Church in China

A new national organization called the Chinese Christian Council has been set up in China to deal with religious affairs.

The Council was set up by the Third National Congress of the Protestant Church in China, which was held in Nanking on October 6-13 with 176 delegates from all parts of the country. A statement issued at the end of the Congress said the new Council will be in charge of all kinds of pastoral ministries, train clergymen to be "fit for the Lord's use," publish Bibles and devotional materials, and strengthen its contacts with Christians and churches everywhere.

It stated that the Church of China, while maintaining its "three-self, patriotic cause," is willing to have "equal and friendly communication" with churches outside China, and to promote Christian fellowship "under the principle of mutual respect." It also pledged to continue "to make all efforts in defending the religious freedom of the public," and "help the government to fully implement its policy of religious freedom."

○ Vic.-Tas.

Bruce Alcorn new President Elect

The Secretary of the Victorian/Tasmanian Conference announces the appointment of F. Bruce Alcorn, B.A., B.Ed., as President-Elect of Conference for the Conference Year 1981/82. Mr Alcorn will assume the office of Conference President from Conference 1982.

Mr Alcorn's grandparents and parents were members of our churches in Queensland. Mr Alcorn was baptised at Sunnybank in Queensland in December 1938. He was educated at the Ipswich Boys' Grammar School. For a brief period in 1941 he assisted H. E. Greenwood in the ministry in the South Brisbane circuit. In June 1941 he was invited by the Queensland Home Mission Department to become minister to the church at Mackay. He entered the College of the Bible in 1943 and served as student minister at Emerald and Reservoir. He served at Reservoir full-time in 1946 and he married Pearl McInnes who was then Kindergarten Superintendent, Good Companions and Phi Beta Pi Leader. Mr Alcorn then undertook a full-time ministry with the church at Maryborough, Victoria. Mr Alcorn then entered the Victorian Education Department and graduated in Arts and Education at the Melbourne University, and has had teaching experience at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Whilst teaching, Mr Alcorn conducted an eight years ministry at Sunshine, a second ministry of nine years at Reservoir, a nine years ministry at Footscray and is now in his sixth year of his second ministry at Sunshine.

Since 1973 Mr Alcorn has taken a leading role in the Western Region Outreach Committee and assisted in the establishment of the new churches at Werribee, Gisborne and Melton. He has also been involved in Community Church Council activities in the Sunshine area.



Mr and Mrs Alcorn have three daughters, one, Joy deceased; Lynette, Mrs Athol Leach of East Kellor; and Dorothy, Mrs Russell Allison, wife of the Associate Minister at Launceston.

Mr Alcorn will bring to the office of President a graciousness, a knowledge of the Brotherhood, a sense of deep commitment and a capacity for leadership, which will greatly enrich the life of our churches.

Thank You

The Vic.-Tas. Conference Executive wishes to acknowledge the receipt of an anonymous gift of \$1,000 to the Brotherhood. This gift was received in December from a church in Gippsland.

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP — 1982

A scholarship of \$2,250 is available for overseas study for a period of a year or less in 1982 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, 1981.

Application forms are available now from:-

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN
P.O. BOX 101, ESSENDON NORTH, VIC. 3041
Phone (02) 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.

Maharashtra Campaign Report

Hazel Skuco

The count down has begun and there are only 28 days left for the Maharashtra thrust. The question in everyone's mind is, "Has it achieved what the campaign set out to achieve?"

From our point of view it has more than achieved its aim. Local churches have been mobilized with regular evangelism and revival meetings. Not only have the Love Maharashtra Outreach teams been out working in the villages, but many churches have formed their own teams and they have been visiting villages, going on cycles and motor cycles holding evangelistic meetings and selling Christian literature. We have a very energetic men's team here in Baramati. Some have taken half of their annual leave now, so that they can do this work, others have taken leave without pay. Some of the young girls have been going out every day with the team here. The two teams working in Poona with the University and college students reported that 11 students have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Bible Study groups have been started in some colleges. There has been such a demand for literature that many of the teams have run out. The Baramati team has had literature brought out three times from Poona.

The teams moved out from Nasik on December 8, and up until January 31, we had received 2617 letters. Some of these letters needed replies, others were sent the first set of lessons on the Gospel of John. I shudder every time I see our daily postage account.

We have also been able to send addresses into Love Maharashtra Outreach, Poona, and these have been sent out to the teams concerned in the areas where the enquiries are from. The people have been contacted within a week

to 10 days from first writing to us. We have been receiving small gifts from people here to help us in the work.

Singapore John

A man of 81 years sent in 50c. In 1914 he ran away from home and ended up in Singapore, hence the name. In 1957 he became a Christian and was baptized on March 3. In his letter he said, "I am not an educated man, but I love my Lord. I spend my time in reading God's Word and witnessing to others." His gift was to help someone else to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ.

K. G. Ahote (Nagaland)

Sent the equivalent of 45c in stamps. He writes, "Through your work I have come to understand about God and his word. I want to help you to help others to understand about Jesus Christ also. The widow woman gave her mite and God blessed her."

Prakash (Ratnagiri)

"I have heard about the Christian religion for many years, but I was always too ashamed to go and buy any Christian literature. A few days ago a group of Christian people came to our village, holding open air meetings and selling Christian literature. I bought some, which I have already read, and I want to learn more now about the Lord Jesus Christ." He has already received his first set of lessons on the gospel of John and within a few days he will have a couple of members from the team calling on him.

Shrikrushn (Khamgoan)

M.Sc. (Maths.): He has written and asked for studies on the Life of Christ. He writes, "I don't believe in any religion. Without proof I will not believe in any religion." He has been sent lessons and a team member will visit. It will be a person

who can meet him on his own intellectual level.

Anukurdo (Nanded)

"I have received your books and read them. From childhood I have had love for the Christian religion, but while I was a minor I could not do anything. Now that I am an adult my desire is to become a Christian." He has already been visited by team members.

These are just a few letters taken from the hundreds that we have received. We can see the deep hunger that people have in their hearts. There are only 28 days left and the question is, "After Love Maharashtra, what?" There will still be need to follow up all those who have been contacted and continual prayer for those who have purchased the gospel packs. The seed has been in the hearts of thousands of people during these last months, so let us do our part in upholding them in prayer.

Melton Induction



Martin Rees, Lyn Kenworthy, Alan Niven, Ian Tippett with Bruce Alcorn.

February 1, 1981 was an exciting day for Melton church as they shared in an induction service for their new student ministers, Martin Rees and Lyn Kenworthy, and a celebration of the commencement of the pastoral oversight of the Werribee church. The service was led by Alan Niven, Werribee minister, with the induction charge being read by Bruce Alcorn, Sunshine minister and secretary of W.R.O.C. The new venture sees co-operation between the Department of Mission, Education and Development and the churches of the region. Ian Tippett, field director with the Department, led the induction prayer.

CLUBS FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

Churches of Christ have clubs for Singles (people who are unmarried, separated, widowed or divorced) in the following centres:—

DONCASTER: One-Upl (03) 848 1546 or 848 8636

ALBURY: Albury Singles Club (060) 25 1910.

NUNAWADDING: Unhitched (03) 877 6077 or 873 4531

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

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

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

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

Les Lawlor says ...

I stand behind every Lawlor Pest Control job personally — all types of buildings — anywhere Everything unconditionally guaranteed! Weeds — birds on roofs — Argentine and all other ants — "White Ants" — Borers — Carpet Pests — Lawn Pests, in fact any pest that grows, walks or flies.

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Posted within 14 days. Order, cheque and stamped, addressed envelope to:

R. L. Salmon,

24 Mount St., Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150

BOOKS TO READ

FOR THOSE WE LEAVE BEHIND

By Ray Maltby \$1.00.

Earlier the "A.C." reviewed Ray Maltby's book "Merchants of Death" which presented both positive and negative aspects of funeral directing in Australia. Some of our readers have reported that some booksellers do not stock it (see below). In the review we mentioned Maltby's booklet "For Those We Leave Behind" and his claim that it should be in every home. Having now read it we agree with him. As every family will face the death of a family member at some time it is important that each family should have knowledge of what to do in relation to death, burial and their sequel. This booklet provides this information in concise, clear and readable form. It tells what to do when death occurs, how to make arrangements with funeral directors and ministers, and what to expect. It gives details about costs and about different types and places of funeral services. It provides an extensive list of required details that funeral directors need to know. Both books may be ordered direct from Ray Maltby, 24 Patman Street, Strathpine, Q., 4500. "Merchants of Death" \$2. "For Those We Leave Behind" \$1.00. Sixty cents should be added for postage. These prices have been lowered so that the author does not profit from death.

MEDICINE AND THE CHRISTIAN MIND

edited by Allister Vale (I.V.P.)

The Christian faith provides us with ethical principles on which to base our medical practice. Medical students will find in this small book an attempt has been made to look at attitudes adopted by leading British Clinicians to the caring of persons. All of the writers have achieved prominence in their own specialities. The book does not aim to be a comprehensive review of ethics within medicine but rather highlights several areas of concern e.g. research on patients, euthanasia, abortion, death and dying. An attempt is made to discuss the difficult area of a science orientated University training and person orientated Christian attitude. Many Christian medical students find psychiatry a disturbing subject within the curriculum. Tension points have a need to be examined so that one's faith may be enlarged.

— Clifford Warmbrunn

WILLIAM BARCLAY, THE PLAIN UNCOMMON MAN

by R. D. Kernonan (Hodder & Stoughton) \$12.95

William Barclay could well be described as Christianity's greatest communicator in the 20th Century. These essays and reminiscences assess his effectiveness as scholar, teacher and communicator.

For many years, more people heard William Barclay lecturing on Jesus and the New Testament via their television sets, than attended all of the churches of Britain put together.

These essays underline his humility and humanity. He was always a man with a pastoral heart and a passionate concern to make the gospel understandable and relevant to the working man.

He was unique as a communicator. He possessed neither the natural talent nor the appearance of a typical television personality, yet he excelled in both radio and television.

The underside of his success was the resentfulness and jealousy so pointedly aimed at him from his professional, academic and ministerial colleagues. Years after Barclay was world famous on his television programs, the B.B.C. in London still didn't think that anything from Scotland was worthy of English transmission! His fellow ministers constantly undercut him, and his academics in the university always belittled his theological standing. After 17 years of lecturing in the Department of Divinity and Biblical Criticism in the Glasgow University, it was evident that he would be appointed Professor. Colleagues campaigned against him. Long after his appointment

their campaign continued. "Appointment to this illustrious Chair should have dispelled all doubt about his standing as a scholar. In practice, his appointment, coming so begrudged by his clerical and academic peers, was to keep this alive to the end of his days." (page 13).

The root cause was resentfulness at his success as a communicator. His detractors wrote and talked to themselves while Barclay spoke to the plain man in millions. They denounced his theology as years out of date, and his approach as being either too conservative, or too liberal, but, like his Master, the common people heard him gladly.

Barclay was a unique mixture — an old fashioned liberal in approach and critical method, while being theologically conservative.

The sneer was made: "Meer populariser!" What a wonderful tribute to a man who brought the gospel to ordinary people in a manner they understood.

— Gordon Moyes —

FOR US HE DIED

by H. P. V. Renner (Lutheran Publishing) \$0.80.

A book of 47 meditations designed to help prepare people for Easter. Each devotion includes a Bible reading, meditations on the reading and related to Easter as well as a prayer. 20 special additional prayer resources are given at the back of the book. This is an ideal small booklet to be used at this time of the year.

The most recent Zadok Centre paper is "Leisure: A Study of its Relation to Work and Society" written by Graeme Smith who lectures in Labour Relations at Sydney University. This is an examination of the place of leisure in Australian society and the various definitions that are needed to discuss questions in this area. There is no attempt to look at the theology of work and leisure. The paper is obtainable from the Zadok Centre, 13 Edgar St., Ainslie A.C.T. 2606.

Unless otherwise stated books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: **Keewick-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.**



"I miss the dial. Somehow it doesn't seem proper to 'Punch A Prayer'."

HAPPENINGS

A Bible correspondence course program has doubled its first press run of 5000 to 10,000 because of great demand by Bible students in China, especially those ministering among village house churches.

Jewish Evangelical Fellowship has changed its name to David House Fellowship. The reason for the change was that the old title was offensive to the people they were hoping to reach for Christ.

Forty percent of all forests in the Third World will be gone by the year 2000 according to the US Global 2000 Report. The result of this massive deforestation is widespread soil erosion and reduced areas in which to grow crops.

The World Health Organization reports that sleeping sickness is raging out of control in Uganda. WHO says that

there has been 15,000 cases reported in 1980 resulting in 200 deaths. The disease is carried by the Tsetse fly. The fly has multiplied since all efforts to control it were stopped by former president, Idi Amin.

At least 100,000 copies of the Chinese Bible will be printed in mainland China in 1981.

A 20-year survey of attitudes towards war reveals that Christians in the U.S.A., Canada and West Germany tend to look upon war more favourably than do non-Christians.

World Vision has responded to a new refugee problem. It has granted \$25,000 to the Sudan Council of Churches to be used to provide food, medicine and tents to Chad refugees. The people have fled the civil war in Chad and are now in camps in Western Sudan.

Theological education will resume in February at the Chinling Theological Seminary in Nanking. The first student body consists of 50 young people.

In May parishioners of St. Lawrence's Liverpool, U.K., will be moving into their new church building — a renovated supermarket. Their old church was declared unsafe 10 years ago because of dry rot.

More than 60 Protestant and Catholic churches have now been reopened in mainland China. A total of 58 Protestant and Catholic churches were reopened between September 1979 and September 1980.

One in three of America's adults are Roman Catholic — up from one in five in 1947. Two main reasons are the high birth rate among Catholic families and an increasing Hispanic population.

The Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association have resumed the activities of their local and national committees in Shanghai.

A priest was battered to death for holding a religious service in an Albanian prison camp, according to word reaching the Slav Missionary Society in Stockholm. This was the first reported death of a clergyman in Albania since 1973.

The number of Protestant believers has doubled or tripled within the last decade in Central American nations according to recent figures. The influence of the charismatic movement, religious freedom and political unrest and natural disasters have promoted new religious awareness and ultimately the evangelical cause.

diary

- NATIONAL**
March
 22 Annual Offering —
 Aborigines Mission
April
 17 Good Friday
TASMANIA
March
 28-29 Annual
 Convention-Nubeena
VICTORIA
March
 24 C.W.F. March
Effort
 24 Young Adults Tea
 27 Aborigines Mission
 Special Fellowship
 Tea
 27-29 Youth
 Happening
 28 Explorer Swim
 Night
 29 Brotherhood Day
 of Prayer
April
 3-5 C.W.F. Camp,
 Halls Gap
 4 Good Companions
 Outdoor Sports
 4 Youthquake
 12 C.M.F. Annual
 Rally
 16-20 Young People's
 Easter Camp
 30—May 3 Vic. Tas.
 Annual Conference

INNER SPRINGS

"BY THEIR FRUITS . . ."

It was my first experience at picking raspberries and I felt I had done quite well until the owner of the orchard came by and surveyed my results. "You must have missed some" he said gently, "See, you have come all that way and you only have that many. Come back with me and I'll help you." Soon my bowl was filled to overflowing with the luscious berries. What a parable of life, I thought, as I searched for the delightful fruit that hung suspended and jewel-like beneath the leaves.

In his letters to the churches at Galatia Paul speaks of the presence of the Holy Spirit producing fruit — love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance . . . the results of a close and loving relationship with the Lord. With further emphasis he adds, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." But to our shame and discomfort we know that we don't.

Instead, we rush to and fro filling our days with numerous activities designed to make us happy functional human beings, whilst supposedly improving the condition of the world at the same time. And yet every so often we are brought up with a start to realize that so far as Christian characteristics are concerned — the fruits of the Spirit — we have a near empty bowl! We have turned a deaf ear to the words of Jesus. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Surely he will have something to say if we have a look at his life — his silence in the face of unjust accusation, his peace in the face of derision and rejection, his acceptance of pain and undeserved suffering, his gentle strength in the face of violence and cruelty — and learned nothing! "By their fruits ye shall know them" leaves us with something to think about, and act upon if we are truly his.

Has some one seen Christ in you today?
 Christian look you your heart, I pray.
 The little things you have done or said
 Did they accord with the way you prayed?
 Have your thoughts been pure, and

your words been kind?
 Have you sought to have the
 Saviour's mind?

The world with a criticising view
 Has watched — but did it see Christ
 in you?

Gal. 5:22-26

Florence Rosler

The Old becomes New

Towards the end of 1979 the Edwardstown, S.A. church had to face the need to increase seating capacity in the chapel to meet anticipated growth. Plans for the chapel extensions were developed and approved and that work is now nearing completion.

The feature of the extensions is that the original chapel when the church commenced 40 years ago is once again part of the chapel area after being relegated to the status of the "old hall" for many years. The original entranceway is once again fulfilling that function.

The adaptation of the original building into the chapel area together with other upgrading works has resulted in a significant improvement in the church's facilities.

The church has been fortunate that it is able to finance the modifications and extensions from investments made available to the church in its early days.

In recognition of the benefits received from the foresight of their pioneers the Edwardstown church is holding a special Thanksgiving service on March 29. The offering on that day will be used as a love gift from Edwardstown to assist the building programs being entered into by the pioneers of new ventures in the growth areas of Adelaide today.

The church at Edwardstown is thanking God for the foresight of its pioneers.

THE ABORIGINAL DILEMMA

Page 13

God is making us into compassionate people. This happens to us when we are surrendered to him. Because we are being made compassionate we care greatly about our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

WE REJOICE

Because God is making us compassionate we rejoice in the excellent work being done by Churches of Christ through the Aborigines Mission Board, which is out of all proportion to our size as a people. We rejoice in the children who grew up in the missions and became committed Christians and solid citizens. We break our hearts over those who did not, and still pray for them. We rejoice in the outreach work in tribal areas, in towns, in cities and on the reserves. We rejoice in the Aboriginal church. We rejoice in the outstanding work of the Aborigines Evangelical Fellowship and that it is being supported by mainline churches, including our own, without strings tied, as a truly indigenous movement.

EVANGELISM

Because we are compassionate we are deeply involved in evangelism amongst Aborigines. To come to a liberating knowledge of Jesus Christ is the best thing that can happen to any Aboriginal person, especially if he can be nurtured in a caring, accepting Christian fellowship.

OTHER CONCERNS

But because we are compassionate we are not only concerned about the evangelization of the Aboriginal people. We are concerned about their social and economic and political well being. We are concerned that Aborigines have the highest incidence of leprosy in the world, that they have almost the highest infant mortality rate (only Dahomey and Togo have higher), and the highest trachoma-induced blindness rate in the world. We are concerned about discrimination in some communities, about alcohol problems (often encouraged by profiteering whites), about squalid conditions on the reserves, about job discrimination, and about the ruinous nature of some "handouts" initially designed to be helpful, or at least as a sign that the authorities are doing something.

And we all have a hunch that somehow in matters of justice and fair play a lot of Aboriginal people are not getting a fair go. And we have an uneasy feeling that when the chips are down, big government, big bureaucracy and big business will usually win at Aboriginal expense.

COMPLEX

Here lies the problem. We are all agreed about the need for evangelism and how to go about it. We are all agreed about the need for social, economic, political and racial justice for the Aboriginal people. But we are seriously divided as to how to go about it. It is such a complex issue.

Some say that it is a matter for the secular authorities and that the church should stick to religious matters. Shades of Dr Goebbels and the Nazis! Some say that the only hope is to evangelize the Aborigines and that then their conditions will

change. But evangelism is moving far too slowly for that, and meanwhile countless Aborigines and their families are suffering from injustice, including some whom we have evangelized. And we would have to evangelize a lot of whites who are responsible for much of the unhappy conditions of many Aborigines. Compassionate Christians want to do something practical now as well as to evangelize them.

ABORIGINES DIFFER

Another complexity is that Aborigines themselves differ about what they want, and what they want is not always what they need. And they are subject to pressure groups, political, anthropological, commercial, religious, and humanitarian, all with different ideas about what is good for them. And there are some who wittingly or otherwise are willing to use the Aborigines for their own political, social or commercial advantage. Even the most naive amongst us must be wondering how it is that the oil and minerals of Australia always seem to lurk underneath sacred sites.

My observation of Christian attitudes has been disappointing. The attitude of most Christians I speak to is unashamedly coloured by the policies of the political parties they support at state and federal levels.

WHAT TO DO?

Does this mean that apart from evangelism Christians should do and say nothing because the issues are far too complex for us to fully understand? Does this mean that if a "Noonkanbah situation" crops up again somewhere, we are to remain silent because politicians, Aborigines and other experts are divided on the matter?

WE CANNOT REMAIN SILENT

We cannot remain silent because God is creating us into compassionate people who must speak and act, even if we are not always sure about what to say or do, and even if as Christians we come to different conclusions about what to say and do. It is better to be mistaken and seem to care than to be circumspectly silent and seem to be indifferent.

COMPASSION MEANS ACTION

So we will be even more fully active in supporting the Federal Aborigines Mission Board's programs of evangelism and welfare because as compassionate people we can do no other. But because we are compassionate we will also be involved in talk and action that may lead to a better deal for our native people. Even if we are mistaken at times, and even if we are castigated by those who put their politics before their compassion, we are at least creating an atmosphere which will keep those in authority on their toes, at least to appear to be doing the right thing by our Aboriginal people.



It's hard work carrying water and digging in the fields for food. In places like Indonesia this is women's work. World Vision seeks to ease the burdens of women.

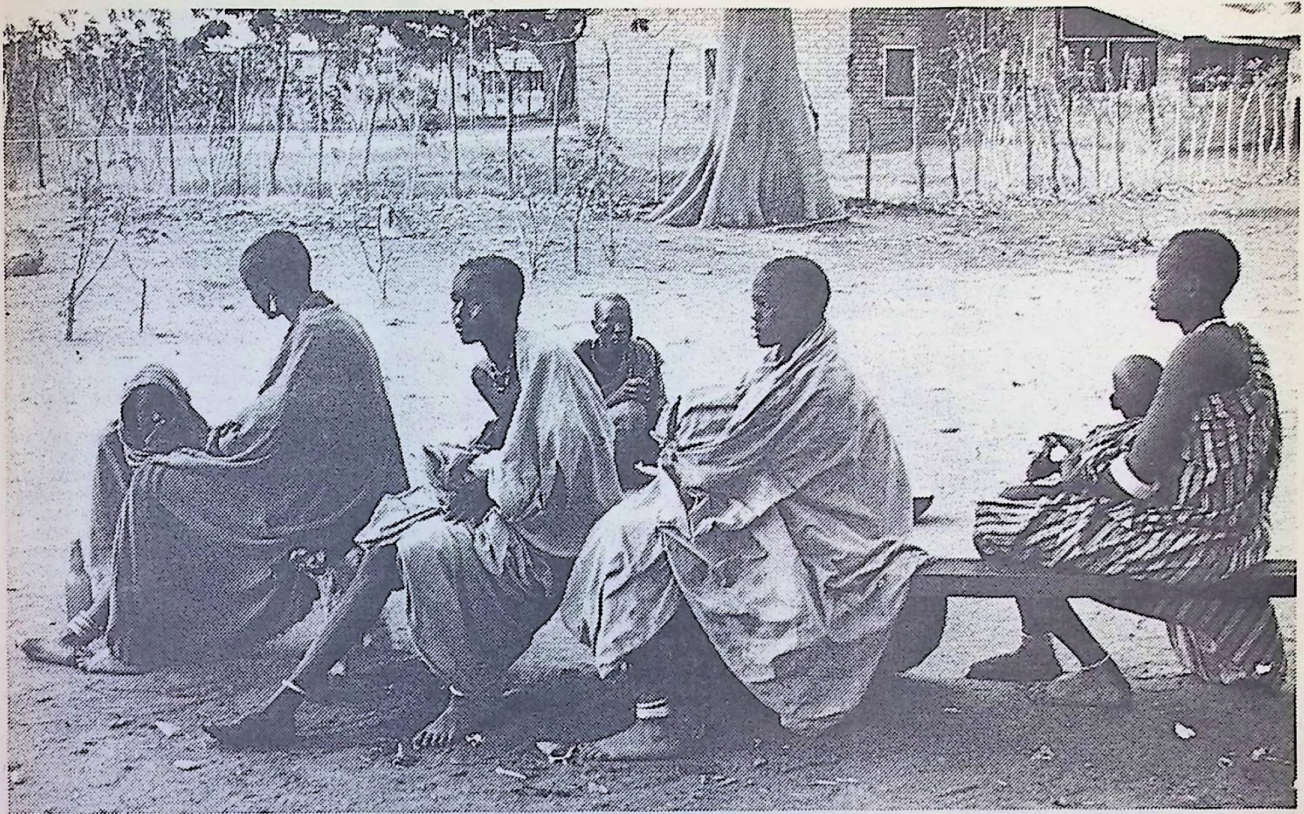
No spare time to visit a hairdresser

It seems reasonable to think that because a family is poor there is not much work to do. In fact, poor families, especially the mothers, in developing nations have to work harder to survive.

The rural African mother works seventeen hours a day, seven days a week. This includes working in the

fields, feeding the family, collecting the water, looking after the children and her household duties. If the mother becomes too ill to work, the family is in crisis.

Without the labour of women the national economies of developing countries would collapse. In Bangladesh 90 percent of women are



Women wait at Thiet Clinic. Over three hundred babies die in the Sudan every day. Many die needlessly, perhaps of tetanus because the umbilical cord was tied with a piece of grass. World Vision assist the mothers of the area with general medical aid, hygiene and child welfare work.

engaged in agriculture. In Africa 60-80 percent of all agricultural work is done by women.

Through World Vision's Project Partners, women in developing countries are assisted in achieving their role within their family and community. World Vision International Clubs make it possible for Australian women to help bring about change in the lives of these women.

World Vision seeks to assist women achieve their true dignity. This is one way the mandate of St. Paul can be brought to reality: "There is no difference...between men and women. You are all one in union with Jesus."



WORLD VISION OF AUSTRALIA

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Aboriginal Witness in Western Australia

Carnarvon

This is the largest of our fields and is under the guidance of Field Superintendent **Ron Roberts**. Most of the work centres around **Ingada Village** some five miles east of Carnarvon on the northern bank of the Gascoyne River. Situated there are the Children's Homes, Aged People's Area, plus the Mission office, store and workshop. There is a fruit orchard, vegetables are grown when water is available. Pigs are raised and since the commencement of the work fowls have been kept for supplying eggs to the District Hospital and for mission use. There are in excess of 30 buildings of varying kinds including some flats.

The children attend schools in town, being transported on our own school buses. The Aged Person's area caters for folk, who live in their own separate huts or in the three flats. Those in the huts eat at a communal dining room which is staffed by mission personnel. Community Health Sisters make regular visits but staff see that medicines are taken correctly and assist with pension allowances, shopping and medical appointments.

Hostels situated in the town of Carnarvon are much like family situations with varying age children from babyhood to 15. This assists with assimilation and the townsfolk readily accept the mission family as part of the community. The planters and market gardeners generally also accept the work we are seeking to do and we would pay tribute to the many who regularly give surplus and unsaleable produce to us for our own use or for pig food.

Our town work centres around the **Christian Centre** complex of chapel and hall. The Carnarvon church which meets there is autonomous and their highlight last year was to induct their new minister **Barrie Yesberg**.

Outreach to the wider fields of the North West and Eastward to **Meekatharra**, **Jigalong** and **Warburton Range** area comes in this sphere of our work. **Onslow**, **Looma** and **Port Hedland** are included as separate fields but are directed by the Carnarvon Field Superintendent.

During this year the accommodation for parents was completed allowing folk to stay at Ingada Village. A camping area also became a reality. The other major event was the flood waters, isolating and covering most of Ingada Village. State Emergency Services evacuated the aged Aboriginal people by helicopter. Damage was mostly confined to fences and roads. The Resources Centre with 18" of water covering the floor, and the cottage occupied Mr and Mrs Edwards and family were the only buildings affected.

A problem to be faced as this report is written, is the need to replace the main water supply pipeline from the river to the village. The cost being in the vicinity of \$19,000.

We have approximately 85 children in our care and are under pressure from the Community Welfare Dept. to accept others.

**ABORIGINES
OFFERING
MARCH 15
JESUS GAVE OF HIMSELF
TO BRING FREEDOM.
GIVE OF YOURSELF TO
BRING FREEDOM TO THE
ABORIGINES.**



Aboriginal Outreach from
Carnarvon, W.A.

Looma

Although we do not have resident staff here we are pleased to report that there is spiritual growth in this village. Each person from school age upwards has some responsibility to share in the development of the area under the guidance of the village leaders. It is anticipated that the church will apply for affiliation with the W.A. Conference this year.

Port Hedland

Ross and Helen Norling are pioneering this work. They are accepted and God has opened the way for them to have contact with many people, giving them access to **Yandeyarra Station** and **Strelley Station**. **Allan Pallett** and **Sonny Graham** of **Norseman**, have visited and conducted meetings over a wide area as has **Ray Schmitt**, Perth, Liaison worker.

Onslow

It is 12 months since work re-commenced here. **Neil and Anne Ewart** lived in a caravan but are now in a rented house. Neil is teaching young men carpentry, under the N.E.A.T. Scheme and Anne is involved in home-making instruction. Services are conducted and people are responding to the gospel.

Bamburra Hostel, Yokine, Perth

Phillip and June Jackson have completed their second year caring for 10 girls who attend High School. Morning worship is at the **Nollamara** church and evenings at the **Nyoongah Centre**. Camps with the **Nyoongah** church as well as their own Hostel camps are enjoyed. **Phil** does emergency purchasing for other W.A. fields.

Perth Metropolitan area

Access to all correctional institutions is accorded **Raymond Schmitt** and also to most hostels. With contact with **Aborigines Missions** over 27 years, it is little wonder that when Ray meets an Aborigine he soon finds some relation to whom he refers to keep the conversation going. **Raymond** and **Peggy Schmitt** share in the work of the **Nyoongah Centre**.

Roelands Village

It is now five years since we accepted this field and we can praise God for his help. **Avon Moyle**, Superintendent has a loyal band of workers. There are two spheres of work at this village. The children's work, being much like

Carnarvon and **Norseman** and the farm and orchard work, with sheep and cattle.

Many of the children come from the North West, following visits by Superintendent and House parents to northern centres. Parents have felt it good to send their children to a hostel with Christian principles. The grapefruit orchards continue to provide much fruit but of course it is very labor intensive.

Outreach to many towns was led by **Viv and Win Hoskin** and later by **Mr and Mrs Rob Parkes**. Some outreach sharing is done with the **Collie** church. **Bunbury** church is also in touch and gives some voluntary work. Religious instruction is given in a number of schools.

The hay and machinery shed, which was destroyed by fire early in the year has been replaced by two separate sheds which were erected by staff assisted by the **Mobile Mission Maintenance Team**.

We thank Perth churches for assisting by sending teams to conduct the morning worship once a month, and to those who have voluntarily assisted with painting and other ways. Enquiries from volunteers are always invited for there are many things that can be done.

At **Busselton**, **Roelands Village** campsite provides a holiday area for **Roelands** and other missions as well as for many church people. This site is being improved by each successive caretaker.



Norseman

This, our longest established, mission is under the Superintendency of **Sonny Graham**, one of our own graduates. **Norseman Training Centre** is nine miles from the town, and there are two hostels in town. Usually there are about 50 children in our care. Poultry supplies eggs for the town and mission use, pigs are raised and vegetables grown. Mission staff are actively engaged in the management and guidance of **Pugang Village**, an adult Aboriginal village which the Government set up in the buildings previously owned by the **Anaconda Mining Company**.

There is a **Christian Centre** work. Church folk were thrilled to have a new hall built with help from the **Mobile Mission Maintenance Team**. This work reaches out to townsfolk. **Mr and Mrs P. Spence** have been welcomed as pastor of the church. Anniversary time saw four adults deciding for Christ. Outreach Liaison Officer **Alan Pallett** is based at **Norseman** and does a fine work covering vast areas of the goldfields to far away places of **Cundeelee** and **Warburton Ranges**. Often children from these places come to **Norseman** and **Esperance** for school and training. **Alan** helps with Government contacts re-sacred sites and generally shares and guides them as they approach various officials.

Each Sunday morning a session is broadcast over **6KG Kalgoorle** and this is well received by

many, for whom it is their only "Church service."

Fairhaven Hostel — Esperance.

Fairhaven Hostel — Esperance has become well-known as a training centre for young ladies. Some come from Norseman for final years at school before going out to work. Others come from missions or tribal areas and work in suitable homes or places in town as well as receiving training at "Fairhaven." Hugh and Noleen Roose manage this work, with numerous calls for counselling there appears a great need for a Christian Centre work. Hopefully when this report is published the working girls and school girls will be in separate buildings. Church services are held at "Fairhaven."

Esperance Training Workshop



Apprentice-*Esperance*
Training Workshop, W.A.

This phase of our work under **Russell Rogan**, teaches young adult Aborigines welding, spray painting and panel beating. This year mechanics was added. One lad has completed his apprenticeship. Government officials praise this venture as the "most successful in Australia." Much equipment has been provided by the Aboriginal Education Authority. Work done is of the highest standard and sufficient work is always available to keep busy, welding of silos and plastic welding is included.

Aborigines Missions — Workers Urgently Needed.

The Aborigines Mission Board is facing the difficult decision of having to refuse admittance to Aboriginal children in need of care. Residential Child Care authorities in Western Australia state that eight children per home is considered to be the maximum. Accordingly your Aborigines Board has the task of either obtaining more workers or alternatively refusing accommodation to Aboriginal children and young people needing a home.

The Board and its large staff of workers are desperately striving to meet the new influx of children into our care this year. We would lay before people in our churches the need for married couples and single ladies to be home parents and offering for service on one of our fields. Opportunities for service and witness abound working together with a team of dedicated people at **Carnavon**, **Norseman** and **Roelands** in W.A. If you love children and have a desire to be used by God in this very wonderful way, write to the Federal Aborigines Board Office, 26 Marradong Street, Mt. Lawley W.A. 6050 and we will forward to you informative literature for your prayer and study.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN GAVE

- OF HIMSELF
- OF HIS SUBSTANCE

PLEASE HELP THE ABORIGINES

ANNUAL OFFERING
MARCH 15

**ABORIGINES
MISSION
ANNUAL
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MARCH 15**

Aborigines in Tasmania

It has long been believed that the Tasmanian Aborigine died out with the death of the woman **Sukey** in 1888 on Kangaroo Island. It is often said that the last Tasmanian Aborigine was **Truganini** who died in Tasmania in 1876. Whatever is said however, there still exist today many Tasmanian Aborigines who, while not being full-blood, are descendants from the original race of Aborigines who dwelt in Tasmania before the coming of the white man and the forcing of them to jump to their deaths at Cape Grim, an apt name.

In 1971 the census stated there were 671 descendants of the Tasmanian Aborigines and in 1976 this figure had increased to 2942. By now there would be a larger increase, so much so in fact that there has been a formation of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to promote the interests of the Aboriginal people and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has been asked to increase the size of the 35 member N.A.C. to provide direct representation for Tasmania.

Aboriginal land rights in Tasmania are as much an issue as they are in the rest of Australia and with this in mind **Trefoil Island**, a rocky outcrop making up the **Furneaux** group of islands, an area of approx. 100 hectares has been purchased for the use of the Tasmanian Aborigines. **Trefoil Island** has Tasmania's biggest commercial mutton bird rookery where the birds have traditionally been an important source of food for Aborigines in the early days. They are now used in the manufacture of sleeping bags and oil from their meat has been used as a preparation for Australian race horses. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre has said that the mutton birds had a deep significance to the original Tasmanian Aborigines who crossed to the islands in small bark canoes each year to catch them. It was hoped that other mutton bird islands in the **Furneaux** group including **Babel** and **Big Dog** Islands would eventually be acquired for the Aborigines. Aborigines are expected to run the mutton bird industry on **Trefoil Island** and also to develop a small pastoral holding there. This island will actually be the secondnd piece of land acquired for Tasmanian Aborigines. A building in **Launceston** formerly used as a headquarters for a stevedoring industry authority has already been bought. Thus, although there are no longer any fullblood Aborigines in Tasmania those who are descended from them are now coming into a little of their heritage.

OBITUARY

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

ANDERSON, H. E. G. (Bob).

Early in December H. E. G. (Bob) Anderson died. Bob Anderson reflected the love of God, to saint and sinner alike. He was always radiant: delighting to preach Christ. Jim Luff presided over the service, with Dr. Joe Devadatta of Vellore Christian Medical College, telling of 20 years' service at Tanakpur North India as a W.E.C. missionary. Bob lived in a town, terrible for its evil, studded with Hindu temples. Yet Bob saw a church formed as Indians were converted. His rare visits to Australia were short. He gave himself to these people, working alone for 20 years. Bob commenced a medical clinic, his only training being from the Casualty Department of Australian hospitals. He operated on the eye of a patient trusting God, while an armed bandit stood by. Often on horse back, Bob visited lonely villages, yearning to reach the Nepali people for his Lord, but this was closed to him. The Lama of Tibet fled to India. Bob met him and gave him a Tibetan Bible and Gospels in his mother tongue. Harold Steward told of Bob's conversion more than 40 years ago at Strathalbyn, where several elderly ladies persevered in prayer for his conversion. After continually mocking at open air preaching in Rundle St., Bob met the Lord. Bob's conversion shook Strathalbyn and Macclesfield. During life in the Royal Australian Air Force, Bob freely testified and lived with God. Missionary and Bible College saw the moulding of this man of God. His missionary passion was for India, despite God's blessing upon him as a student pastor in the Churches of Christ. Ross Gaskin, Secretary for W.E.C. in S.A., prayed and praised God for victory as Bob's remains were committed. God had given to Bob and Noel, his wife of 10 years a deeply blessed union in Christ Jesus. Each of the family spoke of God's comfort, and his adopted family, Greg, Jacki, Mignon, Belinda and their partners blessed God for all that "Uncle" Bob had meant to them.

Harold Steward

BLACKSTOCK, Elizabeth.

(16.2.81) — On Monday, February 16, in the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Betty Blackstock died after an illness that had spanned most of 1980. With her death, another link with the history of the church was severed. Betty was one of eight children, the daughter of John and Isobella Williamson, who were among the pioneer families of the community. She married Kel Blackstock in 1946, and to their marriage were born two children, John and Ruth. The death of Kel four years ago, and more recently, the death of her grand-daughter in childhood, were tragic blows from which Betty never really recovered. Betty was greatly loved by the church at Doncaster, having been associated with it through all her life. Although she was not, by her own description, a "spectacular person", it is not without significance that she was an active member of seven community agencies and auxiliaries. Her record was one of reliability and service, and she was a giver in every sense of the word. Betty was a woman of

faith, and her warm support, happy smile and beautiful spirit will be sadly missed by all who knew her. The service in the Doncaster church drew together a capacity congregation, indicating the high regard so many people had for this gracious and gentle lady. The church shares with John and Allison, Ruth and Colin, and their children, their experience of grief, but also we share something of the pride of having known such a gracious and compassionate woman.

FARVIS, Rhoda.

(6.2.81). The church at Red Hill lost one of its most cheerful members when Rhoda Farvis died at the age of 64. She was the youngest member of the Bowring family and had lived in the Red Hill — Dromana area most of her life. As a young woman she joined the church and was actively associated with the Red Hill congregation until her marriage to Ray Farvis and her removal to Dromana where she worshipped with a Methodist congregation. She worked with her husband on their market garden and brought up their three children, Nancy (Mrs Chu), Dawn (Mrs Stone) and Francis. Her husband, Ray, died 18 years ago and she maintained her family despite hardship and the onset of arthritis. She faced and overcame her difficulties with hard work, faith in God and a cheerful spirit. In later years she was actively involved in the life and worship of the church at Red Hill until increasing infirmity caused her to move into the Frankston Adam Clark Village. She will be affectionately remembered by her brothers, Eddie and Harold, her sister Mrs Littlejohn and members of their families as well as by her own children and grandchildren and many friends.

MORRALL, Mabel Nora

(18.1.81) Mabel Nora Long was born in 1899 in Yarmouth, England, into a staunch Baptist family, but during her schooling

came into close contact with the Church of England. At the age of 17 she was christened and confirmed. In 1919 she married Richard Ashley Morrall, A.I.F., and came to Melbourne settling in Preston. Following attendance at a tent mission they were baptised by the late Will Waterman in 1925 and so began a life of service. During the ministry of the late A. J. Fisher she worked with the Mission Band, Sunday School, Choir and became a Deaconess. Her witness brought a number of people into fellowship. As Sister Nora, she conducted the Temperance page in "Pure Words" and later "Skyways", was a member of the Temperance Committee of Women's Conference for many years and was active in the W.C.T.U. During the war the family moved to Brighton where despite ill health she maintained her interest and support of the church, C.W.F. and W.C.T.U. In 1965 they moved to Croydon where further ill health gradually limited her involvement, however, she was a source of strength to many people. Weekly prayer and Bible study meetings were held in her home and she often took the study for the night. When immobility and continual pain prevented this she turned more fully to prayer on behalf of others and so kept her covenant. A thanksgiving service for her life was conducted L. S. Dewberry in the Croydon church.

Hymn book repairs and some hints

Alan Wyett of the Croydon (Vic.) church has sent us directions for the repair of broken down church hymnals. He has also sent us useful recipes for starch paste, shaving soap and rust remover.

Readers of the "Australian Christian" may apply for copies at the "A.C." office by sending a stamped addressed envelope.

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"THE SKY IS FALLING"

by Randy Stonehill (Solid Rock SRA 2005).

Randy's first album Welcome to Paradise is an all time Christian classic. This second continues on in the same vein. It is well produced and musically completely professional. The album is an ideal one for sharing with a non-Christian friend who has a love for rock music. Stonehill fills a void in this area, for although Christians also love his work, possibly its main purpose is a witnessing tool.

"LOVING AGAIN"

by Peter Beveridge (Nightlight Music NMA 1001).

This is the first album by a hardworking member of the Rhema Music team in Sydney. It is clearly the best Australian Christian album this year. It opens with the hard rock "I've been to Hell and Back" co-written with Stevie Wright (ex-Easybeats), yet this track isn't really typical of the whole album which is generally softer. All of the songs are either written or co-written

by Peter (except for one written by his father), and he produced the album. Young Sydney musos are used throughout, the main feature being Peter's own excellent keyboard work. The songs are challenging, relevant and direct whether they be ministry or praise.

"ALL HIS OWN WORK"

by Rick Lewis (Good God cassette 7927S).

Rick is a student at our N.S.W. Bible College. He recorded this cassette in Adelaide last year with the help of the inimitable Rod Boucher. Most of the songs are penned by Rick, and are equal to anything you will hear anywhere, although the mix and recording quality is not always perfect. The songs are about life and how to cope with the pressures that are involved with living. Because this tape exists, I believe that it is time for us to discover how we can allow those with particular musical gifts to freely exercise them within our movement. A copy of the tape may be hard to come by (write to Rick?), but if you can, hear it and support Rick and others like him who are seeking to minister through music in our churches.

MEN AND MOVEMENTS IN THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH

by F. F. Bruce (Paternoster Press) \$8.95

Another book by this well known biblical scholar. This book looks at the significance of some of the early leaders of the church apart from Paul and the way that these men influenced the early church. The men examined are Peter, Stephen, James and John. Others such as Apollos are also discussed and their contribution acknowledged. F.F. Bruce in this book realises that he has often in the past played down the contribution of these men because of the great influence that Paul has had in most peoples eyes. A rather technical study in some areas but very interesting and thought provoking in some of the statements such as 'Peter was probably in fact and effect the bridgeman who did more than any other to hold together the diversity of first-century Christianity.'

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Hold In The
Storms Of Life**



when the clouds unfold their winds of strife.

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VIC

HAMILTON (R. Wesley). Peter and Helen Cannon farewelled to C.O.B. . . . Covenant Players took part in service . . . Dedication service for minister's daughter . . . Film service held in evening . . . Mid-week Bible study running month about . . . Young Adult group meeting monthly . . . New cell group formed . . . Sunday night attendances growing . . . Minister's Fraternal held first meeting . . . Church sharing in sponsorship of TV program "Turn Around Australia."

SWANSTON ST (A. L. Webb, B. Morton, R. Haverfield). Record attendances over Christmas holiday period . . . Watchnight service held on New Year's Eve . . . 250 viewed film "Pilgrims Progress" . . . 70 of our overseas students attended National O.C.F. Conf. in Adelaide . . . Ray and Shamini Haverfield inducted into associate ministry for period of 12 months on Feb. 8. Next year they will serve with O.M.F. in the Philippines . . . Preparations underway for Annual Missionary Convention. Guest preacher will be Geoff Bingham from Adelaide . . . 10 attending Bible Colleges this year . . . Seven of missionary family presently home on furlough.

NUNAWADING (E. C. Keating, P. B. Burnham, C. H. J. Wright). Christmas Carol Pageant held with choir and children participating. Over 400 present . . . Rip-Off low calorie recipe book sold out . . . C.W.E.F. held sweets and coffee cabaret . . . Springfield Rd. services now 9.45 a.m. . . Olive Addicott resigned from Good Companions after 20 years involvement . . . Dorothy Quantrelle President Springfield Rd. C.W.A.F. . . . Seven Y.P. completed degrees . . . C.Y.F. presented Christmas in a Refugee Shack . . . Watch Night service held after family fun night . . . Cricket Club held church parade . . . Church bus fund at \$2,000 . . . "Survivors" special guest at Gateway.

BOX HILL (S. Downie). David and Heather Brooker welcomed to participate in ministry 1981 . . . K.Y.B. group commenced . . . Cricket club parade speaker David Brooker . . . C.W.E.F. held progressive supper . . . C.W.A.F. held meeting at Dromana . . . One decision . . . Artists — Liz Lloyd, Mr Shearer, Marie Gauder, Phyllis Eastwood, Ichthus, Heather Graham.

RINGWOOD (K. & S. Ludgater). Six families shared in family camp at Banksia . . . Jim McNeice East Ringwood Baptist, preached during Minister's leave . . . \$1,151 given to Christmas Bowl . . . Mark Emerson entering Bible College of Victoria at Lilydale in preparation to joining M.A.F. as a pilot . . . Lynn and Peter Burden spent six weeks visiting India . . . Central Ringwood Community Centre, which operates in church buildings has begun operations for 1981.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R. B. Elbourne, K. R. Milne). Keith Milne joined team ministry. Induction by Gordon Stirling . . . Church shared in Church Life Conference looking at Church Growth . . . Dedication of church school teachers and

club leaders part of recent service . . . Counselling Centre conducted volunteer training workshop on reflective listening . . . Getting - to - know - you evenings being held for Keith and Laurel Milne . . . January preachers Lindsay Croxford, Robert Lowe, Graham Ladner . . . C.W.F. held Annual Meeting/work night for hospital committee . . . New co-ed group "Waves" commenced for forms 3-5. **NORTH FITZROY** (J. Harmer). Church calendars distributed to homes in area and to residents as they move into new Housing Commission project nearby . . . United mission to be undertaken to this area by C. of C. and St Lukes Anglican in appointing Derek Snibson, a member and graduate from Ridley College, to minister to this group . . . Combined evening services in January held with Baptist and Uniting churches . . . Craft workshop set up for Y.P. . . . Miss L. Ross celebrated 91st birthday . . . Baptismal service held.

SO

EDWARDSTOWN (R. Combridge, C. Cunningham). Extensions to chapel and building renovations nearing completion . . . Singing group involved in sharing ventures at Somerton Baptist, Corney Point and Williamstown . . . Junior youth group commenced . . . Three baptisms at end of 1980.

KADINA (Garth Sawley). Garth Sawley succeeds Ian Adams (now at Thornbury) . . . Old-Fashioned S.S. picnic held and S.S. Anniversary up on the old-style platform . . . Carol singing around the district on the back of a semi-trailer . . . Boys' Gym commenced . . . Monthly Saturday morning (four hours) prayer wheel with members praying continually through half-hour sessions.

NARACOORTE (Ron Holmes). Report on 1980's activities showed average weekly communicants of 85 (best for 10 years) and 15 additions by baptism . . . Nicollee

family farewelled. Commissioning service held prior to their departure to Kenya for missionary service . . . Special series of evening services "The Art of Living" held. Articles based on sermons published in local paper.

OWEN (Linc Rayner). Treasurer reported increased giving at A.G.M. in response to challenge . . . Members attended final service at Long Plains chapel . . . Social evening held to farewell the Wilson family at the conclusion of John's ministry . . . Commissioning service for Linc Rayner led by Don Bubner. John Marshman preached . . . S.S. recommenced with teacher dedication service and scholar promotion.

NSW

BELMORE (Peter Wakeley). Church farewelled Rae family at special social night . . . Church saddened by death of Frank Freckleton . . . Alex Visser ministered during Jan . . . Peter Wakeley, fourth-year student at Woolwich welcomed as minister for 1981.

VIC

ESSENDON (M. Ashworth, H. Schaefer). W.R.O.C. commenced 1981 activities with committee meeting held in Family centre. R. Mill, East Preston, guest speaker, shared structure and aims of Opportunity Shops . . . Greg Strack, Canberra, guest president at communion service.

WEDDERBURN Ballarat supply speaker twice a month. C.O.B. students Terry Heyward and Phil Anderson visited one week a month . . . Three baptisms in 1980 . . . Rev. Neville Horn led four nights of special meetings on "Secrets of Vital Living" . . . Mr and Mrs Mill visited and

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MARCH EFFORT, 1981

Tues. 24th March, 1981. at 8 p.m.
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C.W.F. GROUP COMPETITIONS

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"Tea for Two" (any meal time for 2 people)

Jams, preserves, sponge, fruit loaf, no bake slice

PRODUCE STALL:

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GUEST SPEAKER: ANN CREBER — "Eating for Health and Beauty"

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told of work with needy and collected gifts for Opportunity Shops . . . Two camps held at Eppaloch both with 30-40 attending . . . Mid-week prayer and study group held in homes averages 15.

PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (J. Manallack, C. Jones). Cris Jones commenced as assistant minister . . . 58 present at fashion parade, first meeting of newly formed combined C.W.F. Evening Group . . . Ann and Hazel Harder attended Good Companions leaders night at Camberwell . . . C.W.F. mid-week picnic at Bundoora Park . . . Kathy Gilmour continues as youth leader . . . Nancy and Ray Garth spoke at afternoon C.W.F. on overseas trip.

FOOTSCRAY (M. Keatch). Combined Christmas Day service held with Don Johnson, Baptist minister . . . Watchnight service held at St. Andrews Presbyterian . . . Church calendars given to each family . . . Three Bible study groups operating . . . Thank offering of \$1871 for mission support, mini-bus fund and church . . . Frail Elderly Home fund now \$9728.

HARTWELL (E. B. Clapp). Members joining in prayer times each Wednesday . . . P. Hancock elected chairman, R. Tyler secretary . . . Helpers giving hours to remake manse garden. Eric Taylor and John Richards supervising . . . 17 children, five leaders held camp at Timberline Cabins, Taggerty. Club members worked to provide finance for camp with car washes and cake stalls. Camp climax was family service attended by children and parents.

WO

CARNARVON (B. Yesberg). Mr and Mrs Luxton have returned to Sydney after helping for several months at Ingada Village. Two new families have joined staff at Ingada — Peter and Apii Taylor and children from Canberra (previously Cook Islands) and Gordon and Rhonda Bickford from Roelands . . . Brett Law, ex Eidsvold, also joined . . . Weekly tape ministry to isolated Christian families has been increased.

NORTHAM (M. Randell) Cunderdin Christian Fellowship joined Northam for baptism of four from Cunderdin and one from Northam and pot luck afterwards . . . All-age B.S. commenced prior to worship service . . . Cottage prayer meetings commenced . . . Men's choir invited to sing at Christian Men's Convention in Kellerberrin.

WEMBERLEY Auxiliaries have recommenced . . . C.W.F. commenced Bible study group to study James . . . Men's Fellowship commenced . . . Wilf Paget and Alan Pyne took services during January . . . Des Croot conducted baptismal service and spoke at evening service . . . Y.P.'s choir sang at January evening services.

INGLEWOOD (Ron Cook). Theme for 1981 "Witness and Evangelism" . . . Year began with week of prayer and midweek meetings in different homes . . . Film "Welcome Home" screened . . . All sermons now taped . . . 10 Bethel students

this year led by pastor . . . Junior church began with teachers on a roster basis . . . Wednesday morning Bible studies led by Mr. Moorhouse . . . Young women studying book "Measure of a Woman" on alternate Monday evenings . . . Men replacing ceiling in hall . . . Men's Fellowship outreach barbecue held with speaker Graham Mabury . . . A.G.M. held . . . Ron Cook to terminate his ministry at end of 1981.

APPLECROSS (Des Croot). Three baptised . . . Hobbies and Talents exhibition held on two Saturdays . . . College students visiting home, Greg Shaw and Ian Walker, speakers . . . B.S. recommenced with increased numbers . . . 50 commenced program to read through the Bible systematically.

QLD

MARGARET ST., TOOWOOMBA (B. Armstrong, I. Alves). 86 attended 30th Toowoomba C. of C. combined family camp at Camp Cal, Australia Day weekend. Studies led by Bruce Armstrong. \$250 Sunday morning special offering given to three of church's men campers who are building at Madang P.N.G. . . . Aileen Draney commenced deputation work in Vic. and S.A. . . . Matron Friebel has commenced second year with Mylo . . . Ian Alves and family welcomed as second minister.

KEDRON (David Hamilton). Special Christmas services featured children, families and carol singing for shut-ins. One evening George and Ruby Haigh,

Jean Dawe and E. S. Weil spoke on World Convention. Nancy Shepherd showed slides of her Israel tour . . . Col Stafford, George Haigh, Chas Tucker and a rep from Gideon's preached during minister's vacation . . . C.W.F. break-up had an empty Christmas tree. Donations given to Multiple S.S.

AVENELL HEIGHTS (B. Francis). Six decisions, two baptisms, three rededications in January . . . New Year service at Elliott Heads . . . Church picnic held at Innes Park, Australia Day . . . New building progressing . . . Mid-week praise service and Bible study Wednesday nights and four ladies' Bible study groups recommenced.

Bible booklets in Aboriginal languages

The Bible Society in Australia has recently released 12 new Bible booklets in Australian Aboriginal languages. The booklets contain the stories of Noah, Abraham, and Jacob and Esau in each of four different languages.

They are the first in a series of a larger number of easy reading Bible booklets which the Bible Society is making available in Aboriginal languages. These new booklets are designed for the use of new readers and people of limited reading ability. They contain simplified texts of Bible stories and large full colour pictures. There are an estimated 17,000 people speaking the four languages of Kriol, Pitjantjatjara, Gunwinggu and Gumatj in central and northern Australia.

Work is proceeding in a further six stories in the series, which could each be produced in as many as 10 different languages.

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PPCC '83

New Centre to Stress Reconciliation

"Christians have a special obligation to be agents of reconciliation in a broken world," according to Michael Cassidy, director of African Enterprise, which has established an inter-racial centre. The new centre will be situated on 20 acres of property. It will offer training in evangelism and discipleship and demonstrate reconciliation.

Cassidy feels that it is important that Christians demonstrate the reality of their reconciling faith in the church's ministry and their daily lives.

Groups of Christians from white, black, coloured, and Asian communities of South Africa will mingle at the centre, interact, and receive training in Christian mission in the modern world.

The evangelist who, with black and coloured evangelists, holds inter-racial crusades in southern Africa, doesn't underestimate the problems found in that troubled area. He constantly reverts back to the emphasis on Reconciliation which is inherent in the gospel.

The agency which he heads carries its evangelism to the heart of trouble spots. In April, Cassidy and a black evangelist will team up to preach in Elsie's River, a black suburb of Capetown. The community, with a population of 150,000 has one of the highest crime rates in South Africa.

10 pairs of black evangelists are participating in "Operation Foxfire" in Zimbabwe. Recruited from the country's Bible Schools, the young men go out in pairs to the nation's tribal trust lands where they share the gospel with their countrymen. They are heralds of reconciliation in a nation that has been torn with war and strife for years.

Conditions vary from country to country across southern Africa where African Enterprise carries on its program. Cassidy and his inter-racial evangelic teams are persuaded, however, that, whether the problem is tribalism, nationalism, or apartheid, evangelism and the gospel of reconciliation hold the key to the troubled region's future.

Creative Living Centre

Campbelltown (N.S.W.) is the fastest growing area in the Southern hemisphere. 52% of the population consists of lone parents. Many women are bored, isolated and often unable to afford the bus fare to go anywhere. The Campbelltown church with the help of Bob Smith of the N.S.W. Social Service Department set up for the women of the community a Creative Living Centre.

Interest groups

After wide advertising, craft groups, culture groups, and personal care groups were set up. There were also discussion groups on Psychology and Life, the Art of Confident Living and the History of Australian Society. The Liverpool Tech. provided some of the instructors.

A rickety bus

Women pay 50c a day to cover expenses, and child minding for the day is \$1 per family. The church bus, on its last legs, picks up some of the women. An average of 35 attend. Most of these have also been part of the "Life Enrichment" program. Church women mix freely with the others and opportunities for faith sharing often arise.

Bible study

The 1981 program will include a Bible study elective which is expected to be popular. One woman said, "I don't go to church, but Creative Living gets you to church anyway because you are mixing with women from the church and doing constructive things together. Then you're prepared to come to church services with them, and the church doesn't have to drag people off the streets."

Jack Edwards resumes Ministry

Six months ago Jack Edwards was involved in a car accident, as a pedestrian which resulted in multiple injuries. He spent 10 weeks in hospital followed by convalescence and physio-therapy. It will be still some months before has good use of his left arm.

On February 15 Jack resumed his ministry with the Dandenong church. He and his family wish to express to the Australian Brotherhood their deepest thanks for their prayer and practical concern for his recovery. It was the prayers of God's people that brought about his return to health and work and surrounded the family with God's grace in their time of need.

Drink and Drown

For years road safety campaigners have been concerned about the drinking driver. Now the authorities are concerned over people who drink and swim. Statistics show that 75% of the 127 adults who drowned in New South Wales last year had been drinking alcohol before entering the water. The majority were males over 25 years of age. The average reading was 0.187%, more than double the legal limit to drive a motor car.

The Australian Surf Life Saving Association reports that at least one third of 150 who required resuscitation on the beach had recently drunk alcohol.

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ACC visits Soviet Embassy

A delegation from the Australian Council of Churches has visited the Soviet Embassy in Canberra to express concern about the charging and sentencing of Christians in Russia. Particular concern was expressed for Father Yakunin and Alexander Ogorodnikov and further details on their cases were sought.

Whilst recognizing the historic tension between church and state, the delegation told the Embassy representatives that "when church people in one country are suffering for their faith, it is natural that Christians elsewhere want to support them."

A request for an interview was made by the ACC Executive in November last year when a letter inquiring about the fate of two Christians reportedly arrested in the Soviet Union received no reply from the Embassy.

In reply to the delegation, Deputy Ambassador Rogov said that the particular Christians mentioned by the ACC were tried under the criminal code as citizens, not as priests or churchmen. He stressed that church and state are separated in USSR and this generally worked well for both parties. He also suggested that events in Russia were often distorted by the Western media as part of a campaign to discredit the USSR.

Commenting on the visit Mr Purnell said, "Mr Rogov agreed to put us on the mailing list of the Embassy and assured us that future enquiries to the Embassy or Consulate about specific cases would be followed up. We appreciated his forthright approach and willingness to discuss the issues but it is essential for all Christians and churches to maintain their concern for fellow Christians suffering for their faith in Russia or anywhere else in the world."

Non-Alcoholic Beverages in Restaurants

The last Federal Conference resolved that the Restaurant and Caterers Association be invited to encourage their members to include in their menus non-intoxicating wines, beers and other similar drinks. The Secretary of the Federal Conference therefore wrote to the Association.

A gracious reply was forthcoming in which R. L. Liddle, the secretary, reported that the matter had been discussed by his Executive which expressed itself as being delighted to recommend to members the inclusion of such drinks in their menus.

Mr. Liddle asked the Federal Secretary for immediate information concerning suppliers of such drinks so that the information could be included in the next newsletter of the R. C. and A.

It would seem that the next step is for our people to familiarise themselves with what is available and to ask for such drinks when they dine out. We refer to our regular advertisers, "Non-Al Cellars" Sho 3 Palmers Arcade, 938 Whitehorse Rd., Box Hill (Vic.) and Alternative Drinks, P.O. Box 1981, Mildura, Vic. 3500. We would be pleased to publish the names of any interstate suppliers if they are forwarded to us.

ONE MILLION BIBLES FOR CHINA

Thousands of Bibles have already been hand-delivered to Chinese Christians in the current One Million Bibles For China Appeal conducted by Brother Andrew's Open Doors ministry.

The request for Bibles came from Christians in Communist China, when the Government adopted a more liberal view to the right of citizens to worship God and practice their religion.

Open Doors is a Dutch-based ministry with 25 years experience in supplying God's Word to Christians in restricted countries.

Christians in Australia are asked to donate the cost of Bibles of \$10, which includes printing, research, establishing reliable contacts and training couriers to ensure prompt delivery.

Churches of Australia are being urged to participate in the Bibles For China Appeal in two ways: 1: Building the challenge into the prayer life of the local church. 2: Carefully setting aside an offering that will deliver a number of Bibles.

Open Doors can be contacted at P.O. Box 724, Crows Nest N.S.W. 2065 or by phoning (02) 438 2877.

**GIVE TO
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MARCH 15**

Increasing response to Christian Paper on the news-stands!

During 1979-80 response to 'Tell' magazine, distributed through newsagents across Australia, has been quite significant. More than 70 coupons have come in from young readers of the magazine requesting further information about becoming Christians and more than 50 radio stations have "adopted" the magazine.

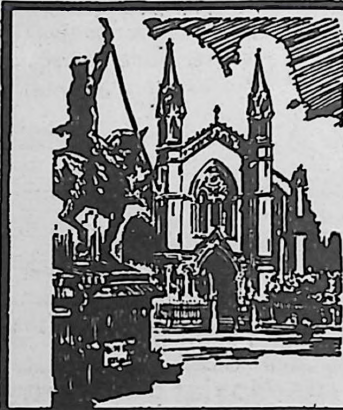
Fusion Australia publish "Tell"

More than 36,000 copies have been purchased from newsagents and bookshops. A further 96,000 copies have been or are in the process of being distributed through schools outreach efforts, doctors waiting rooms and so on.

'Tell' remains the only magazine on Australian news-stands which doesn't use advertising to survive and is unique, probably throughout the world in its efforts to reach non-church young people on such a scale.

During 1980 only about one-third of the income for this ministry was from sales of the magazine. The rest was from donations of Christian people.

Fusion see the magazine as an effective bridging tool for people who wouldn't normally have contact with the church. It's seen as "unashamedly Australian and unashamedly human."



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1980's Top 10 American Religious News stories

Each year the Christian Century compiles a list of the top 10 religious news stories. Their 1980 list deals mainly with American issues but is of interest.

1. The ascendance of the religious right as a political force.
2. The Kung compromise. The working of the agreement that Hans Kung still remain a Professor of Tubingen but no longer remain a member of the Roman Catholic theological faculty.
3. Persecution of dissidents — e.g. Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador.
4. Pacific Homes settlement. Pacific Homes was a United Methodist Church retirement care network which went bankrupt threatening the whole of church-state relations.
5. Resurgent racism.
6. Papal journeys and pronouncements.
7. A flood of refugees. This was primarily Cuban and Haitian refugees to the U.S.A.
8. Sexist language debates.
9. Wilmington Ten reversal. Ten people convicted of conspiring to bomb a white owned grocery shop in Wilmington had their conviction over-ruled because their rights to a fair trial were denied. The churches had supported this group.
10. First woman bishop. Marjorie Matthews was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church.

BIBLE SOCIETY ADMINISTRATOR FOR AUSTRALIA

Keith W Ellem has been appointed National Administrator of the Bible Society in Australia. He will assist Australian General Secretary, the Rev. James Payne, in all aspects of his responsibilities.

Keith Ellem, a Baptist layman, has had a varied and distinguished career. He began a business career with Gordon and Gotch (Australia/Asia) Ltd as a junior and within 12 years, headed the publishing and distribution network for Australia. Mr Ellem then established and developed his own book-selling, newspaper and stationery business.

Keith Ellem felt the call of God to sell his business and to use his experience in full time Christian activities. In 1966 he was invited to join the Bible Society in Australia as its first National Distribution Officer.

In 1969, the United Bible Societies invited Mr Ellem to become Executive Secretary of the Bible Society in Hong Kong and also to establish the Hong Kong Production Service Centre. Scripture production developed to serve some 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, relating to more than 40 languages.

In 1975 Mr Ellem transferred to London to become United Bible Societies World Production and Supply Co-ordinator. There he majored on the development of standardisation in Scripture publishing and diversification of production to

maximise the available financial resources.

In 1977, Mr Ellem was requested by the UBS to transfer to Nairobi, Kenya, to assume responsibility for Scripture Production and Supply in Africa whilst continuing to serve as World Production Co-ordinator. He has recruited and trained staff at the UBS Regional Centre in Nairobi and in the 50 countries where the UBS has an office or representation in Africa.

It is anticipated that Mr Ellem will take up his new Australian post on 1 June, 1981.

I.T.I.M. on Australia's wage inquiry

The I.T.I.M. sent the following open letter to the present special inquiry on the future of Australia's wage indexation fixation.

"The ITIM Federal Council has asked me to convey to you and the special inquiry their belief that any new arrangements must continue the wide-spread character of the C.P.I. adjustments, otherwise, those groups in occupations of high productivity, shortage of skill or position of industrial power will go ahead with wage increases and leave the rest behind.

Whilst there is wide agreement that the old guidelines have outlived their purpose, the half-yearly indexation decisions have meant that at least that amount has been widely spread across all sections of our workforce. Even the so-called productivity gain decisions have had a wide flow-on.

It is understandable that the skilled trades and professions must have increased margins if we are to have sufficient labour especially at this time of the resources boom. The old guidelines had insufficient flexibility to react to change in skilled requirements.

We recognise that there must be a movement from some forms of work to other occupations. Australians are unlikely to respond to labour direction. Unemployment as a means of achieving mobility is unacceptable and doesn't work anyway. The enticement of higher wages and allowances is our normal way of attracting labour from one section to another.

We may need to drop the total wage concept and go back to the old basic wage plus margin for skill. Whatever we do, ITIM must object to any new arrangement which favours one section of the workforce at the expense of another.

The member churches of ITIM are: The Catholic Church, The Church Of England in Australia, The Uniting Church in Australia, The Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, The Presbyterian Church in Australia, The Baptist Union of Australia Inc., The Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia, The Lutheran Church of Australia Inc., The Salvation Army (Eastern and Southern Territories), The Fellowship of Congregational Churches (NSW) Inc.

— Rev. Lawrie Styles, (Chairman, ITIM Federal Council.)

PARTNERSHIP IN INDONESIA WORKERS NEEDED

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

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

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

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

Ron McLean, Executive Director,

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

VIC

CASTLEMAINE (Peter Haylock). Peter Haylock travelled as chaplain on cruise visiting Fiji and Philippines... Messages presented by secretary, elders and deacons during his absence... Marilyn Haylock continuing to lead Know Your Bible study groups... B.S. growing. George Sheen Super.

ASHBURTON (K. Ridge, R. Fraser). 1500 Christmas cards distributed in district... Members combined with Companionship Centre in fun night concert. Proceeds to Christmas Bowl... Carol service held with school participating. Offering of \$318 for Christmas Bowl... Peter Clayton responsible for services during January — Presentation made in appreciation of his student ministry... Ian Tippett recent speaker. He also conducted Church Growth Seminar... Robert Fraser welcomed as associate student minister.

HURSTBRIDGE (H. Pietzsch). Henri Pietzsch commenced second ministry... Third Sunday of month S.S. and church combine for family service... R. Cross S. S. Super... Evening film service held every second month. "Free Forever" and "Jill" screened.

PORT FAIRY (H. A. L. Clark). \$1600 allocated from Missionary Fund. Includes gifts to Aboriginal and Overseas Missions and to David and Robyn Harmer... Combined inter-church prayer meetings continue... S. S. recommenced immediately following 2 p.m. service.

WARRNAMBOOL (H. A. L. Clark). Following approval by National Trust work has begun on new entrance to church... Many visitors shared in services over holidays... Several new families involved.

REDCLIFFS (W. L. Keddie). Girl Guides and Brownies held church parade with 60 representatives... Some auxiliaries in recess over busy harvest period... Sunday night study services held each week alternatively with Uniting Church.



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May 9th-16th**

SO

STIRLING (David McKay). Seven study groups operating, studying Psalms, Sermon on the Mount and Osborne's "The Art of Understanding Yourself"... Commissioning service for Garry and Heather Filmer before leaving for Mt Hagen, N.G., with M.A.F... Four couples attended marriage enrichment weekend at Koorringal Homestead. Don and Norma Chandler presented Kevin Harvey, Director, with two calves... David McKay registered to administer "Prepared" computerized questionnaire for engaged couples... Y.P. presented play based on Good News version of Ruth.

NSW

GILGANDRA Church preparing for special week of meetings for children in March to be followed by family weekend. Judy Gordon from the Dept. of Christian Education is to conduct the adventure week to reach children after school... Church preparing for annual business meeting... Hazel Morris and children visited from Normanton, Qld.

EPPING (Bob Whan). Church welcomes Chris and Adel Hutton to student ministry... Eight study groups commenced series "Congregational Goals Discovery Plan" as lead up to planning for next year's Northside Reachout. Studies linked with Sunday morning sermons... Church aiming to contribute \$1,000 for maintenance of the boat 'Abel Bani' in P.N.G.

C.W.F. CAMP HALL'S GAP

April 3-5 1981

Study leader — Mrs Joan Fewster S.A.
Camp commences 8 p.m. 3rd April. Inquiries
and registrations to Mrs B. Crouch 4 Camp
St. Kaniva.

Phone Kaniva 244

QLD

ALBION (D. Gurney). Appreciation expressed to L. Armstrong and P. Jauncey at church tea for assistance during 1980. Farewell also to students Terry and Jean Williams who had served for two years... David and Judith Gurney and three children welcomed at BBQ tea by board and by church at evening of fun and fellowship... Bus group continuing fund raising. Purchase of bus hoped for by mid-year... Commissioning service and farewell luncheon held for Wes Fittell who will be involved in evangelical work in the Philippines.

SERVICETON

Church of Christ

50th ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 22ND

10.00 a.m. Mr. M. T. Lawrie

12.00 Noon Luncheon

Inquiries: D. L. Wallis

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- ★ Business manager for the office at Santo to commence in September 1981.
- ★ Carpenter/handyman to assist in maintenance tasks on a voluntary basis.
- ★ Suitably qualified minister to assist in theological training at Banmatmat Bible College.
- ★ Carpentry teacher for Londua Training School. Commencing 1982.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- ★ Suitably qualified ministers to assist in a teaching/pastoral ministry.

For further information please contact:

Mr Ron S. McLean, Executive Director,

Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board Inc.,

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

Berwick's Living Christmas Tree



Lyn Dickson — Narrator, Norval Bunch — Musical Director & Minister.

Belgrave Heights Easter Convention

Easter this year will again see upwards of 2,000 people gathering for the 30th Belgrave Heights Easter Convention. The Convention Centre, 45 kilometres from Melbourne, is situated on 11 hectares within a natural bush setting with an open-sided auditorium seating 2,000.

Leading the morning Bible Studies from Psalm 22 will be **Dr J. Graham Miller** a former Principal of the Melbourne Bible Institute (now Bible College of Victoria). Other speakers will be **Canon John Chapman**, Director of Evangelism for the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, **Bryan Greenwood**, Director of Open Air Campaigners, Victoria, and **Dr Sam Kamelason**, a Vice-President for World Vision International. Dr Kamelason will be in Australia undertaking leadership seminars for ministers and pastors.

The Convention will commence with the 10.45 a.m. Bible Study on Friday, April 17 and conclude with the 3 p.m. meeting on Monday, April 20. In addition there will be programs for children and teenagers which operate throughout the Convention period and there is a staffed Play Centre for children of pre-school age.

Day visitors are warmly welcome. Light refreshments, tea and picnic facilities are available.

Further information regarding the Convention may be obtained from the Convention Office, Phone (03) 836 6839, A.H. (03) 439 6197.

Christian Parent-controlled Schools

There has been some discussion about the effect of the secular school system and its humanistic pre-suppositions upon the children of Christian families.

Some have said that these children should be part of the system, as they will have to face and live with secularity in later life. These people argue that as issues rise in the system they can be talked and worked through with their children in the light of the Christian faith and the Christian life style of the family. This they say will prepare the children to be adequate Christians in a secular society. They point out that the Christian family where there is love and acceptance and freedom of expression and discussion is the adequate counter to the influences of secularism.

Others believe that the secular environment in the schools is subtly influencing children away from Christian values and life style, before they are mature enough to cope with the situation. They say that it is not so much what is taught but rather what is implied, and what is left out, that provides an element of anti-Christ in the system which then invades the family. These advocate Christian schools.

We have received literature from "Christian-Parent-Controlled Schools", P.O. Box 458, Dee Why, N.S.W. 2099. Their motto is Christ Centred Education. They will send their pamphlets to inquirers.

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First Distribution from Austral Charitable Trust

The Trustees of the Austral Charitable Trust take pleasure in announcing that the first distribution has been made out of profits earned by the Trust.

Cheques totalling \$14,000 have been forwarded to recipients, and in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Deed, \$12,000 (85%) of this amount has been distributed to Churches of Christ Departments in Vic./Tas.

It is hoped that this will be but the beginning of a long association of assistance which the Trustees can give to Churches of Christ. — L. J. Butler, Chairman of Trustees.



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Family Tradition



Vic. Boettcher has now married four couples which represent three generations in the one family. The photo (taken at Ma Ma Creek) shows the various couples. Left to right: Howard and Elaine Charles, John and Beverley Sutton, Vic Boettcher, M.B.E., Mr and Mrs Owen Neumann and Mr and Mrs Arthur Neumann.

New Scripture Union National Director

The newly-appointed National Director for Scripture Union in Australia, Ron Buckland, describes himself as "an over-trained layman." With his background of employment in the Insurance Field, followed by university training in Sydney and theological training in Moore College, Sydney, Mr. Buckland comes well-equipped for "selling," Scripture Union's diverse program, analysing needs and opportunities, and with a firm grasp of the scriptures.

Originally from Parramatta, Sydney, Mr. Buckland looks back to the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade as the time when he fully surrendered himself to the Lord. His involvement with Scripture Union commenced in the 1960's as leader with a Beach Mission Team of the C.S.S.M.

Invited to Tasmania as that State's first General Secretary, that position has occupied his time and talents for the past 10 years. His decade of work in Tasmania has seen many changes, with the coming to grips of the Scripture Union in that State with the unemployment situation amongst young people, as well as the commencement of the Christian Option Program throughout the High Schools.

"Unemployment has meant a lot of hurt to young people. Ministers are finding they have a new type of ministry amongst such cases. Being aware of such needs, Scripture Union must be amongst the Christian agencies who respond." The Master's Work-force in Tasmania is one response of Scripture Union's to youth unemployment.

Camping need not only be for holidays, but can be used as a ministry throughout the year. Camp Coolamatong, Victoria, is an example of this. Programs for school classes during a week enables city children to see the country for themselves, and meet Christian workers who care for them.

Scripture Union is described by Mr. Buckland as a "Frontier Movement", but the problem is "this year's frontier is next



Ron Buckland

year's status quo". The changing youth scene; children's work; single parent families; divorce situations; all have particular needs for specialist ministries.

At various times, some States face financial difficulties. Many people also mistakenly believe that the retail bookshop network of Scripture Union financially carries the work. "It is not so. I know of no bookshop making its millions, especially in the Christian book trade," said Mr. Buckland.

— Ramon Williams

Brunswick's Centenary

In 1982 the Brunswick church will be celebrating its centenary.

The church is planning for special events and would like to contact anyone who has had past contacts with the Brunswick church. If you have old records or photographs they would be very interested to know of these.

Any contact should be made with Alf Marsh, 22 Horne St., Brunswick, Vic. 3056. Phone (03) 380 4551.

L.I.F.E. Pastors Management Course

Lay Involvement for Evangelism has announced a Pastors Management Conference to be held March 31 - April 3, 1981, at the Nunyara Conference Centre in Adelaide.

Lecturers will be Bill Vincent from Sydney and Ian Forbes. Mr Vincent is an ex-Company Director and computer specialist and is currently L.I.F.E. Director for N.S.W. Ian Forbes is an ex-Manager and L.I.F.E. Director for South Australia. They will be complemented by international experts on film and tape.

For details concerning L.I.F.E. ministries, please contact Ian Forbes L.I.F.E., GPO Box 1202, Adelaide, 5001.

Evangelicals to sort out their Social Consciences

A Consultation on Evangelism and Social Responsibility is to be held in June of next year. Sponsored by the World Evangelical Fellowship and the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, it will meet at Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan from June 16-23, 1982. Dr Dick Van Halsema, president of the college, will serve as co-ordinator.

The relationship between evangelism and social involvement has sometimes been a contentious issue in evangelical circles, and the consultation's sponsors are hoping that a consensus will emerge from next year's gathering. "Those who earnestly desire to live under the authority of scripture should not be divided on a matter of such importance," commented the Rev Gottfried Osei-Mensah of Kenya, who, with Dr Bong Ro of Taiwan, is to be co-chairman of the consultation.

The Consultation will be preceded by an intensive study program that will involve small groups around the world. Those local studies and the consultation papers will focus on consideration of scriptures, church history, modern theology, and contemporary case studies.

The organizing committee has arranged the program, approached speakers, and issued invitations to participants. It is expected that a major publication will be released following the consultation.

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BIRTHS

KEATCH (Bolton) On February 15 at Bendigo, to Trevor and Jenny, the gift of a daughter, Anna Naarah.

SCHULZ (GRENFELL) Neville and Margaret welcome God's gift of a daughter, Catherine Helen Annetta, born 10th February, 1981, at Toowoomba. Sister for Jennifer.

WYLLIE (PAYNE) Born to Phil and Debby, a son Christopher William, at Mount Lawley, W.A., on Wednesday 11th February. Brother for Lucy. Twice the joy. Praise God. All well.

ENGAGEMENTS

CLAYTON-TAMPLING Mr and Mrs P. Clayton of Springvale are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Susan Jennifer to Geoffrey Noel son of Mr and Mrs N. Tampling, Boronia.

LITTLE-CHAPMAN Jan and Phil, together with their parents, Isabel and Keith of Glen Waverley church and Margaret and Tom of Nunawadley church, are thrilled to announce their engagement.

NETTELBECK - FLINT Mr and Mrs Trevor Nettelbeck of Lower Templestowe have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their eldest daughter Leanne to Garry youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Flint of Lower Templestowe.

RUBY WEDDING

EDWARDS (ALLEN) Ian and Ralph married 8.3.1941 at the Surrey Hills Church of Christ. Congratulations Mum and Dad from Allen, Heather, Graeme and David and families.

KETTNER (MILLER) Paul and Amy announce with pleasure the 40th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated at Malvern Caulfield Church of Christ, on the 15th March, 1941, 3.30 p.m. by the late minister Mr F. C. Buckingham.

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DEATHS

ALLSOP, Nancy Mary. On Feb. 18th at Nursing Home. Beloved wife of Ern, loved mother of Joan (Mrs McKenzie), Ian, David, Max and Margaret (Mrs Ball). Loved mother-in-law of David, Jan, Glennis, Bronwyn and Graham. Loved Nana of Colin, Wendy, Alison, Jenelle, Mark, Louise, Lynette, Yvonne, Amanda and Annelise.

MORRALL Mabel Nora of Carlyle St., Croydon on 18th Jan., 1981 at Churches of Christ Nursing Home, Murrumbeena. Loved and loving wife of Richard Ashley, mother of Miriam and Janson Holloway, Ruth and Keith Skillcorn, Irma and Alan Rackemann, grandmother of Ian, Elizabeth, Heather, Robert, Paul, Bruce, Nore, Neil Ruth; and great grandmother of Shawn, Sandra, Thomas, Ashley, Denial Hefin, Michael and Chandra. Aged 81 years. The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MOYLE Alice Sylvia, called home Feb. 10th. Loved sister of Eva and Wal, Aunt of Pauline, Kevin, Max, Geoff and Eva and families "Forever with the Lord".

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BRIDGE BUILDERS IN RESTORATION by Dr A. E. Elliot wanted to replace lost copy in personal library. Anyone wishing to sell copy contact Chris Ambrose, P.O. Box 101, Essendon North, 3041.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

WILLIAMSTOWN Change of phone numbers during manse rebuilding Minister — (03) 398 5962, church office — (03) 397 5715.

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Sunday 12th April

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11.00 a.m. Worship Service

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March 11th Speaker: Mr Ron Elbourne; President, Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

March 18th Speaker: Mr George Warren; Field Director, Department of Mission, Education and Development, Minister Elect Eastern Suburban Regional Churches.

March 25th Speaker: Mr Keith Horne; Minister Doncaster Church of Christ.

April 1st Speaker: Mr Gordon Stirling; Editor "The Australian Christian."

Further details; Secretary, D. Pallot, 2 Kingfield Crt. Burwood. 3125. Phone (03) 836 1058

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PREACHER — The Conference President, Mr R. B. ELBOURNE

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● Alison Poole, Leanne Kinniment, Ellen Walker, Applecross, W.A. ● Richard Reid, John and Robyn Clout, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

MARRIAGES

● Michelle Wood to Rex Ellingham, Nunawading, Vic. ● Sue Holub to Tim Riessen, Inglewood, W.A. ● Jennifer Ferguson to Ian Arthur, Rhonda Williams to Greg Smythe, Wembley, W.A. ● Heather Strack to Wayne DeMack, Christine Hemsley to Ken Smith, Epsandon, Vic.

● Kay Alexander to Ron Harris, North Fitzroy, Vic. ● Jayne Cooper to Greg Ebsworthy, Applecross, W.A. ● Melinda Laney to Colin Reid, Lynn Briggs to Graeme Baker, Epping N.S.W.

DEATHS

● Roy Stewart Reed, Margaret St., Toowoomba, Qld. ● Frank Freckelton, Belmore, N.S.W. ● Mrs H. Hayes, Warrnambool, Vic. ● Mrs Nancy Allsop, Camberwell Vic. ● Mrs E. Brown, Williamstown, Vic.

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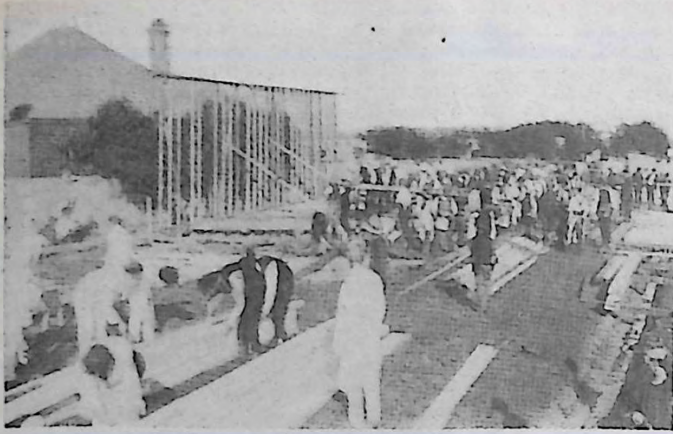
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The church is ready to follow a good leader and young people are keen to evangelise. Man envisaged is a good platform man with an evangelical message and able to relate to peoples needs.

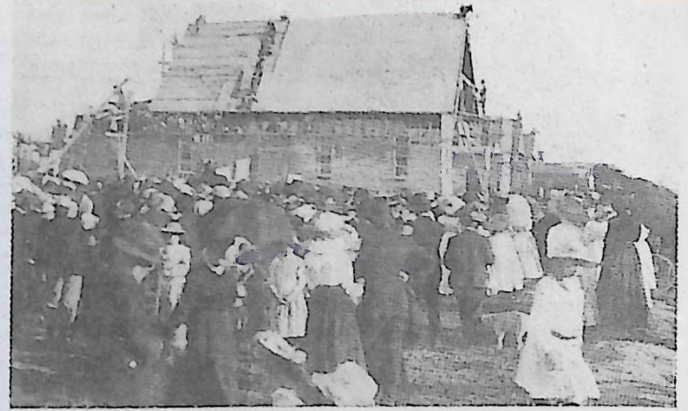
Conditions negotiable.

Replies to the Secretary, A. W. Smyth, 3 Niribi Road, City Beach 6015.

Anniversary of the Chapel Built in a Day



8 a.m. First side wall up



4.30 p.m. Putting on the iron roof.

On Saturday, March 25, 1911, the Preston church chapel was constructed in a day. This year celebrates the 70th anniversary of that event. The Preston/East Preston church is still using the chapel for its worship services and is planning a series of special events to celebrate.

Starting at 6.30 a.m. the men put in the blocks supporting the chapel. T. Bagley the then Victorian State Evangelist was the originator of the idea with A. Graham, a contractor, supervising the building. The workmen, according to the booklet published to commemorate the event, included 70 carpenters, 22 plumbers, 30 painters and a host of general workers. This included 20 students from the College of the Bible some of whom left at 3.00 a.m. from the College to walk the 6½ miles to commence work.

The final work was completed at 11.00

p.m. under gas light and the first services were held in the chapel the next morning.

An historical exhibition including information on the building of the chapel with photographs and other historical material is being put on by the church Monday to Friday, March 16-20; 23-27 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

As well the church is holding a Thanksgiving celebration on Sunday, March 29 at 10.30 a.m. with Ron Brooker (Vic. Tas. Conference President Elect) as the speaker. A luncheon and an afternoon program is also planned.

The church is anxious to contact any families with connexions with the Preston church. People who are interested could contact the church office on (03) 470 1916 or Jean Hillier after 6 p.m. on (03) 470 1916. Any early material which could be included in the historical exhibition would be especially welcomed.

Pastor in Racetrack Ministry

An American Baptist pastor is currently ministering at the Meadowlands Race Track in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

This is a state-owned facility and that poses some problems. For example, other tracks have closed the recreation hall for him to conduct a weekly chapel service on Tuesday night, but not here!

He must go into the midst of the noisy, busy recreation halls and conduct what amounts to a street meeting indoors!

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— Australian Baptist

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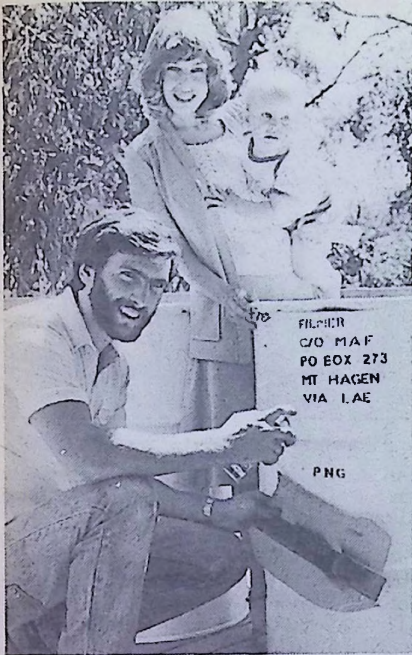
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Pioneer's Grandson hears Call



Garry, Heather and Matthew Filmer
— Photo courtesy of Mount Barker Courier

A grandson of Frank Filmer, pioneer Churches of Christ missionary to the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), leaves Australia for service as an aircraft engineer with Missionary Aviation Fellowship on March 15. He is Garry Filmer, 27, of Bridgewater in the Adelaide hills. With his wife, Heather, and son, Matthew Frank, he will be stationed at Mt Hagen, New Guinea.

Garry and Heather have been active serving in the Stirling church. They have led Bible studies, been involved in youth work and coached some of the church basketball teams. For the past year Garry has been acting pastor while the church

sought to find a trained, full-time man. Garry was also secretary of the church at the same time and had the unenviable task of being involved in the negotiations with the future minister.

At about the same time as David McKay (Kenmore graduate, from Newcastle, N.S.W.) accepted a call to the church, Garry received word that he had been accepted for a 3 year term with MAF. A joyful commissioning service for Garry and Heather was conducted on Sunday, February 15. Ron McLean, Overseas Missions Federal Secretary, and also a member of the MAF council, preached. He spoke of the pioneering work of Garry's grandfather, and revealed that Heather's grandparents had also been involved in evangelistic work in the Stanbury, S.A. district.

During the service the church committed itself to praying and giving toward the work the Filmers will be undertaking in New Guinea.

— David McKay.

Good News for The Patch

After 25 years of student and part-time ministries The Patch now has a resident minister. Len and Judy Martin, who were ministering with York St., Ballarat, accepted the invitation to minister with The Patch.

Four years ago with the assistance of the Properties Corporation a property with house opposite the buildings of the church was purchased. Enthusiastic working bees over the past months have prepared the manse.

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Mooroopna Outreach

Following the annual gathering of Aboriginals at the A.E.F. Convention at Port Augusta in January Ben Mason, O.B.E., Pastor of the Pulsford Rd. church in Adelaide and National Evangelist for the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship went with Max Wright the Mooroopna pastor to Mooroopna Vic.

With the co-operation of other churches this outreach was into the communities of Mooroopna and Shepparton especially amongst the Aboriginal families.

The program was held in the public hall from January 26 - February 1. Ben Mason preached. Mrs Bernice Mason (ex Norseman girl) and her teenage daughters provided musical messages. Many contacts were made and some responded.

Aboriginal Christians from Albury, Melbourne and other areas also attended.

Max and Naomi Wright request our prayer as they lead and teach these new contacts.

— Lance Fisher.

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(08) 278 8979.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN: L. S. Dewberry, 11
Jackson St., Croydon, Vic. 3138. Phone (03) 723 1487.

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

Loneliness

One of the real problems of our society today is the loneliness that is experienced by so many. In Australia loneliness is a real part of the lives of so many people that we meet and see every day. With the ageing of society we have an increasing number of elderly people in the community. Many of these are lonely. They may well have lost their spouse and are experiencing a life alone. Their families may have moved to newer suburbs miles away and they rarely see them. They themselves may have moved to a new place.

Not only the elderly are lonely. People living in the suburbs are often lonely. Young couples who have just moved into a community can be very lonely. Single people who have no one else to even talk to when they come home at night. Students and others newly arrived in a city to start a course or a new job. Migrants just arrived from overseas.

Others are lonely because of social problems. Those who suffer from low self esteem and shyness can be very lonely. Many cases occur of people who are lonely because of the trauma of divorce and their rejection by their families. In fact the list could be endless.

Many times in visiting people I have come across lonely people. Many of these have found friendship and people willing to be interested in them as people among church people. This is how we as Christians should be. We should be open to providing the physical outworking of the friendship we have with Jesus.

In many of our congregations we have individuals who are concerned and who show true friendship to the

lonely in our community. Unfortunately there are not enough of these members.

The really sad thing that greatly troubles me is when in visiting I find people who are bitter at the church. This has come about because in a real time of need (for them) and they have found that nobody in the church has been interested or helped in any way. In some cases they have been rejected by church people because of the particular problem (e.g. during times of divorce).

In some of these cases it is the family of these lonely people in particular that have caused them to reject the church and the message of God's friendship. These families have mostly been very active in churches and very strict in their interpretation of the faith they have.

Whilst realising that we as Christians have to condemn sin in all its forms we must be aware that every individual is a person for whom Christ died. Each person is important as a person to Christ. If they suffer because of loneliness then Christ suffers along with them. We need to be making this message known to people.

As Christians we should be showing interest in people around us not only our friends. We should be aware of the lonely people in our churches and in our communities and caring for them. Many of us would learn a great deal from these people as we befriend them and grow in our own faith. Too often is left to the minister and maybe the elders and some warm-hearted people to show hospitality and care. All of us as Christians should be caring and particularly with our own family. It may be that they are difficult to get along with. Yet this may be a means of us learning a lesson in humility and tact.

THE LAST WORD

From the journals of the nineteenth-century Swiss scientist-teacher-poet Henri Frederic Amiel: "There are no miracles for the indifferent."

— Virginia Scott Miner

Human Relationships

The 8 most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."

The 5 most important words: "You did a good job."

The 4 most important words: "What is your opinion?"

The 3 most important words: "If you please."

The 2 most important words: "Thank you."

The 1 most important word: "We."

The least important word: "I."



A tourist asked the hotel clerk, "May I have some stationary?"

"Are you a guest of the house?" the clerk asked.

"I certainly am not," replied the tourist, "I'm paying \$35 a day."

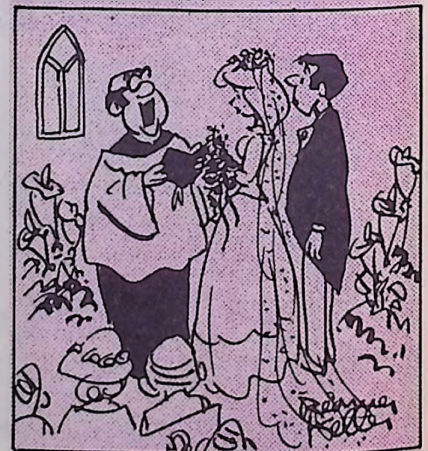


Clothes do not make the man, but a good suit has often made a lawyer.



Teacher: "Name a liquid that won't freeze."

Jim: "Hot water."



"DO YOU PROMISE TO LOVE, CHERISH, AND PROTECT HER IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH AND UNTIL MEDICARE CAN TAKE OVER?"

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