

CHALLENGE
RELEVANCE



RAY
STEDMAN



HANS
KUNG



THE
AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN

Vol. 84, No. 4, March 21, 1981

Registered for posting as a newspaper — Category A

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Churches Called to Prayer

Churches of Christ congregations throughout Australia are being called to a special day of prayer with a renewal, evangelism and church growth emphasis. March 29 is being used in a number of states.

The idea of a call came out of the National Conference on Evangelism held at Monbulk, Vic. in March, 1980. States will handle the call with their own particular emphases. The call seeks to bring before the churches the need for a fervent evangelistic spirit, renewed personal commitment and a growing spirit of conviction about the churches' need to grow.

South Australian and Victorian-Tasmanian churches have produced a leaflet which will be distributed among church members. The leaflet suggests practical ways churches may face up to the challenge of the call. Suggestions have also been made for preaching, together with items for personal reflection.

NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER

March 29



Barry Grear

Federal Conference President, Barry Grear, speaking to "The Christian" today said —

"I wonder how many Christians have noticed how graciously God designed prayer?"

To pray is nothing more involved than to let Jesus into our needs. Praying is simply giving Jesus permission to employ his powers in the alleviation of our distress.

When we pray earnestly we let Jesus glorify his name in the midst of our needs. We should pray for many things — actually everything — but as we share around Australia in the "National Day of Prayer" on March 29, 1981, let us concentrate on

- + the work of evangelism
- + the growth of our churches
- + the outreach into our communities
- + the awareness of God's love to all.

Remember that the results of prayer are not dependent upon the power of the person who prays.

For us to pray is to open the door to Jesus. That requires no strength — only a question of our will. Let us "Count it all joy" that we can bring everything to Jesus in prayer.

Adventure in Friendship

A friendly pastoral visit by minister Ron Saunders to a Vietnamese family who moved into a house near the Cowandilla (S.A.) church has led to an interesting and rewarding ministry among Indo-Chinese refugees to Adelaide. Ron has done a great deal of work in helping re-settle those who are due to leave the Migrant Hostel, by assisting in finding flats or houses, furniture, household equipment and clothes and in the inevitable form-filling-in. Friendships have been built up with an increasing number of families, some of whom have been Christians, either in Vietnam or as a result of missionary activity in the Transit Camps in Thailand.

Several families were attending worship services at Cowandilla; but language was a barrier to their full understanding. Towards the end of 1980, we met Miss Huynh Nguyet Hoang, a Vietnamese student at the Bible College of South Australia, an experienced interpreter and committed Christian who was willing to assist in our services. Encouraged and subsidised by the Home Missions Dept.

she is now working with Ron in visiting and interpreting in the homes and in worship services.

During December and January, bilingual services were held on Sunday evenings at Cowandilla with both English and Vietnamese languages being used in hymns (together or separately), prayers, sharing sessions and readings with the sermons being given by Ron and interpreted by Hoang. During the minister's vacation, Ron McLean carried on visiting and preaching. Up to 30 adult Vietnamese and numerous children were attending at this stage with our own 20 or so people. An outstanding feature was a Vietnamese language Christmas Eve service and party attended by most of the contacts that had been made.

On the first Sunday in February a Vietnamese baptismal service was held at 9 a.m. when a man and four young people were immersed. Since then the Vietnamese people have had their own service at this time. Hoang conducts the worship with Ron bringing the sermon which she translates. Ron McLean and



Miss Huynh Nguyet Hoang

Ted Heard have also preached at this service. Numbers increase as new people arrive or contacts introduce others.

Many have helped — Cowandilla church with the use of its premises and the minister's time, Home Mission and Social Service Departments, individuals with friendship, goods and transport . . . to all many thanks.

— A. M. Saunders

THE AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN

Vol. 84
No. 4

March 21
1981

ISSUE
April 4
April 18

DEADLINE
March 26
April 9

EDITOR: G. R. STIRLING
SUB-EDITOR
MANAGER: C. R. AMBROSE

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ON MY MIND

CHALLENGING RELEVANCE

Dennis Ryle

Dennis Ryle is a South Australian who graduated from the College of the Bible. His first ministry was at Fremantle (W.A.). He is now part of the A.C.T. Conference of Churches of Christ ministry team, specialising in outreach and evangelism. He is married to Jenny.

A thought that has recently come to settle and make it's home in my grey matter is a phrase coined by the missionary, A.G. Hogg, who had never heard of the word "contextualization" (hence not being burdened with the arduous task of having to try to pronounce it), but who spoke of and lived out the "challenging relevance" of the gospel.

THE RELEVANCE OF JESUS CHRIST

It strikes me that a church has little reason for existing if it is not seeking to live that "challenging relevance" in the community it wishes to serve. Many within the Australian church are beginning adventurously to explore the "challenging relevance" of the gospel to that elusive thing called the Australian culture (which really is as varied as the people who live in this country). As the phrase plays upon my mind, it dawns upon me that what we are really being confronted with is the alarming and "challenging relevance" of Jesus Christ.

JESUS CONFRONTS US

Jesus confronts us in some alarming ways. He does it in the parable of the Last Judgement, where the "sheep" are separated from the "goats", according to the way they have responded to the needs of those around them. Nothing is more relevant than bread to the one who is hungry, or than clothes to the one who is naked, or friendship to the one who is held in the prison of loneliness. Jesus challenges us to see ministry to these very relevant needs as ministry to him. And it is a challenge because it will cost us something in terms of our time, a reappraisal of our values, our possessions, indeed our whole selves, for we can only meet the challenge when we address Jesus Christ as Lord.

REVEALING THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Hence, the best theologians to help us grapple with the concepts of "contextualisation" and "challenging relevance" are those people in our churches who are revealing the life of the living Christ in their day-to-day encounters with those who seek, those who are in need, and those who suffer.

I think of the church that established a community centre for the frail aged. As the usually bed-ridden folk were brought to the centre, they began to rediscover their humanity. So did the volunteer helpers. They were discovering the "challenging relevance" of Christ in those to whom they ministered.

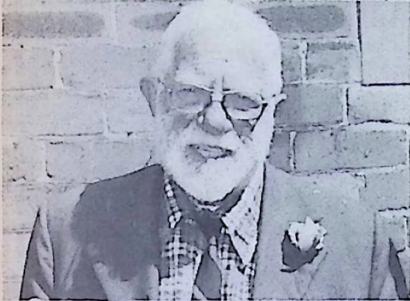
I think of the many people who have spoken to me of enrichment because of their involvement in small cell or prayer-/study groups in their churches. They have discovered the "challenging relevance" of Christ as they have demonstrated their care for one another.

I think of those churches that are agonising over the issue of unemployment, refugee resettlement, family breakdown and any of those community dilemmas that confront them with opportunities to demonstrate the "challenging relevance" of Jesus Christ.

"Challenging relevance" is demonstrating the Lordship of Christ in such a way that others cannot help but accept His Lordship too.

The Longest Subscriber to the Christian?

The claim has been made that Yelverton Middleton, of the Chatswood church, in N.S.W., may hold the record for length of subscription to "Australian Christian", approximately 66 years.



Yelverton Middleton

"Middy", as he is known to his host of friends, was in the Chatswood church, founded in 1914, from the earliest days. An accountant, he was its Treasurer for a remarkable 48 years. On retirement he was made an "Honorary Deacon." He is now 93 and attends very regularly. When he had to miss a Sunday morning service recently he made sure to send a message along so that his friends would know there was nothing wrong.

He had a very long and happy marriage partnership, losing his wife only three years ago. He has eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, who he says are all wonderful to him. (How could they be otherwise to someone who looks so very like Father Christmas!). He also treasures cuff-links and a letter sent to him a few years ago by the Australian Institute of Chartered Accountants in recognition that he is their longest serving member. (He is only the third oldest, however — which seems to say something about accountancy as a profession.)

Middy was also a founder member of what is now a very flourishing bowling club and played bowls until very recently. He is a foundation member, and was president for many years, of the Northern District (Sydney) Parents' and Citizens' Association.

His constant high spirits, courage, dedication and transparent goodwill make Chatswood very proud to have him among its members.

Diamond Wedding Bells

On Tuesday, February 24, Mr and Mrs A.M. Bell celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. A celebration luncheon was held in the Youth Hall at the Christian Centre on Sunday, February 22. A number of visitors who have known the Bells over many years were present.

A set of records containing the full score of "Messiah" was presented, with a handsome wall plaque inscribed with the appropriate text "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

A special cake was made and warm congratulations were extended with many good wishes. Mention was made of the tremendous work by Maston Bell, supported by Mrs Bell, in both the Brotherhood and the local church. Mr Bell has been Conference President, Conference Secretary and active on many Federal and State Conference committees, but is specially remembered for his long involvement with our work amongst the Aborigines.

We thank God for this long, happy and fruitful 60 years of married life and Christian service and rejoice with the Bells on this rare and joyful occasion.

— G. Ewers



Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bell cutting their Diamond Wedding anniversary cake.

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7pm Sunday 3rd May

VIC

BENTLEIGH (Chris MacKenzie). February 15 luncheon held followed by meeting with Keith Horne as guest speaker to look at church plan... Mr and Mrs R. Lindroth held meeting in their home to meet Dr and Mrs B. Waters missionaries at Arnhem Land... Keith Skillicorn talked and screened film "Bringers of Happiness" explaining work of Leprosy Mission... Mr and Mrs A. Beddome held time of fellowship in their home.

WILLIAMSTOWN (C. Wilson). 93rd birthday celebrated. Mr and Mrs Ron Brooker guests in morning. Charles Wilson speaker at evening service... Church saddened by death of Mrs E. Brown... Happy Group (over 50) asset for church... New youth group catering for teenagers formed.

HAMPTON (John and Eira Clapp, Tony Williams). Welcome to John and Eira Clapp, Tony and Margaret Williams and family at luncheon... Good Companions commenced cent line towards project money... Dorothy Fowler and Lindsay Smith recent speakers... Group attended Black Rock to hear Lance Fisher on Aborigines Mission... Mrs Knights spoke to ladies on Lebanon.

BAMBRA RD., CAULFIELD (M. Stevens). Kevin Christensen concluded 6½ year ministry. He inducted student minister Michael Stevens. Farewell and welcoming luncheon held on same day... Renewal meeting held with George Powell, Hobart, speaking at both meetings... B.S. (Happy Hour) growing.

WO

KALGOORLIE (L. D. Gibb). Three baptised... C.W.F. president is Marion Favas. First meeting of year saw 20 present... S.S. commenced with open school... Informal barbecue held to welcome all newcomers to fellowship... Church board holding planning meetings.

ROCKINGHAM (Colin Hall). Over 170 present at induction service when Colin and Marion Hall and their two sons were welcomed to the Rockingham church at McClarty Hall. Guest speakers included Conf. Pres. Frank Raymond, Des Croot, Ken Patterson and Rev. Hawkins... S.S. recommenced with 15 attending... C.W.F. held A.G.M. ... Many visitors during summer.

SO

COWANDILLA (R. W. Saunders). S.S. new feature is adult Bible class conducted by Mrs Dorothy Pearson and Ron McLean... Ian Sander leader Boys' Brigade Section 1... Boys' Brigade Senior section and Girls' Brigade made use of nearby school swimming pool for first few sessions... At C.W.F. Mrs

Muriel Craddock spoke... Harvest Thanksgiving held with Ted Heard, H.M. Director speaker in morning. Special audio-visual on harvest presented at night... Ron McLean and Ken Dawson preached during minister's vacation and Alice Saunders spoke when he preached at Croydon concerning Vietnamese Refugee ministry... Vietnamese church holding services in chapel 9 a.m. every Sunday.

SALISBURY EAST (Stephen Curkpatrick). Induction of first full-time minister conducted by Rex Chamberlain. 153 attended... Two baptised. Membership now 36 with average attendance of 60... Evening services commenced... Church celebrated third anniversary... Ladies' coffee group project to clothe an Aboriginal girl from mission... Rachael Fax and Joan Algate elected to board.

PROSPECT (A. Tanner). Mr and Mrs Arthur Tanner welcomed into fellowship of Prospect and Kilburn by Ed Roffey. Also present were representatives of Prospect Council led by Mayor Jack Battle... Guest speakers M. Thompson, Pres. Elect., and Miss S. Maddern...

New hymn and reading boards donated by Mr and Mrs C. Middleton... At C.W.F. first meeting Arthur Tanner spoke on experiences at C.O.B. ... Camera Club commenced year with a competition on buildings... Manse prepared for Arthur and Jane Tanner by C.W.F. and Life Be In It over 60s group.

VIC

WATTLE PARK (Ian Allsop). Ian Allsop welcomed into ministry... Wednesday Worship Forum begun for people with work or family commitments on Sundays. First speaker Don Smith and guest artist Peter York... Jim Bunston welcomed back after a year's service at Fitzroy Crossing... Good Companions commenced "cent drive" to assist service project... Over \$1000 raised for Christmas Bowl... Church hall broken into. Much damage... C.Y.F. raised \$50 in a car wash.

SWAN HILL (J. A. Caporn). Five study groups now meeting each week. Two new

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groups are a youth Bible education class led by Warwick Dahl and a ladies morning study led by Dot Vogie . . . Club for boys and girls of primary school age commenced.

CHADSTONE. (Bruce Skillicorn). Friendship Club held bus trip to Kallista . . . C.W.F. break-up held at Rob's Restaurant and Christmas luncheon and carol service combined with Friendship Club . . . Geoff Masterton dux of Jordanville Tech. . . All sections of Explorers held 'sleep-ins' in hall for break-up . . . Presentation to Shirley Flanders on her retirement from S.S. after many years of service . . . Children brought gifts for children at Kew Cottages . . . C.W.F. started year with morning coffee . . . G.C. leaders attended leaders tea and induction of Dot Brooker . . . 7 p.m. fellowship held in manse.

HORSHAM (Wally Gibney). Carale and Ian Meyer and family home on furlough from Nepal . . . Harvest Festival Thanksgiving held. Amount from sale of goods to Bethany Children's Home . . . Election of board held . . . Ladies local craft shop gave \$1800 last year to missions and local charities . . . S.S. presented "The Music Machine" . . . Church choir presented Christmas cantata.

NSW

PENDLE HILL (R. J. Bassett). Church preparing for teaching mission with Ken Bond . . . Baptism of two young men . . . Training classes on leadership with Owen Wainwright . . . Church saddened by the death of Mrs Nell Larcombe.

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS (K.A. Mason). At Blaxland Conf. Pres. Jim Henderson guest speaker . . . Shirley and Richard Pearce and children sang at family gospel service . . . Marilyn McDougall, C.W.F. Pres., spoke at C.W.F. anniversary . . . Springwood weekly prayer and Bible study held in home of Vee and Ron Goswell.

WINGHAM (Graham Warne). A.M. attendances up 33% . . . P.M. up 50%. Building sometimes packed . . . Extensions considered. Four baptisms last year . . . "Focus on Life" recently commenced weekly column in local paper . . . Plans for a "Creative Living Centre" for community outreach one day per week . . . Minister recovering from glandular fever.

SA

MAYLANDS (Lloyd Cooke). Brian and Eleanor Matthews have returned after two months working in India at Dhond and the Wadi Hospital at Poona . . . Joined with Uniting Church when they inducted their new minister Rev Don Haydon . . . Young families group meets regularly . . . All-age B.S. has commenced at 9.30 a.m. Sundays . . . Friendship Centre heard lady from Disabled Persons Assoc . . . Church family dinner held . . . Harvest Thanksgiving service goods to Norseman Mission and St Georges Rest

Home . . . Church expresses sympathy to H. Peason on the death of his wife.

BLACKWOOD (T. Giles, J. May). Vacation Care Program provided wide variety of sporting and craft activities for over 160 children during holidays, 80% from non-church families . . . C.O.B. students John and Eira Clapp made contribution while Trevor Giles on holiday . . . Church welcomed the May family at the induction of Jeff May. Local parliamentary and council representatives attended.

VIC

SURREY HILLS (Rod Foster). Gifts presented to Ken and Joan Wray and family as they left for ministry at Nailsworth, S.A. . . . New minister Rod Foster with Jeanette and children from Howrah, Tas. welcomed . . . Pam Minahan new treasurer . . . Aileen Draney speaker at C.W.E.F.

THORNBURY (Ian Adams). Ian Adams and family inducted by Don Smith, Dept. M.E.D. . . . Two confessions of faith . . . Christmas project raised \$3,383 for World Vision project in Sevasadar, India . . . 20 attended planning retreat at Monbulk.

CHELTENHAM (A.E. White, S. Wilson, D. Smith). Speakers — Hazel Ruskin, on visit to sister with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Columbia; Katherine Cheong, on witnessing at home in

Malaysia to her Buddhist family; Aileen Draney on her 21 years in P.N.G.; and Gerald Rose, Director D.C.E. in S.A., on his work and visit to U.S.A. . . . Memorial service held for Will Follett, who had over 70 years connection with church . . . Portable communion set and two ornamental vases dedicated to memory of Vera Boxhall . . . Church family service with Alf White and Robyn Daff . . . Century old school hall modernised by volunteer labor.

WA

RIVERVALE (Barry Thygesen). Church welcomed new minister Barry, Roberta, Sonia and Mark from Dalby, Qld . . . Leaders shared in planning retreat at Orange Grove . . . Annual meeting held. New secretary Perry Barnett. Colin Hooper elected to board . . . Three welcomed into membership . . . Once monthly after-church luncheon and fellowship at Tomato Lake. 55 attended . . . Hospitality roster commenced for 1981 . . . Life Be In It S.S. picnic held at Coogee Beach . . . Op Shop being conducted in church hall each Monday.

THE PATCH (Len Martin). 30 travelled to Ormond to witness baptism of Mrs Eileen Treloar . . . 25th anniversary held on March 1. Ron Brooker speaker. Tirriki Singers from Cheltenham guest artists . . . Ladies attended World Day of Prayer in Monbulk Uniting Church.

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.**

Today's "BRIGHT SPOT"

"How can we reach our community effectively?"

In 1977 Hampstead Gardens Church of Christ pondered this question, and our Outreach Committee took action.

Doctors Surgeries, mothers' clubs, the local council, and the elderlies living in pensioner units nearby were contacted. We found many lonely people. How could we help?

Craft classes seemed to be one answer.

Church members distributed brochures to every home in nearby suburbs, offering tuition and friendship.

"Put a BRIGHT SPOT into your week" was our motto. Not knowing how many would be interested and attend, we followed God's guidance in faith. Opening day brought 65 adults, men and women, and 11 preschoolers. Still they come, bringing friends, each Wednesday morning during school term. Average attendances during 1980 were 97, with 112 the highest.

We have learned that it is not only the elderly who are lonely. Mothers with their families at work or school, have time on their hands. Young mothers with tiny children become frustrated and long for company.

We are equipped to cater for all ages, either working at one of the crafts, or playing bowls or pool. Some of the families attend our contemporary church service and Sunday School, while several older folk attend regular services.

By our love and concern, together with a brief weekly message of we are telling of Christ's love.

Mary Lundberg. S.A.



THINK ABOUT IT.

Mark 9:14-27. esp. v.24

When we pray for someone or something, we MUST believe. We wonder why we can't overcome some difficult trait in our nature. We pray so hard. But we don't REALLY BELIEVE, in its solution. Affirmative prayer helps greatly.



Women

WOMEN IN NORTHERN TERRITORY

While living in the same country, yet so far away, life in the N.T. makes you feel you are in another world. The busy lifestyle of the southern states does not suit tropical conditions, and re-adjustment is difficult. A vast moving population, the average age being 35 years, with an abundance of children, but the lack of grandparents makes the rearing of children difficult.

Separation from friends and relatives, and new friends constantly leaving puts a strain on life.

Many see their stay as a working holiday, while some who have never worked outside the home, take on work to compensate for higher cost of living, boredom, or to get away from a hot house to an air-conditioned office. Creches are filled to overflowing and there is a demand for more.

For the Christian, there is a more positive outlook, with a real sense of belonging and comfort, as they have a church home, and a ready made family. Because of their isolation, christian women from all denominations are pulling together mainly under C.W.C.I. — "All one in Christ Jesus". Many christians who come here are really challenged to re-think priorities and their walk with the Lord. Some have fallen away because of pressures, others have recommitted their lives to the Lord and are standing up to be counted.

Dr Ella Stack, ex Lord Mayor of Darwin, was quoted in the N.T. News as saying, "The most pressing concern for Territory women was to understand their isolation, the real isolation of the out-back. Women away from their families and support groups is the real problem." Dr Stack said that this tied in with air fares and no alternative form of transport.

It is most important for people who have families or friends in the north, to keep in close contact to give them that sense of belonging, and alleviate the isolation.

Henni DeWildt. M.T.

CAMP HILL WOMEN'S GROUP.

Lack of enthusiasm for Christian Women's Fellowship at Camp Hill, caused the women to look for alternative activities satisfying to all. A Coffee and Craft morning once a fortnight was formed. Crafts include Dressmaking, Macrame, Crochet, Leather work, and Cake Icing, taught by church women. A charge of 50 cents is made for 2 hour session, ten minute Devotional Thought for the Day is given by members, and tea and coffee with eats brought by members is enjoyed. Ten minutes is allowed for getting to know the women who do not attend church.

Once a fortnight 3 Bible study groups are held in homes. If any women happen to be sick, one group takes the opportunity to visit them.

Every 2-3 months a night meeting is held, to which a special speaker is invited. It is often a family night for the whole church.

Ruth Weymouth, President, sends out a Newsletter about coming events. Enid Tinney is secretary, and Gwen Spencer Treasurer. The executive attends to most business. State executive receives the C.W.F. monetary dues.

Small envelopes, with only names of the relevant months on them, are issued to every woman in the church, with an explanatory letter, she puts her 3 monthly offering in the envelope, and puts it in the collection plate with her church offering. These envelopes are given by the church Treasurer to the Treasurer of the C.W.F. Finances have risen so that the C.W.F. can increase their giving to Living Link. Notices given out to mothers waiting outside schools for their children have also given church women valuable contacts. Gwen Spencer. Qld.



SON OF AN "UN-POET"

Outside Grand Central station

A shoe-shine boy was shining shoes

As he whipped his shine cloth, again and again over his customers' shoes, A silver medal danced about his neck.

"Sonny", asked a big man, smoking a cigar, "What's the hardware around your neck?"

"It's a medal of Mary, the mother of Jesus", the boy answered.

"But why her medal?" asked the man,

"She's no different, kid, from your own mother".

"That's right mister," answered the boy, "but there's a heck of a difference between her son and me".

The big man took a puff at his cigar, flipped the boy a quarter, and walked on.

from "The Merriest Christmas Book" by Mark Link.



MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

Over the past few weeks your correspondent and his co-workers have been evaluating the Theos youth outreach program conducted at Torquay in January.

We have been greatly encouraged by the number of teenagers and young adults continuing in either new-found faith or in renewed commitment.

As happens each holiday season, the long hot summer days and the attraction of the surf south of Geelong drew thousands of young people to the small community at Torquay.

Once again, problems facing young people — such as alcoholism, drug addiction, homelessness and unemployment — were in high relief.

As one response to the evident needs of so many, we (around 30 of us from all denominations) set up a coffee house/drop-in centre. Here, hopefully, people could drop by, enjoy a cuppa and good live music, and get to know other people — including Christian team members.

Many who had been to Torquay Theos in previous years returned. Contacts were renewed and new friendships made. One guy now in his early twenties who came to Theos two summers ago has subsequently become a Christian. He returned to tell us of the part Theos had played in his conversion.

As well as the coffee house, we endeavoured to get out into the community — to the streets, the pub, the pool rooms and the beaches. Several members of the God Squad Christian motorcycle club assisted us in this for part of our fourteen days. It was our privilege to share the good news of Jesus with many of the teenagers and young adults we got to know. Some accepted the call to commitment while we were at Torquay; many others are still working through the claims of Jesus in the context of continuing



relationships with team members. At a recent team reunion several team members were able to share the progress some of these kids are making.

Prayer for team members, for the new Christians and for those still grappling with the big issues in their lives is warmly invited: not just for Torquay (and Port Fairy where Christ and Mary Ambrose were serving) but for the many camp, beach mission and coffee house teams which were mobilized this summer right around Australia.

★ ★ ★

The summer coffee house season saw further choice specimens added to your correspondent's graffiti collection. For example:

- I'm not God. But I can introduce you to someone who is.
- These are the good old days. Just wait and see.
- Sugar and spice and all things nice. Acid and smack and no way back.
- Forgiveness is for giving.
- Beautify our rubbish dumps. Throw away something beautiful today.
- I've always believed in reincarnation. Ever since I was a little frog.

- Dear John. If you don't see this you'll know I wasn't here.
- Girls! Don't worry! God has a wonderful man for you. Phone Eric on 699 2838.

★ ★ ★

One aspect of this summer's outreach that was fairly disturbing was the way unemployed Christian young people were prevented from joining evangelistic teams.

Something of the frustration of this was expressed in the following letter to The Age newspaper by a camp leader from Melbourne's western suburbs where youth unemployment is endemic.

"Spare a thought for the unemployed over January. Two young friends of mine were reminded recently that the unemployed are second class citizens.

They had offered themselves as leaders on a camp for disadvantaged children, to be held in the first week of January at Phillip Island.

At the last minute they were forced to stay home by the Department of Social Security, which promised to cut off the dole and slap on a 12-week waiting period if they dared leave their homes and make themselves unavailable for full-time work.

It is iniquitous that in a society where there are more than 20 unemployed people for every vacancy (and twice that number for those under 21), a test for willingness to work should be applied at all, let alone so severely and punitively.

While the fortunate employed flock to the resorts in the summer heat, the unemployed are denied any break at all, not even for volunteer service." (14 January, 1981).

This matter is mentioned to indicate one anomaly in our system which it would seem appropriate to draw to the attention of our local members and the Minister.

The Federal Government is currently reviewing certain aspects of its unemployment policies. Now is a good time to write.

★ ★ ★

And now a brand new feature..! A Mustard Seeds **TRICKY QUIZ!**

Question: Which world famous political figure wrote the following: "Union with Christ imparts an inner elevation, comfort in affliction, tranquil reliance, and a heart which opens itself to everything noble and great, not for the sake of ambition or the desire for fame, but for the sake of Christ. Union with Christ, and through him with God, produces a joy known only to the simple and childlike heart, a joy which elevates life and makes it more beautiful."

- Was it (a) George Washington,
(b) Karl Marx,
(c) Winston Churchill,
(d) Jimmy Carter.

Answer, and another tricky question, next time.



OPEN FORUM

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

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY NIGHT

To the Editor,

During 1980 I was interested to read the articles on "page 13" about the Sunday evening gospel services, and whatever happened to them. It saddened me to realize that many churches consider that these types of services can no longer attract people. The thought seemed to be that because of television, the motor car and Sunday sport they were things of the past.

Early in 1981 because of the illness of a relative in Southport hospital, I had to go to Queensland. I attended four consecutive 7 p.m. services at Southport Church of Christ. The large building was filled. Extra seating had to be used twice. All age groups were represented. A bright song service, and a sermon direct from the Word. Summed up the message was "God loves us all; but if we have not accepted Christ as Saviour we are on the road to hell." An invitation at each service saw numbers decide to step forward for counselling. There were no gimmicks. Question. Whatever happened to the "old style," gospel service? Answer. It is still flourishing at Southport Church of Christ. Question. Why?

— George Aldersley (Vic.)

CHURCH PUBLICITY

To the Editor,

Congratulate the Federal Aborigines Mission Board on their striking publicity material for this year's Offering. Obviously, they have made the discovery that there is a link between the quality of publicity and the level of response from people.

Fortunately other churches and Departments have made the same discovery but alas, some have not. I

Helping People Grow

The Crestview Christian Church in Greenville, Texas had a problem. They were trying to handle the 'janitorial' custody of the church without too large an expense. They had not been able to find anyone in the congregation to do the job.

Then solution came when they approached a sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded.

Now, one day each week, a crew of seven clients arrive at the church accompanied by two supervisors. Under direction both buildings of the church are cleaned and prepared for Sunday services. At the same time the clients learn janitorial responsibilities.

The opportunity to work allows the clients to get away from the centre and to receive an "ego boost." Participation allows them to experience different behaviour modeling as well as a reward for proper behaviour.

The salary is equally divided and thus they learn also about personal money management as well as developing a sense of personal accomplishment.

The project has some success stories.

As a caring Christian community the congregation strives to mix with the mentally retarded workers, not fearing them but talking to them as individuals.

— The Disciple

continue to be appalled by the pathetic standard of some advertising leaflets, weekly bulletins and church letterheads which I pick up. Among the people of the community these merely serve to reinforce their belief that the church is a dowdy and unimaginative organisation which is really only half-hearted in its desire to relate effectively to the contemporary scene.

I believe that every church and Brotherhood Department should allocate a generous budget figure to publicity. In addition, we desperately need the National Media Department which was proposed at last year's Evangelism Conference at Manbulk. When established this Department will be able to provide much needed help and advice to our Churches.

— Graham Agnew (S.A.)

DIVINE HEALING

To the Editor,

I refer to your article "Divine Healing" ("A.C." Feb.) and noted that the N.S.W. Commission offering all interested people copies of the Commission's findings. Expecting that this would be a statement aiming to explain away rather than to encourage the church's deeper search into this question, I was both amazed and thrilled with the findings.

The introduction by Dr Lloyd Jones is nothing short of surprising and the whole report excellent indeed. I believe that if the whole brotherhood would examine the findings of the report we would be well on the way to restoring New Testament Christianity in this respect and to bringing about a ministry often neglected. I have often wondered why as a restoration movement we have been neglectful of such an important ministry. I commend the report as a sincere and inspirational concept of New Testament teaching.

— Peter Retchford (Box Hill, Vic.)

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

SELF DISCOVERY

To the Editor,

Some of our friends are gone on "self-discovery groups." I don't think I need to go to a group to discover myself. I make the painful discovery every time I look in a mirror. Sometimes I lie awake at night exploring my inner recesses, and I'm not sure that I like everything that is there. And I'm certain that it wouldn't help other people in a group for me to muck rake my inner cellar in their presence. I'm only too grateful to God that although he knows what's there a lot better than I do, he still accepts me.

There's another thing about this self-discovery business. My wife and I have several friends who have been self-actualised and we are not keen on the result. Before the process they were nice easy going people without any hangups (at least that they knew about.) Since they have discovered their identities, they throw them round right, left and centre. They talk ceaselessly about hangups and complexes that they never knew they had. Whereas once they talked about life and fun and people and faith and the church and the world, now they never stop talking about themselves. They say they have found themselves. I keep wondering what it is that they have really found!

I think that I remember reading somewhere that Jesus said, "If you want to find yourself, forget all about yourself."

Mr Editor, please don't get yourself self-actualised. We like you just the way you are, hangups and all.

— TERTIUS

A PLACE FOR YOU?

Opportunities for serving Christ exist in countries overseas.

VANUATU

- ★ Teachers required for the Ranwadi High School for 1982 especially in the Maths and Science areas.
- ★ Double certificated nurse, male or female to assist at the Ndul Ndul Hospital.
- ★ 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.

C.M.F. Raised \$25,000 in Three Years

The Gas for Missions fund was launched in November 1977 at the C.M.F. Annual Dinner held at Blackburn.

It was decided by the Central Board, Victoria, after corresponding with the other States, that men's work would raise a fund of \$25,000 to be invested with the Victorian Properties Corporation at 10% interest to ensure a perpetual interest of \$2,500 to be forwarded annually to our Overseas Missions Board to be used solely for the purchase of fuel for the many motors used on the missions of New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Acknowledgment is made of the assistance of groups and individuals in all states for the co-operation received in reaching our target of \$25,000 as announced at our annual dinner in November last year at North Balwyn church. Money was raised in many different ways — direct giving, C.W.F. (\$1000), individual investment with Properties Corporation with interest donated to the Fund, hunger strike, C.M.F. Tours, film evening, breakfast — dinner, making letter boxes, coffee tables, pillow etc. etc.

This fund is still available to any who wish to contribute further amounts to this specific purpose. Our project for 1981 will be contributing to improvements at our Lake Eppalock camp site.

Annual Dinner:

This evening of fellowship and entertainment continues to attract 100 men each year. The venue for the last two years has been North Balwyn, where the local Ladies' Catering Committee supplied the needs of the men attending.

Regional Breakfasts:

These have been held at Burwood, Glen Waverley, Nunawading, Werribee, Cheltenham, Box Hill, all with good attendance.

Tours and Travel Club:

Tours within Australia and overseas have attracted many men and women. Dave and Kath Watt are the tour leaders. Jean Adkins is the secretary.

Wild Flower Camp:

On the suggestion of the late Roland Pritchard, contact was made with the C.W.F. to arrange a combined camp to bring the family together. Such a camp was held at Halls Gap in September when great fellowship was enjoyed by the 52 present. Studies were led by our Chaplain Neal Hodgekiss. A tree was planted in the grounds as a memorial to Roland.

A LEGACY

PERPETUATES YOUR INTEREST IN

Evangelism

New church development

Youth outreach

Education

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

Churches Responding to Special Outreach Issue

Traralgon was the first church to respond to the offer of "The Australian Christian" and Christian Projects Limited for free copies of a Special Outreach Issue of the "A.C." coming out round about early July.

Now the responses are flooding in from churches all over Australia. We are gratified. 15,000 copies will be available for churches willing to use them in their outreach visitation programs. All we ask is that you write to us and let us know how you plan to use them, especially for follow-up visitation.

The Berri (S.A.) Church

Here is an extract from the Berri church letter.

"We will ask our auxiliaries to supply names of contacts to whom we will post copies. We will do the same with contacts already made by minister and church board.

We consider that posting copies will carry more prestige. There are so many things shoved in letter boxes these days.

We plan to visit these people taking with us a suitable brochure or, as you suggest, "Churches of Christ Who Are They?"

The whole idea is terrific . . . and we sincerely thank those who are responsible for it."

Others Too

Some churches not planning visitation programs at the time are ordering copies for distribution among fringe families, accepting the offer of supply at 10c per copy. Some are sending their cheques.

We are willing to consider any worthwhile program of outreach for the free copies. Keep them coming.

A.C.T. Bible Study Course In Community

When considering Bible Study programs for 1981, the A.C.T. Conference decided to approach Erindale College's Community Education Program with the offer of conducting an intensive Bible Study Course.

Why? It was clear that community education programs in the A.C.T. were gaining in popularity. So why not include the opportunity for Bible study along with welding, pottery, photography and business administration? Here, also, was an opportunity for the A.C.T. churches to offer a service to the community, to demonstrate that the Bible belongs in the mainstream of life, and to provide a neutral meeting place around the Bible for Christians and seekers from all traditions.

The curriculum chosen was the Kerygma Bible Study Course (published by the Joint Board of Christian Education), which emphasises 10 major biblical themes in leading the student to an appreciation of the whole message of the Bible. Using such a course, it was not difficult to receive the necessary endorsement of all major denominations in Canberra, and Erindale College approved the inclusion of the course in its program.

Many enquiries have been received, and an enthusiastic group is now embarking on the course of Bible Study under the leadership of Dennis Ryle, the minister responsible for community outreach. The course, involving 2½ hours in class each week, will extend over the three school terms of the year.

GREAT CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES EASTER:

... For Young Adults 18 years and over — April 16-20
at Mary Blackwood House, Berwick.

MAY SCHOOL VACATION:

... For Young People 16 years and over — May 11-15

at Axedale Rotary Youth Camp (near Bendigo)

For Girls in Year 7 and over — May 11-16
at Banksia (Gippsland Lakes)

... For Girls in Grades 5 and 6 — May 17-21
at Monbulk (Dandenong Ranges).

... For Boys in Years 7 and 8 — May 17-21
at Banksia

For further information and registration forms, contact DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 3000.
Phone: 882 2377.

If I be Lifted Up ...

On a bus journey ... an elderly lady, widow of a doctor, wanted to know all about the foreigner and her morals and her god. She listened to the gospel with puzzlement at first, for the Shankar whom she worshipped was a very different god, but gradually the loveliness of Jesus' life and work began to capture her imagination and she wanted to hear more and more. Finally she opened her heart to tell of an only son who was a drunkard. Could Jesus do anything for him?

In the busy market-place ... as the small band of Christians sang and spoke of Jesus and the cross, one man stood for a long time listening, and then bought a gospel. Was this the first time he'd heard of Jesus? No ... It was a wonderful story wasn't it? Yes, indeed. He wanted to hear it often and to read it for himself till he was sure he understood it.

In a hospital ward ... two Hindu women listened as prayer was offered for a Christian woman very ill with cancer. Impressed by their intent faces, I said, "It's a wonderful thing, isn't it to be able to ask help from a living and loving God, and to know that we'll go to be with him when we die? Have you heard anything about Jesus who made the way to God open for us?" "Yes" said the younger one who was due to go home to her village next day. "The preacher and bai have told us, and I've bought a book about him. I've read it all through. What love! What suffering! Think of those thorns!" Then the older woman in the bed next door, facing an operation that day and afraid,

— Dorothy Geyer



caught hold of my hand and with tears in her eyes, asked me to pray for her too.

In a first class railway compartment ... a rich Gujarati businessman could read English. Offering a Gospel of John open at chapter 17, he read on to the end. Then he too said, "What suffering! ... and all for God."

Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." And that wonderful story of his lifting up on a cross — for God — and for men — still has its magnetic power wherever it is told. Will you pray for those in India who seek to tell it, and for those who listen, that, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, they may not only hear and be moved, but believe and be saved?

Massive House-to-house Circulation of Scriptures in Honduras

In the Latin American country of Honduras, the Bible Society has mobilised 3,000 volunteers to carry out a house-to-house circulation of the Scriptures.

The distribution program which began in September, 1980, will continue until November, 1981. Called "Operation Philip," participating churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, are involved in providing the small army of Bible distributors for the nation-wide outreach. The volunteers will distribute 40,000 Bibles, 30,000 New Testaments and 80,000 Gospel Portions.

The program is designed to reach the unevangelised through the mass distribution. The Government has been carrying out a literacy program throughout the country and the Bible Society plans to distribute 150,000 "Life of Jesus" booklets in conjunction with this.

Christians in China Speak Out

"A Call for Clarity" is the title of a recent article written by Bishop K.T. Ting of the People's Republic of China. It contains 14 points for Christians overseas to study. Several points are vital for our understanding of the Chinese Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

These Christians are taking a very positive attitude towards New China in its economic improvement and also the removal of the "Gang of Four". They see the possibility of further religious freedom being granted.

Denominationalism is gone and any effort to resurrect it will be opposed. Bishop Ting writes, "The present unity of the Chinese Christians is unprecedented ... We are no longer separated by denominational walls."

Deep concern was expressed at the involvement of Christian people from other countries in China for they believe evangelism is the responsibility of the Chinese church. Of tourists and business and professional people whose real purpose is evangelism the question is asked, "Is it honest for them to conceal their identity? Is it right that they should not consult the Chinese church and in some cases have even attacked us?"

The great problem which the church in China is facing is that the door to the gospel of Christ may be closed through foreign intervention.

Once again Christianity could be seen as a "foreign religion". Bishop Ting says "We are but learning the lessons of history. We uphold self government, self support and self propagation as the road of an independent and self-administered church in order that the door of the Gospel may be open and remain open in China." (Bishop Ting is the chairperson of the Chinese Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee and President of the China Christian Council.)

— A. George Mathieson.

Perth Bible College Commencement

The annual Commencement Night of the Perth Bible College was held on February 24 when 13 first-year students to the college were welcomed. This year a good number of Church of Christ people are involved in P.B.C. in various ways.

There are three first-year full-time residential students from our churches. They are: John Crosby (South Perth); Miriam Prins (Kalgoorlie) and Craig Rodger (Balga). As well as the full-time students there are a large number of Churches of Christ people attending as part-time students.

This year the lecturing panel includes Principal Dr David Beavis (Whitford City); Leroy Randall (Scarborough); John Bond (Thornlie); John Bolton (Balga); Alan Anderson (Nollamara); Ron Cook (Inglewood); and Nigel Merrick (Subiaco).

The Commencement Night address was given by Kevin Denton (South Perth).

YOU CAN KEEP ON CARING ... Through your will

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The Director,
Dept. of Community Care
52 LaTrobe St., Melb. 3000

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BOOKS TO READ

THE BIBLE ALMANAC

Edited by J. I. Packer, Merrill C. Tenney, William White (Thomas Nelson). \$19.50.

The Bible Almanac is a comprehensive handbook on the people of the Bible and how they lived. 25 years ago many of us were greatly helped by "Everday Life In Old Testament Times" and "Everyday Life In New Testament Times". However, this Bible Almanac surpasses them both.

While much of the material is available in larger and more specialised volumes and encyclopaedia, this is an excellent book for the layman and should have a place in every church library and home where Christian books are taken seriously.

This new publication takes into account evidence of latest discoveries in the field of textual studies, geography and archaeology, and forms responsible evangelical scholarship.

In one large volume it brings together background material to help the Christian have a better understanding of the life and times of biblical characters. There are 46 major articles covering not only the peoples of the ancient world but their way of life.

A young ousng girl would find the chapter on clothing and cosmetics of great interest, while other people would find the articles on architecture and furniture stimulating reading.

There is an excellent index which allows you to get to any area of question you may wish, and before each major article a brief summary prefacing the contents, allowing you to find quickly the point you are seeking. This volume weaves the scriptural content into the background material, making for inspiring reading.

In an age of very expensive paperbacks, this is great value for money; there are 760 pages, dozens of full color photographs, 300 black and white photographs, numerous illustrations and charts, it is well bound in a hardback edition and yet retails for only \$19.50. It is available now at all Bible Societies.

— Gordon Moyes

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH

by Donald E. Demaray. (Baker) \$7.95

Whether skimmed through or explored in depth by layman, young budding preacher or older experienced preacher I believe this small paperback will inform, stimulate and challenge the reader. Crammed with information and practical suggestions in a logical, concise, precise and easy to read way it can be quickly read but will require a lifetimes discipline to implement.

In seeking to help preachers quickly and yet thoroughly and effectively prepare and deliver expositional sermons, Demaray presents firstly W. Barclay's "Eleven Conclusions About Preaching". Then in sections two and three of his book, "Preparation" and "Communication", he clearly sets forth all that is necessary for bringing these factors about preaching to life. At times he presents ideas and practices which would already be known and used by preachers serves to show that his material is usable. For me, much new and helpful ground was covered. The section on Integrity, the dynamics of credibility and that on the components of Authority are important reading for today's preacher.

It has helped me draw together the dynamics of communication by preaching, zero in on the truth that matters most, discover the needs of my people and meet them with the Bible.

— Peter Wells

DYING — THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE

By James H. Casson (C.M.F.)

This small book can be read in a sitting. It is by a Christian doctor and was written while he was dying of cancer. He died in June 1980, aged 37, leaving a wife and two children. In the book he works through with us his own dying from the point of

view of a doctor, of a patient, of a Christian, and of a husband and father. It is a good book for those who have uncertainties about death and dying, whether as patient, or as an observing relative or friend. There is an interesting and thought provoking section on divine healing. The publishers of the book are The Christian Medical Fellowship, 157 Waterloo Rd., London, SE1, 8XN. It should also be procurable locally.

ALCOHOL, YOUR BLOOD AND YOUR BRAIN

by Lindsay R. Curtis (W.C.T.U.) \$1.50

A booklet that explains in simple terms the effects of alcohol on the body. Colourful cartoons dominate this book and illustrate the point that the text makes. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Victoria is distributing this booklet as an educational aid for children. Discounts of 10% apply on orders of 20 or more copies from W.C.T.U. Victoria, 48 Russell St., Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

by Fred Milson (Paternoster Press)

Fred Milson is an evangelical youth leader who deplores the fact that almost all of the political education in the U.K. is being done either by the fascists (National Front) or by the Marxists. As modern democracy was born on Calvary it seems to him the church should have a vested interest in keeping it alive by being involved in political education, especially of the young. He believes that the church is best suited for political education because Christians are "unlikely to be fooled by the facile or the fanatical assumption that utopia can be achieved by party politics..." and they recognise "That sinful human nature presents obstacles to reform that will not be easily overcome." He presents various historical and contemporary attitudes of Christian to politics and evaluates them. While the book is slanted towards leaders of youth groups it is useful for all concerned Christian people. There is an excellent chapter on methods of Christian political education as well as good lists of resources.

PLANNING FOR GROWING TOGETHER

by Rob Evans (Joint Board) \$3.75

A manual for all-age learning in the church. This booklet looks at just what is an all-age learning program and then looks at setting up a new program in the church or the ways of keeping an existing program running. This booklet gives examples of actual situations in Australia to illustrate the work set out. At \$3.75 for 31 pages this is a little expensive but of use to anyone thinking of using all-age learning programs in their church.

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



HAPPENINGS

The story is told of a bishop who tapped a microphone at the beginning of the service and said, "There's something wrong with this." To which the whole congregation replied, "And also with you."

A stage production based on the life of C.S. Lewis will tour the U.S.A. beginning in early 1981. No doubt this will eventually arrive in Australia.

The Sydney "Sunday Telegraph" has commissioned Rev Fred Nile, National Co-ordinator of the Festival of Light, to write a regular feature article for parents and families.

On January 1, a new country that wants to be nuclear weapons free was born, the Republic of Palau, a group of islands in the south Pacific that had been part of the Micronesian territories administered by the U.S.A. The constitution of the new country bans the use, testing, storage and disposal of nuclear weapons anywhere in the new country unless 75% of voters in a special referendum allow it.

Ray Gauer former Director of the Citizens for Decency through the Law

movement will visit Australia during June at the invitation of the Festival of Light.

According to "Time" magazine the average woman in the U.S.S.R. has six abortions during her lifetime. Abortion is commonly used as a form of birth control in the Soviet Union.

55% of Uruguay's voters recently rejected a constitution drafted by the military that was designed to guarantee the armed forces permanent control over government decisions. The military government has been often accused of gross violation of human rights since 1973 when it took over what was regarded to be South America's model democracy.

Anita Bryant, the singer and homosexual civil rights foe in the U.S.A., says she now favors a "live and let live" public policy on homosexuality.

The exploited and often persecuted South American Indian has found justice in Nicaragua. The government has announced the establishment of an Indian university, where they can study their own culture. By allowing the Indians to

study their cultures there is new hope that these cultures will be preserved. Since the change of government in 1979, there has been a major drive to upgrade education among the poor and minority groups.

The Church of England had decided that divorcees who remarry will in future be admitted to holy communion. Further, men who remarry during the lifetime of a divorced former partner will be permitted to enter the priesthood, other qualifications being satisfactory.

For the fifth year the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism has called for the first Sunday in June (Pentecost Sunday) to be a day of prayer for world evangelism.

W.H.O. says that polluted water is the source of 80% of diseases in the world. In Third World nations, 40 out of every 100 children die before they reach the age of five. Major diseases resulting from polluted water include cholera, typhoid, intestinal parasites and dysentery.

Half of all American girls aged between 15 and 19 have had pre-marital sex. This is a 20% increase over the past 10 years. The study also shows that the percentage of

American girls becoming pregnant is also rising. From 28% in 1971 to 32.5% in 1979.

From August 24 officially the Church of England in Australia will be now known as the Anglican Church of Australia.

The General Secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship, Waldron Scott has resigned for "compelling personal reasons." Dr Wade Coggins has been appointed to the position for an interim period of one year.

A cash crisis has hit Keston College, the Christian information centre in England that keeps the western church aware of church life behind the Iron Curtain. There is a definite threat that the college's work will have to be cut back substantially.

A survey in Boston, U.S.A., found that religious observance goes down as personal income goes up. Half of those earning \$10,000 or less a year attended church regularly while about one third of those making \$30,000 or more a year attend regularly. 72% of the poorest in the survey prayed compared to 41% of the wealthy.

diary

NATIONAL
March
22 Annual Offering —
Aborigines Mission
April
17 Good Friday
May
24-30 Christian
Literature Week

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
April
17-20 Easter Camp at
Longwood
17-20 Canoe Camp
TASMANIA
March

28-29 Annual
Convention —
Nubeena
VICTORIA
March

24 C.W.F. March
Effort
24 Young Adults Tea
27 Aborigines Mission
Fellowship Tea
27-29 Youth
Happening
28 Explorer Swim
Night
29 Brotherhood Day
of Prayer
April

3-5 C.W.F. Camp
4 Good Companions
Outdoor Sports
4 Youthquake
12 C.M.F. Annual Rally
16-20 Easter Camp
30-May 3 Annual
Conference

HOME MISSIONS DIRECTOR

required for

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN QUEENSLAND

Providing the opportunity to share in the exciting expansion of our work in Queensland, this is a responsible position requiring a mature man with vision and the ability to guide the Home Missions Committee in the achievement of its objectives. It is completely distinct from the position of State Evangelist.

The successful applicant will be a sound administrator, possessing abilities in the areas of counselling, co-ordinating, consolidating, helping to establish new churches and conducting activities such as teaching programmes after evangelistic crusades, prayer schools, stewardship campaigns, church enrichment seminars. He will be required to travel extensively throughout Queensland.

Salary, car allowance, and housing arrangements will be negotiable. Relocation expenses will be paid.

Copy of Position Description is available upon request.

Written applications are invited in confidence addressed to the chairman, Home Missions Committee, Churches of Christ in Queensland, 428 Ann Street, Brisbane. Q., 4000 Closing date May 1, 1981.

Confused Christianity

Too much civil religion has reduced the church to the status of a "sociological phenomenon" in England and the U.S.A. according to John Stott a noted British evangelical leader.

He stated "what we are seeing, both in your country and mine, is a resurgence of nationalism rather than a resurgence of Christianity."

Dr Stott cautiously criticised both the Christian left and Christian right extremes. He defined nationalism as "my country right or wrong" and patriotism as "a critical love of country." He added "The church is too often a reflection of the secular culture around it."

— The Disciple

Aboriginal Baptisms in the Murray

Cecil Grant, pastor of the Albury Aboriginal congregation, reports seven baptisms in the Murray River. One of those baptised was Linda Christison, mother of Evonne Cawley. Since then Linda's husband Roger and her daughter Gail Goolagong have decided for Christ.

WHAT IS STEDMAN ON ABOUT?

Page 13

Ray Stedman and his team from the Peninsula Bible Church in San Francisco have been conducting seminars for church leaders round Australia. Many who attended were expecting to get some bright ideas to make their churches grow as the P.B.C. has grown. But instead they shared in a series of Bible studies about the church and its ministry in today's world. In fact the team were reluctant to be drawn on what might be the secret of the success of P.B.C., apart from saying that they systematically taught the scriptures to young and old and to insider and outsider, and that there were enough people in San Francisco who want to hear and learn what the scriptures are saying to them.

Australian Churches of Christ

What was Stedman saying that is significant for Australian Churches of Christ?

He said that the two unchanging things in a world of rapid change are God and human nature, and the Bible is about both. Man's greatest problem is to know what to do with himself so that he can really live a life that makes sense. Constant exposure to the word of God through teaching helps him to discover life and meaning.

Not a Topical Approach

Stedman avoids topical treatments of the Bible. A topical treatment is when you take topics like prayer, the social gospel, the second coming, the Holy Spirit, or weekly communion and go to the Bible for passages referring to these topics. This is good if in dealing with a topic one considers all of the relevant passages in their context and in the context of the whole of scripture. But many "topicalists" tend only to use those passages that suit their pre-suppositions and to avoid those that do not.

An Expository Approach

The Stedman team believe in teaching the Bible book by book. They help their people in Bible study groups to see what the passage is about and what God is saying through it to their situation.

This of course is the sort of thing that our preachers are already doing . . . for 20 minutes a week! No wonder some of us are hungry and emaciated!

Not Verse by Verse

Stedman does not favour verse by verse exposition. That is the sermon or study consisting of as many sermonettes as there are verses, and scarcely any thread of meaning going through it. They believe in teaching the major theme of the passage or book and bringing to it all of the relevant parts of the passage.

They believe that such study of the Bible in great slabs exposes people to the wide breadth of all of its teaching. At P.B.C. there are no group Bible studies that take a passage that nobody knows anything about and about which everybody pools his ignorance.

Biblical Illiteracy

One wonders how many people in Churches of Christ can open the Bible anywhere and know as they read "what is goin on" in that particular passage. One wonders how many are aware of the background, setting, context and meaning of most of our Sunday morning readings.

The method at P.B.C. is to teach teachers to teach groups. They do not seem to worry much about group dynamics which are essential for other sorts of groups but seem simply to happen in Bible teaching groups.

Outsiders and Young People

Most new Christians come into P.B.C. through being brought by friends to Bible teaching groups. It has been discovered in Australia that there are plenty of "outsiders" who are not interested in church services but who want to know if the Bible says anything that may help them in their lives. Most of these have Bibles but have failed in their attempts to read them, for obvious reasons. The Bible is intended to be taught. Perhaps some of our inward reaching small groups might consider trying some outreach through Bible teaching!

The Bible teaching program at P.B.C. is for young people too . . . From when they start high school. They have it in kid-type surroundings and take it in with banana splits and sodas, but it is solid study related to what kids are concerned about.

One is left wondering if we under-rate our young people in assuming that they cannot handle anymore than a visit to the Coke factory on Fridays and a few choruses after church on Sundays. And perhaps we under-rate their mothers in thinking that they cannot handle any more than visiting speakers and flower arrangers.

About God and People

The Bible is about God and people and they are the most important subjects in the world. Could we look at the possibility that in and out of the church there are a lot of people who are "brownd off" at a lot of things in the program of the church but who would be willing to be in on some serious, consistent Bible teaching that really does teach what the Bible is on about, rather than just fiddling about on the surface of it?

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.

ALLSOP, Nancy Mary.

(16.2.81). The church at Camberwell was saddened by the death of one of its choicest members in Nance Allsop. Her health had been deteriorating for about six years and for the last 12 months she required total care in the W. H. Clay Nursing Hospital. She died just short of her 64th birthday. Nance was the only daughter of Frank and Millie Kemp of Moonsee Ponds (Vic.); when a child the family moved to Malvern where Nance and her brothers Allan and Harold attended the Malvern-Caulfield Sunday School. Later they moved to Hawthorn where they soon became active workers in the church. There Nance was baptised by the late T. H. Scambler. At Hawthorn she met Ern Allsop and they were married by the late Stan Neighbour in 1939. As the wife of a country school teacher, Nance entered fully into the life of country towns, serving on a Girl Guides committee, several mothers' clubs and church committees. In all of this work she lovingly cared for her young and growing family. In 1955 the family moved to Camberwell where they became a tower of strength to the work. For many years Nance was the secretary of the CWF; when the new hall was built she made the large stage curtains unaided. At all times she gave her husband Ern tremendous support in his work as church secretary and as a member of the Department of Community Care. In his tribute at the church service, Emeritus Principal E. L. Williams spoke of Nance as a "gentle, sweet and good woman." Her family adored her and the example of faith and service which she offered them. Her son, Ian, is at present, the Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education; a daughter, Joan (Mrs D. McKenzie), is working as an advisor in the Resource Department of the Joint Board of Christian Education. Her second son, David, has just had published a book about the psychology of children and is now in the USA on a study tour sponsored by Rotary International. The youngest son, Max, is a leader in Youth for Christ, and for several years served in a ministry known as Campus Outreach. Nance's youngest daughter Margaret, and her husband, Graeme Ball are active members at the Boronia church. The large attendance at the service at Camberwell was a fitting tribute to one whose life reflected her deep faith in Christ — the kind of faith which 'gets on with the job.' The tone of the service was one of thanksgiving to God for the gift of this wonderful woman. — RVL.

FRECKELTON, Frank

(12.12.80) — Frank Freckelton died after an illness of six months. The service to thank God for his life was a time of praise and inspiration for the 400 present. Frank's influence was evident especially in Earlwood where he lived. Many local people were present and the participating ministers from the local ministers' fraternal spoke highly of his ministry in the district. Over 25 years Frank had a wide range of involvement in Conference activities, serving on at least five committees. He became a member of Belmore church in 1980, transferring to Earlwood in 1977

when he was called to be the pastor. He had the special ability of making people feel at ease when talking about God, so he related well to the working person. "Transport for Christ" was a special interest of his. Frank's influence extended beyond Australia. Especially he loved the New Hebrides, visiting the islands on six occasions. They loved him for his care, gentleness, strong faith and the sincere joy that he expressed. His home was always open to any New Hebrideans who might be in Sydney. A telegram from the people of Vanuatu (New Hebrides), read at the thanksgiving service sums up Frank's life well: "For Frank to Live was Christ; to die was gain."

— R.A.K.

LARCOME, Helen Harriet

(24.12.80) Helen Harriet Larcombe was born at Red Hill in Victoria in 1896 and died peacefully at Westmead Hospital at 84 years of age. Her father, G.H. Browne was one of our ministers who ministered at Geelong, Newtown and Belmore and Lidcombe while Mrs Larcombe grew up. She married Albert Larcombe and moved to Double Bay where Mr Larcombe established Larcombe's Hardware Store. For a time they were members of our City Temple church but at the request of T. Hagger moved to Paddington church to assist the development of this work. For most of their lives they were very active within the Paddington church where they gave outstanding service in all areas of the church's ministry. In more recent years Mrs Larcombe attended our church at Kingsford and finally Pendle Hill following her move to the Pendle Hill Retirement Settlement. Her immediate family consists of Keith and Jean Larcombe, Joy and Jack Cooke, Laurie and Lois Larcombe and nine grand-children. In addition to very active service at Paddington, Mrs Larcombe found time for service within the Brotherhood and beyond. In 1949 she served as the C.W.F. State President and in 1954/58 served as the Federal C.W.F. President. Those who knew her described her as a magnificent speaker and she was used of God to influence many lives. For 20 years she served on the Board of Management of Ashwood House Rest Home for elderly ladies, she was a very keen League of 1000 Agent and actively worked for Overseas Mission and Aborigines Mission Board. She had a keen interest in the Bible Society and in recent years was used as a speaker at the Australian Christian Women's Convention on the theme "Making Later Years the Best". During her life Mrs Larcombe has been a challenge and encouragement to many. Her interest in the total ministry of the church was very evident and as I think of her life I can't help but recall Paul's words in 2 Tim. 4: 6-7. A Service of Thanksgiving was held at the Pendle Hill church on Tuesday February 24, 1981. — Kevin E. Crawford.

Individual Prayers in Worship

Many congregations place an emphasis on prayer. At Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ — minister James L. Stoner) in Austin, Texas, they used individual prayers very effectively in worship.

The secretary put blank cards in envelopes and placed one envelope under each pew cushion. Midway through the service the minister invited the worshippers to each take the card and write out their personal prayer request. The cards need not be signed.

The elders then collected all the envelopes which were brought to the communion table and placed there. The minister then knelt and asked for God's blessing on those needs. The response was electric!

The minister also promised that he would pray for each and every prayer need individually on Monday morning. The congregation responded in a loving and appreciative manner.

James Stoner reported that within three days he had several visits from people who said their prayers had been answered. Many now had a renewed interest in their prayer life.

— The Disciple

Hospice Founder wins Templeton Prize

Winner of this year's Templeton Foundation Award for Progress in Religion is 63-year-old Dame Cicely Saunders, Anglican pioneer in the care of the dying and founder (in 1967) of St Christopher's Hospice in South London.

"She has challenged the materialistic assumptions that underlay much of modern medical practice and reinstated the spiritual and personal methods for the treatment of the terminally ill. Her methods are now in world-wide use."

Dame Cicely only started training to be a doctor in her thirties after working first as a nurse and then as a hospital almoner. After graduating she worked at St Joseph's Hospice for the dying, as the Roman Catholic establishment in East London was then called, on the control of pain, a fundamental aspect of her work at St Christopher's.

— E.P.S.

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SUGAR & SALT



It was a warm afternoon and a cool breeze was finding its way through the open windows of the Red Hill chapel and stirring the surrounding eucalypts. The chapel was filled for the usual church anniversary Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. One wonders what to expect on such occasions!

Then piano, bass guitar, recorder, autoharp and drum began to make music reminiscent of something from the east. We became aware of a processional down each aisle and of young women's voices calling us to worship.

These young housewives from the Berwick Regional Church of Christ have formed a group called "Sugar and Salt." They are "salty Christians" but sweet as well.

In Every Way Rejoice

For the 90 minute presentation of "In Every Way Rejoice" they were dressed in contemporary style but with a strong hint of the ancient Hebrew, as perhaps Miriam and her maids would have worn, in a blend of the very plain with panels and braids of dazzling colour. The girls themselves added to the other instruments with tambourines, finger cymbals, and a triangle.

Their presentation consisted mainly of hymns from various parts of the Old Testament, but with a couple from the New, grouped into Praising (alive, joyous, exulting), Praying (quiet, meditative), Proclaiming (strong, active, confident) and the Recessional (the prayer, "The Lord Bless and Keep You").

Choreography Too

As well as the singing, one of the girls had written the choreography, and there was expression through movement. The Hebrews themselves would have called it by that reprehensible word "dancing", and would have proceeded to "praise the Lord with the timbrel and the dance" (Psalm 150:4). The Old Testament writers had no trouble with the word. Neither did Jesus (Luke 15:25). But for these of us with a puritan heritage it can be called music with movement. But it was unashamedly dancing before the Lord, beautiful, gracious, and spiritual.

Norval Bunch, associate minister at Berwick, on loan from our American brotherhood, and a highly qualified musician, was the genius behind it all. But the 10 girls with their four instrumentalists provided the joy and enthusiasm that gave that genius expression in bringing the Bible to life in a new and refreshing way.

"Outreach for Christ" Team in India

The work of God was witnessed by 46 men and women from Australia and New Zealand during November - December 1980 (four of this team were from the Mt Evelyn church).

The place was Kakinada, India, and its surrounding villages, where, during a period of two weeks, 80-86,000 people responded to the gospel. The team of 46 was divided into seven smaller teams in Kakinada and the surrounding villages. Street meetings were held during the day in all areas, with a main central evening meeting in Kakinada each night. 200 national workers were assigned to follow-up the converts.

Christian Indians who had been praying for their villages or streets saw God answer their prayers. One Christian nurse, the only Christian in her village, has seen most of the village people turn to Christ. A dedicated Christian family had lived for many years in a certain street mid-way between two Hindu temples. On request of the man of the family, a meeting was held outside his house and the whole street turned to the Lord. A team member reports that while walking along with his interpreter, two women came out of a house and asked, "Where can we find Jesus?" They were promptly shown how to accept Christ.

Miracles of healing were witnessed. At one evening meeting, 48 from a deaf and dumb school were healed. At a street meeting, a boy regained the use of an arm. A team visited a leper colony where 15 received healing.

— Evelyn Watkins.

Central American Solution

If the current violence in Central America is to stop, then there needs to be urgent change to the structures, says the Archbishop in the Honduran capital.

Archbishop Hector Santos says the bishops of the region have made an extensive study into the living conditions in Central America and are convinced there is a need for urgent change. He says unless this becomes a reality, then the region will continue as a crisis area, where violence threatens peace.

Archbishop Santos says the crisis results from the widening gulf between rich and poor, the unjust distribution of land and illiteracy.

The church will continue to make leaders aware of the need for change within the spirit of the Gospel.

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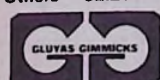
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DURRAN DURRA PLAYERS

After a very successful first year of operation in 1980, the Victorian Christian Theatre Group is moving into 1981 with some big plans. Durran Durra Players is the new performing name of the group. (Durran Durra is aboriginal for messenger).

A big feature in Durran Durra's program for this year is a mid-year season that deals with the problem of **unemployment**. A full-length play is currently under development by the group with input coming from many organisations and agencies working with the unemployed.

The group hits the stage for the first time in 1981 in the last week of March. Over three weekends they will present a season of three one-act plays in Maribyrnong, Kew, Vermont and Bendigo.

The night's entertainment will commence with a very visual play called **The Stranger**.

The Stranger is set in a town where they sell lust, hate, lies, vanity and worry at the local market . . . not quite the sort of things you'd expect to buy at Coles or Safeway. Peter, a stranger, walks in and can't believe what he sees.

Comedy relief is next with **The Uncertain Samaritan**. The action centres around an alley where a man has just been shot. A passerby can't make up his mind if he should help or not . . . the whole scene could be a set-up to rob him. He doesn't know what to do. Meanwhile, the shot man is sinking fast.



After a second interval, the final play for the evening, **A Judgement Passed**, will be performed. Here we will see Mike Wilmott found guilty of murder. There won't be a court or a justice. The 'jury' will be his friends. Mike is in a situation we have all faced. There is a twist in the final moments that reveals a common flaw in human nature. **A Judgement Passed** is a play that you will enjoy.

The group is pleased to again be presenting plays by two of its members.

Another Veteran Reader of the "A.C."

E.F. Cole has been subscribing to "The Australian Christian" since his marriage 55 years ago. We are pleased for him to have one year's free subscription. (Agent please note). His father was one of the original subscribers to "The Christian". E.F. Cole was Secretary of the Ma Ma Creek church for 35 years. His son E.R. Cole is the present Secretary. All of the Cole children are active in the church. E.F. Cole has been attending one place of worship (Ma Ma Creek chapel) for 82 years. One of 10 children (nine still surviving) he was driven to church, Sunday School and Christian Endeavour 14 miles each way in a spring cart. (Is this a record attendance at the one place of worship?).

S.A. Camping Success

Christmas Camp 1980-81

"Lighthearted People" was the theme for last year's Christmas camp and took the form of studies on the book of Philippians and a television style program interviewing Christian leaders with first hand experience of the struggle between light and darkness in the Pacific and South Eastern Asia. The camp was led by the young people themselves after extensive training with the D.C.E. Camp Leader was **Peter Solly** and Co-Leader **Dawn Benjamin** (Youth Assistance Worker 1980). Camp has a great spirit about it and the young people eagerly sharing in every aspect.

Studies were led by **George Mathieson** (Executive Director, Overseas Mission Board) who wrote about the camp "Bible studies on Philippians, interviews of a wide variety of media together with the creativity of young people enabled us to see the powers of darkness, but also to rejoice in the light of God's love in Christ. The highlight from my view, was the watch night service on New Year's Eve. After a memorable service in which all participated, we quietly left the chapel softly illuminated by three candles, symbols of God's light in the darkness of our world. At the door sparklers we each carried were lit from the candles. We moved into 1981 to share Christ's light in our world. His light still shines and nothing can put it out."

Three young adults have made their decision for Christ as a result of the camp and many others of the 35 attending have become deeply involved in missionary and social justice concerns. Director of D.C.E. **Gerald Rose** was responsible for training of leaders and supervising the camp.

Redcliffs 1981

Located on a beautiful private beach near Tumbly Bay, this camp for young adults held in January is a winner. Spiritual renewal is combined with vigorous recreation including spear fishing, snorkelling, swimming. 32 young adults and leaders shared in an excellent camp around the theme of "God in Time and Tide".

Studies were led by **Peter Richter** (Minister, Magill), daily meditations were prepared by **Monty Le Cornu** and focussed on the God who meets us in the natural environment. **David Shepherd** was Camp Leader and D.C.E. Director **Gerald Rose** organiser with his wife **Jean** as chief cook. This camp has had a profound impact on the young adults who attended and has led to renewed commitment and enthusiasm in the work of the local church.

Accident

D.C.E. Director and wife (**Gerald and Jean Rose**) were involved in an accident while driving to Redcliffs Camp, Tumbly Bay S.A. Their car rolled over. The car was written off and van extensively damaged. **Jean** who was driving was slightly injured suffering a cut hand, but **Gerald** was unscathed. The vehicles were fully insured and we are thankful that no serious injuries were sustained.



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DARETON (B.K. Spencer). Despite bad weather church fruit block picked and good crop received ... S.S. teachers dedication service held for Dareton and Curlwaa ... Women's World Day of Prayer held at Dareton Catholic Church ... Special night held with study and games for Pancake Tuesday. Pancakes for supper ... Church hall and some rooms in manse painted ... Young Adult Bible studies numbers increasing.

tas

LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). C.W.F. opening meeting held at "The Woolpack Inn" when its history was outlined ... Church preparing plans for extending building to cope with attendances ... Two K.Y.B. study groups operating ... Two "Little Church" programs working ... Constable Mark Crawford spoke at evening service and C.W.E.F. on returning from Britain

working with the British police force for six months.

wa

NOLLAMARA (A. J. Anderson, J. Hicks). Youth groups increased in numbers ... Dedication service for all teachers, committee and auxilliary leaders held after B.S. round-up ... Second Bethel Bible series teacher training course commenced with 27. Two congregational classes with 20 each started ... Church dinner looked at church program for 1981 ... Work party travelled to Roelands Mission and painted and renovated home of Mr and Mrs H. Parker.

GARDINER (A.B. Clark). W.W. Saunders elected as elder and chairman of

board ... H. Steele speaker during January ... New members in S.S. and Girls' club ... School year started with family service with children taking part ... A. Clark attended Dr Rav Stedman's seminar for ministers held at Gardiner. **WANGARRATTA** (C. Clayden). Working bees replaced side fence at manse ... Space flight series of children's talks underway ... Youth group meeting after school Fridays for program and tea then joining with Wesleyan youth group in hall ... Shepparton and Yarrowonga boards met with us to discuss with Ron Elbourne future planning ... Family camp held at Bright ... Family services held third Sunday each month. **WARRAGUL** (P. Broadbent). Albert and Barbara Fox celebrated silver wedding ... Recent guest speaker Aileen Draney missionary in P.N.G. ... Fellowship day following morning service in Glen Gromie Park.

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BIRTHS

BIRD (BURNHAM) John, Cherry and Nathan welcome with love God's precious gift (Jarrod David) born 24.2.81. 12 Whitehaven St., Wantima, Vic. 3152.

ENGAGEMENTS

STEWART-WILKINSON. Rosemary Stewart of Thornbury and Daryl Wilkinson of East Kew together with their parents are happy to announce their engagement on March 2nd.

SAPPHIRE WEDDING

HOSKIN-WATERS Pearl and Sid. Congratulations Mum and Dad on the occasion of your 45th wedding anniversary — March 14th. Love from Petrea, Peter, Sally-Jane and Tony.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BUCKMASTER-ELLIS. The family of Eric and Effie congratulate their parents and give thanks to God on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of their wedding on 24.3.31 in South Africa. Friends are invited to share the occasion at an afternoon tea at Gardiner Church of Christ — Corner Malvern Rd. and Scott Gve. on Saturday 28th March, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Present address 34 Iris Road, Glen Iris, 3146.

BEAN-JOHNSTON. Agnes and Harold. We wish to thank God for 50 years of happy married life. Celebrated on 28th March 1933 at Church of Christ Moreland by the late William Gale. Present address 1 Citrus St., Glen Waverley. At home Sunday afternoon 29th.

DEATHS

COLLINS Winifred (Win) on Feb. 3rd at Combridge House, Northcote, loved daughter of Rosina and Joseph Collins (both dec.). Loving sister of Ira (Mrs Andrews dec.) and Leile (Mrs Gluyas dec.) United with her loved ones.

MILLER Freida (nee Walker). Passed away March 3. Wife of the late C.E. Miller. Daughter of the late Orlando and Elizabeth Walker. Sister of the late Adelle Brown and Nilma Membrey. Aunt of Stewart, Bill, Fred and Harry Brown.

WANTED

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.

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Guest speaker — Dr Trevor Banks. Luncheon to follow.

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Minister — David Gurney. Phone (07) 57 6160.

NORTH ESSENDON: Secretary — Mrs R. Saunders, 4 Hilbert Rd., Airport West, Vic. 3042. Phone (03) 338 5220.

GEORGETOWN: Minister — B. L. Reid, 17 Parkview St., Georgetown, N.S.W. 2298.

PHI BETA PI

ATTENTION EX-BALWYN PHI BETAS

There will be a Re-union Church Service on Sunday, May 24th, at 7 p.m. (Song Service, 6.45 p.m.)

All Ex-Phi Beta's, their families and ex-chaplains are welcome.

Guest Speaker: C.W.F. President Helen Banks.

Supper fellowship afterwards.

FOUR CORNERS CAFE

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CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

at the

SWANSTON ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST, MELBOURNE on Sunday March 29

The Swanston St. Church of Christ will be celebrating 100 years of continuous occupancy of their present building with a special **THANKSGIVING SERVICE** at 11 a.m. The special guest speaker will be Mr **KEITH MACNAUGHTAN**, the longest serving minister of the church from 1948-1965. Former members and friends are most welcome.

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH GORDON MOYES

Sponsored by Box Hill Church of Christ

Saturday morning 7.00 a.m.
2 May, 1981

Wesley Uniting Church Hall,
Oxford Street, Box Hill

Tickets \$3.00

Ring G. Wigney (03) 88 2111



Stop Press

Wattle Park Fire

At about 4 a.m. on Thursday, March 12 the **Wattle Park** church and complex was completely destroyed by fire. The whole of the complex including the church and halls was valued at \$250,000.

The last services were held in the chapel the night before when **Ron, Elbourne** spoke at the newly-instigated mid-week worship services.

On ringing the minister **Ian Allsop** that afternoon he said that at that point they had no idea about the future. He said in addition "Watch out for what is about to happen at Wattle Park".

Police are investigating and arson is suspected. There were several recent cases of vandalism in the buildings including \$900 damage to windows over the holiday period.

Details and a photo will be included in the next issue.

ULVERSTONE

Church of Christ

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with*

Sunday School 10.30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour 7.00 p.m.



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March 29-April 5

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Invitation extended to all interested!

Registration or further details: P.O. Box 476, Blackwood, 5051.

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Church of Christ

HARTWELL

60th Anniversary

April 11th & 12th

Sat. 11th, 2.30 p.m.-5 p.m.

Garden party — Manse garden

Sunday 12th 11 a.m. Worship Speaker Dr Bill Tabbernee

12.45 p.m. Fellowship luncheon

2.45 p.m. Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Speaker Mr

Trevor Byard

7.00 p.m. Gospel Service. Speaker Mr E.B. Clapp

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● Mrs Eileen Treloar, The Patch, Vic.

MARRIAGES

● Val Perry to Clem Kinsman, Zosia Kozika to Mirosław Dobosz, Nollamara, W.A.

DEATHS

● Mrs Helen (Nell) Larcombe, Pendle Hill, N.S.W. ● Mrs H. Pearson, Maylands, S.A. ● Christine Sawyer, Dareton, N.S.W.

Christian Men's Fellowship

DEDICATION SERVICE

Sunday 12 April
3.00 p.m.

Nunawading Churches of Christ
455 Springfield Rd., Mitcham
Speaker — C.H.J. Wright
Soloist — Brian Jacques

Men and Women most welcome.

Planning to attend BELGRAVE HEIGHTS EASTER CONVENTION

Friday, 17th - 20th April
Why not live in at Churches of Christ
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**Application forms available
from**

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791 2854.

Campsite also available for hire. Contact
Jack Edwards.

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.



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

1. BEST OF TASMANIA TOUR WITH TRANS OTWAY

This popular 11 day Tour departs on March 29th and visits all important places. Most meals are included. Fares from Melbourne \$779; Sydney \$886; Brisbane \$988; Adelaide \$877.

2. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN

Our March tour is now full but we will repeat this 18 day tour of both Islands with an optional 4 day tour to the Bay of Islands departing April 29th. Fares are from Melbourne \$1029; Sydney \$994; Brisbane \$1018. Supplement Bay of Islands \$256.

3. VISIT U.S.A. & CANADA

Departing April 29th with Rev Hector Dunn this 37 day tour takes us on a comprehensive tour through U.S.A., the Canadian Rockies, Niagara Falls, Grand Canyon etc. Price from Melbourne is \$3805.00.

4. A.C.T.S. GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE WITH ISRAEL & GREECE

Departing on June 23rd we spend 10 days in Israel, 4 days in Greece, take a 15 day tour of England, Scotland and Wales, 25 days touring the Continent in 7 countries, 12 nights paid accommodation in London, and free time at own expense. This tour is very well priced at \$5889.00 from Melbourne or Sydney.

5. VISIT CHINA IN 1981

Our 23 day tour departs 6th June for Hong Kong then China with 18 days based on Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Soochow, Nanking and Peking. Our leader is Rev Alec Hilliard and price from Sydney is \$2380 — but HURRY we are almost full.

6. VISIT BEAUTIFUL CAIRNS

Leaving on 27th June this 26 day luxury coach tour travels via Princes Highway, Sydney, and Brisbane to Cairns, returning with little duplication of route. Numerous cruises to nearby Islands included. Fares from Melbourne \$1449; Sydney \$1149; Brisbane \$817.

7. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR

We will repeat this popular tour visiting Israel, Greece and Rome in August with Rev Russell McKinnon of Warrnambool. Details available soon but register now.

8. CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS RESEARCH & ADVISORY TRUST (CORAT)

Two Summer Schools will be held during 1981 — in Rome 18 to 30 June, and in Canterbury 16 to 28 July. Full details and Registration forms are available from sole Booking Agents — Australian Church Travel Service, 31 Queen Street, Melbourne 3000.

9. GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN

See Britain in depth. Leaving on August 1st this 37 day tour gives 29 nights in Britain with a 4 day stop-over in Kuala Lumpur/Singapore. Group Leader is Rev Les Hatton, Chaplain St Andrews Hospital. Value tour at \$3485 from Melbourne or Sydney.

10. 36 DAY TOUR TO AFRICA

A.C.T.S. HOLIDAYS presents a 36 day tour to Africa to coincide with the 10th WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE in Durban. Leaving on 5th September we spend 25 days in South Africa, 9 days in Kenya, and 3 days in Mauritius. Our Group Leader is Tom Paterson (former Director Road Transport in Commonwealth Department of Transport) assisted by Miss Val Steward of Sydney. Fare from Melbourne or Sydney is \$4250. Arrangements can be made to take the South Africa section only at \$3018.

11. ALICE SPRINGS AND THE RED CENTRE

Departing 16th September this 12 day tour travels to Alice on the NEW GHAN and then returns by air-conditioned coach via Coober Pedy, Flinders Ranges, Mildura etc. Our leader is Mrs Pam Bartlett of A.C.T.S. Melbourne Staff, and fares are from Melbourne 1st Class Rail on Ghan \$872 or Economy Class \$835; Sydney \$948 (908) Adelaide \$721 (684); Brisbane \$1098 (1057). Pensioner concession is available.

12. A 16 DAY CAMPING TOUR FOR THE UNDER 35's to CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Departing October 3rd we visit Mildura, Peterborough, Wilpana Pound, Birdsville, Boulia, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Coober Pedy, Clare, Adelaide etc. All meals are included and the price from Melbourne is only \$448.00.

13. WEST AUSTRALIA AT WILDFLOWER TIME

Our annual 18 day Tour to West Australia departs on October 19th by luxury air-conditioned coach. Two nights are spent on the train on return journey. Prices are from Melbourne 1st class rail \$1231, Economy class rail \$1188; Sydney \$1308 (1238); Adelaide \$1093 (1048); Brisbane \$1450 (1378). Pensioner concession applies.

14. TOUR TO NEW GUINEA & NEW BRITAIN

Departing on October 21st this 13 day tour will take us to Port Moresby, Lee, Goroka, Kundawa, Mount Hagen, Wau, Rabaul etc. With good accommodation this is an excellent value tour. Leader: Rev W. M. Constable, Director of Australian Church Travel Service. Price: from Sydney \$1690 or Melbourne \$1899.

15. CRUISING WITH ACTS/SITMAR IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRSTAR

July 12 — Brisbane, Whitsunday, Cairns, Ambon, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Darwin. 29 nights/8 ports. Fares from \$1525 to \$4703.
October 21 — Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu, Apia, Pago Pago, Vavau, Nukuafu, Noumea, 18 nights/8 ports. Fares from \$1045 to \$2645.
January 31st 1982 — New Zealand Cruise — Milford Sound, Timaru, Picton, Wellington, Auckland, Bay of Islands. 14 nights/6 ports with Rev. and Mrs W. M. Constable. Fares from \$855 to \$2030.

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

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(Director: Rev. W. M. Constable)

Head Office: 3rd Floor, 31 Queen St., Melbourne 3000 Phone: 62 7233

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South Aust.: 2nd Floor, 44 Gawler Place, Adelaide 5000 Phone: 223 6300

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What Matters . . . ?

— Alan Matheson

Sunday in New York

Early morning and already the New Yorkers are preparing for their favourite activity — brunch and the 500 pages of the Sunday edition of the New York Times.

Turning to the religious notices, I found that I could attend services at the Glad Tidings Tabernacle, Bethlehem Church, Heavenly Rest Episcopal, Brick Church or Rock Church. Incidentally, the Manhattan telephone directory lists some dozen different kinds of Churches of Christ!

I could listen to sermons on 'Snakes and Ladders', 'The Chicken or the Egg', 'Holy Holistics', 'What the Bible Leaves Out' or 'The Emotional Tone Scale'.

I settled for Riverside Church and Hans Kung speaking on 'the Sonship of God.' Riverside Church seats 3000 people. By 10.30 a.m. there was standing room only. This was no ordinary service. Hans Kung was to preach, a Roman Catholic theologian in a Baptist pulpit!

Kung



Hans Kung

Photo by CIRIC

Kung, the Swiss born Roman Catholic theologian had over a number of years challenged the authority of the Vatican and its hierarchy on such issues as the celibacy of priests and the infallibility of the Pope.

Finally in 1979 he was directed not to speak or write as a Roman Catholic theologian.

Kung, both in his writing and his conflict with the Vatican, raises a number of issues which we have yet to face seriously in Churches of Christ.

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Office (060) 21 4047

For example, the leadership and authority of that leadership in the church is a continuing theme in Kung's conflict with the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church. Who speaks for the church? Should the dissenter be silenced?

We run a danger in Churches of Christ if we believe that such issues are of no importance to us. After all, we have conferences and committees where all are elected and free to speak, haven't we? No one person or group of persons holds total power over what happens, surely?

To believe the myth of democracy in our brotherhood is to avoid the reality of the way power is measured and wielded. As a small organisation we are most vulnerable to power accruing to our leadership by means of longevity in particular positions of 'leadership', age, experience or wealth and importance in the community.

Those characteristics make for a situation which will go to any ends to avoid conflict. Yet Tension can be creative.

"Even in the church", writes Kung, "conflicts are unavoidable. There are signs of life and in any case are to be preferred to the deathly silence of totalitarian systems. Conflicts must be endured and a fruitful settlement attempted . . . it is no help to the well-being of the whole or the freedom of the individual if one group comes to prevail at the expense of the other . . .".

The Sermon

Kung's sermon demonstrated why he threatens the Vatican to such a degree — to be a theologian rarely read and

understood is one thing, to be a preacher who can translate his theological search from truth into pulpit language is quite different.

"We do not believe in the Crucified", he said, "as one who died and died into nothingness, but we believe in the Crucified as the One living in the Father and we in the Father."

"As Christians", he continued, "we must maintain that He was a human being, He was a child, He suffered, He was tempted, but unlike human beings, He is the Son of God, He is the true Human Being."

He concluded with the kind of challenge heard from many of our pulpits. "It is not very important if you agree with anything I say; what matters is not this nor that interpretation; it is not important what kind of christology you have.

What matters is belief in Jesus Christ.

What matters is to follow him.

Not to echo and repeat a creed, but to follow Him.

Not to hesitate to speak the Name, but also to live and act in His Spirit.

What matters is what we do with our lives;

What it means for our life."



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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-Up! (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 Dept. (07) 379 9122

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

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

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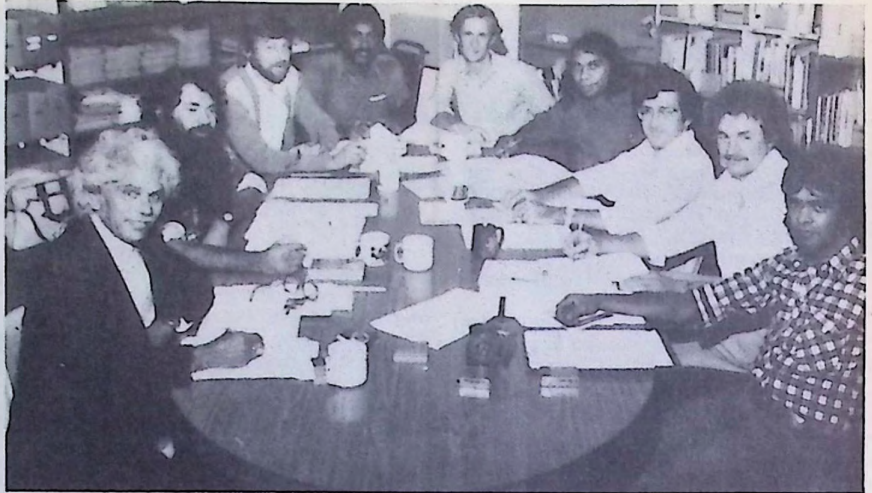
We received eight duplicated pages of material from a Christian group involved in the "Ecumenical Education Program on Aboriginal Land Rights." It is first rate material explaining the resource materials that are available to churches and study groups. But in all of the eight pages they did not tell us what Aboriginal Land Rights are. So we wrote to them and suggested to them that a lot of Christians would be in favour of Land Rights if they were right for Aborigines, but that probably they did not know what Land Rights are all about. So Russell Rollason sent us the following outline which takes careful reading, but is a good comprehensive statement. Here it is.

Aboriginal Land Rights

Fundamental to the concept of Aboriginal Land Rights is recognition of Aboriginal prior occupation and ownership of Australia, and the unique relationship Aborigines have with land. For these reasons, Aborigines have a 'right' to land and it is incumbent on the State and Federal Governments to enact legislation to give practical and legal expression to this right.

Recognition of Aboriginal prior ownership of Australia requires a substantial change in community attitudes. White settlement in Australia was achieved by extreme violence and brutality. It resulted in the killing of

What are Aboriginal Land Rights anyhow?



thousands of Aborigines and the taking of their land without recompense or compensation.

The alienation of the Aborigines from their land meant the destruction of their culture, spirituality, society and their very means of existence. To the Aborigine, the land is the 'generation point of existence'. It is like an arm or leg is to the body; the land is mother. The

land is not simply a resource to be used for economic gain.

To enact Land Rights legislation that enables Aborigines to lay claim to their tribal lands, sacred sites or other land in compensation for land that cannot be returned (such as land in a city area) is an essential first step to 'give the living their due' and to enable Aborigines to regain their dignity and attain a measure of self determination.

Effective land rights legislation must be enacted by all State Governments and must provide a fair and reasonable procedure for hearing land claims and granting Aboriginal communities title to land. In granting land rights, the titles to the land should be held by the local tribal or community group and should ensure that this group has control over their land. Where conflicts over land use, e.g. mining, occur, the legislation must lay down legal requirements for agreement to be reached with the Aboriginal owners prior to any white activity on Aboriginal land.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Task Force (pictured with Senator Neville Bonner) has produced educational materials for churches and groups as follows:

"Land Rights — A Christian Perspective" a book of 12 studies for \$7.95.

A set of Study Guides for five sessions for 40 cents.

A free poster.

A map of 500 Tribal Areas for \$2.

A slide/cassette audio visual for \$20.

For information phone N.S.W. (02) 29 2215, Vic. (03) 758 4577, Q. (07) 221 7912, S.A. (08) 287 4977, W.A. (W.A. Council of Churches), Tas. (002) 95 1429.

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Devote yourself to the reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. (1 Tim. 4:13)

SRI LANKAN PROJECT

An Anglican nun from the Sri Lankan slums is welding together another exciting development project through World Vision.

Sister Jane Margaret has just completed a series of courses for the street boys of Colombo in catering, book-binding and tailoring. A large percentage of the boys completed the courses. Currently, Sister Jane is setting up a course on welding as well as re-running the other series.

Another Program Idea for your Group



Jean Yule is second from the left of the picture. She is the enthusiast behind **Trading Partners**, a voluntary Christian organisation that imports cottage crafts from poor people in the Third world and sells them here to enable a lift in the standard of living of the crafts-people in such places as Bangladesh and the refugee camps of Thailand. She and her helpers are willing to arrange speakers for groups to tell the Trading Partners story and to bring for sale some of the fantastic goods such as batik wall hangings, embroideries, silk brocade and basket ware. Contact Jean at 13 Jackson Rd., Highett, 3190 or phone (03) 555 0062.

Sunday Schools . . . as you were!

A press release quoted the Customs Department directive dated May, 1980: "Sunday Schools are no longer to be considered as a school or educational institution". Following recent comments the matter was followed up and a spokesman in the Customs Department has verified that the original directive has been cancelled.

In a directive to all Customs offices, dated November 3, 1980, the Central Office stated that all officials were to "Disregard directive of May 1980 regarding classification of Sunday Schools".

It is now official that Sunday Schools are again regarded as Educational Institutions according to the Act, and therefore qualify under item 22 for exemption from import duty on certain materials.

Secular media, both newspapers and radio, also carried the story showing their interest, aroused by the Religious Press.

— Worldwide Photos

THANKS

Gordon and Lesley Stirling take this opportunity to thank those who sent letters, telegrams, cards and messages of greeting and good wishes in connection with the recognition of Gordon's retirement as **Vice-Principal of the College of the Bible** and of his 45 years of ministry, at the College Inaugural on Feb. 20. In answer to many questions about their future they wish to inform their friends that Gordon's retirement is only from the Vice-Principalship. He continues as **Editor of "The Australian Christian"** and in 1981 will be teaching part-time at the College.

Consult the Land People of Mount Gambier

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

Rest

Many people do not like living in cities because of the pace of life there. They find it difficult to relax and enjoy life. Unfortunately many in our churches also find great difficulty in resting. They are always on the go organising something or doing something else with a great many demands on their times.

This particularly applies to the leadership in our churches. The ministers, elders and others including Conference personnel are busy people. They are often workaholics. This even applies to me. These people try and rest but demands are placed on their time and energies or else they cannot sit still.

In our house Sunday is definitely not a day of rest. Services to be attended mean that the children have to be got ready. People have to be contacted and extra meetings always crop up making it a very busy day. Talking to older members of congregations when attendance to at least two services plus Sunday School and Christian Endeavour makes one realise that it seems to have been a busy day for church people over the years.

One sad commentary on our lives are the people who are unable to rest. What is also saddening is hearing of people who retire and have not prepared themselves for this event in their lives. They become bored and troublesome to others or in some cases they die quickly after the event often due to this sudden life-style change.

There is a biblical injunction to rest. Many (including myself) need to remember this fact. The Genesis

account of creation records that the final act of creation on the seventh day was that God rested. (Gen. 2:1-3). In resting God blessed the world and completed the task. He also reflected on the greatness and goodness of his creation.

For many it is in the times of rest (quietness and stillness) that God speaks to them and their relationship with God is at its closest. The Psalmist records the line "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).

In a busy life it is easy to be involved in working for the Kingdom of God and yet to neglect a close personal relationship with him. This was brought home to me whilst bush walking in Tasmania during January. There it was possible for me to have time alone with God in the quietness and serenity of his world. God became more real and I had a much greater awareness of his presence and when I have been racing around and trying to do the myriad of tasks involved with "The Australian Christian" and my local church.

Without the times to rest and relax there is also the danger that a person's family will be ignored. We as Christians are very concerned about the quality of family life in the community. We often make very forthright statements about this not only in churches but to the community as a whole. How often then do we practice what we preach and give time to our families? I must admit that for some of us we do not do very well in this area.

I am about to go and rest. To reflect on myself and my needs (my body tells me I need to rest) and to take time with my greatest friend of all — Christ.

THE LAST WORD

Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

— Sir James M. Barrie

Life is never for one moment
Commonplace or dull.
When we look with eyes of wonder
Life is wonder-full.

— Mary Hamlett Goodman



A London priest in a hurry parked his car with a note on the windscreen which said: "Have been round square 10 times. I have an appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

There was a ticket when he came back, and another note: "Have been round the square 10 years. If I don't book you I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

— Church Times



Visitor: Why does the whistle blow for a fire?

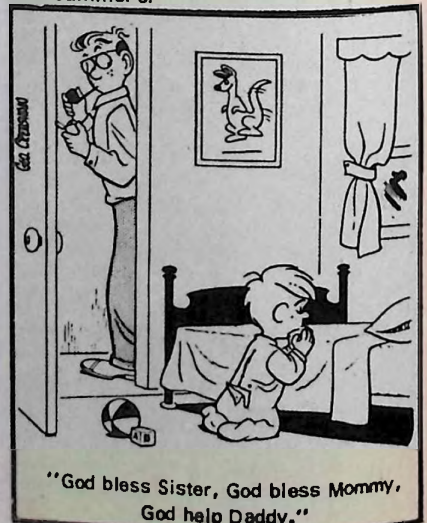
Native: It doesn't blow for the fire. It blows for the water, it already has the fire.



At a summer resort, one teenager was heard saying to another: "We haven't had a date in two weeks. Do you suppose we could have this declared a disaster area?"



Some people are saving for next summer's vacation — and some are saving for last summer's.



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