

LET THE LIGHT SHINE

"The darkness is passing away and
the real light is already shining."

1 Jn: 2:8

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

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ON MY MIND

A MISSIONS STRATEGY FOR CHINA

Leslie Lyall

Leslie Lyall is an ex-China missionary. He is a conservative evangelical. He strikes a warning note that uncontrolled enthusiasm in relation to the opening door to China may seriously damage the church's mission in that land. We know that fools rush in where angels fear to tread, but sometimes angels can rush foolishly into situations.

After a false start and a three-year period of national reassessment of resources and industrial performance, China commences a new ten-year plan in 1981. Leaders and people alike genuinely look forward to China's rapid modernization — hitherto delayed by the follies of the past regime and the resulting shortage of scientists, technologists, and foreign exchange.

Everyone, including Christians, is required to serve under the banner of the United Front. Christians, therefore, are enjoying a tolerance and even respect quite unthinkable a few years ago. Religion has become a respectable topic in academic circles.

Moreover, the mushrooming of household churches all over China, and the very large numbers of conversions among young people, make it clear that the church today is much larger than in 1951 when the missionaries withdrew. But the critical question is how Christians from the West should react to this changing situation.

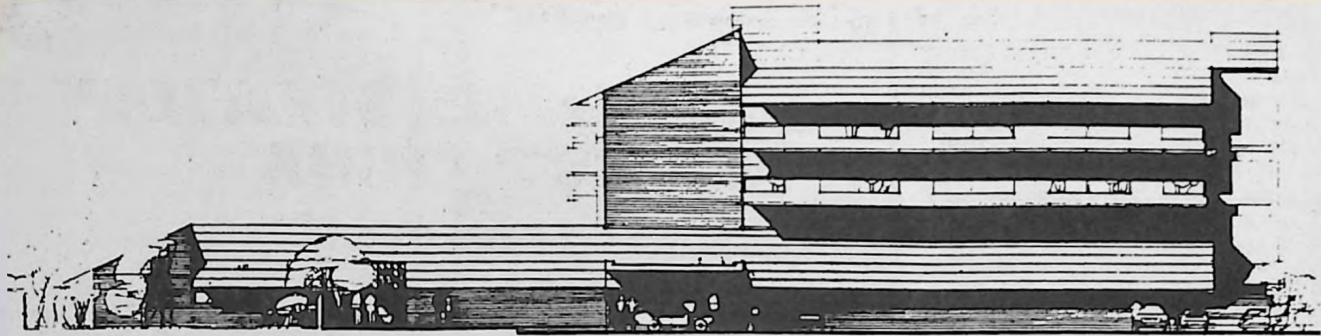
"Facing the Future or Restoring the Past" is the title of an article by a leading Chinese Christian. For nearly 30 years the church has boasted of its independence of foreign financial support and foreign control. The "three autonomies" principle has been enforced and accepted. After a century of foreign imperialist exploitation the Chinese nation and the Chinese church are equally proud of having attained their own selfhood. Chinese Christians now fear any attempt, however well meaning, to turn the clock back to the prerevolutionary age of "missionary imperialism". They demand to be treated as equals. They have forcefully expressed their fears and suspicions; they will carefully monitor the plans and activities in all western agencies. They claim that they have outlived the era of Western denominationalism and they want no more of it.

All Christian organizations concerned with China should call an international conference as soon as possible to define clearly, and reach agreement on, the limits of possible action with regard to China. Such an agreement might include the following resolutions:

1. No action must be taken that is contrary to the laws of China.
2. No action must be contemplated that might endanger or embarrass Chinese Christians or risk punitive consequences.
3. No action must be taken that does not have the prior approval of a representative body of Christians in China.
4. No action must be taken on a denominational basis.
5. No action should be planned on the sole initiative of any one organization in order to avoid the scandal of rivalry, competition, adventurism, and one-upmanship.
6. No public statements or appeals for funds should be published without the approval of the coordinating agency.
7. No action should be taken involving the expenditure of Western money in China without the full consent of both coordinating bodies, in China and abroad.

● Continued on page 14

107th S.A. Conference



Proposed Joslin Christian Rest Home

Conference approved the **Joslin Christian Rest Homes** development of \$3 million for building and furnishings on house blocks purchased during the past seven years.

The Home will include 35 nursing beds, 62 hostian units and a day care centre. In presenting the project Homes Administrator **Colin G. Dredge** said that the need for such complexes was acute and the provision of Government subsidy for the project was evidence of this. Completion is scheduled for the end of 1982.

New Constitution for Conference

The new constitution adopted is the result of two years' work by a Commission of Inquiry. Their Report was presented last Conference. Since then a Steering Committee Report and a Special Conference in October (reported "A.C." 13.12.80) set the guidelines.

After this period of consideration Conference was ready to remove from the Constitution the whole departmental structure developed during the past 100 years and establish a **State Board**. The State Board will consist of 23 members to include direct appointments by 5 District Conferences, Women's and Youth Conferences, 8 members elected by Conference, 3 Presidents, Treasurer and 4 Conference Staff. Staff including office staff will all be responsible to the State Board under Conference.

Policies for ongoing work will be determined by the State Board which will establish functioning committees. State Board will be responsible for reporting to and seeking the mind of Conference.

To assume executive functions between State Board meetings Conference Officers are the President, President-Elect, Past President, State Minister, Administrator and Treasurer. The State Minister and Associate State Ministers will share a team ministry to the churches and be resource people with reduced administrative responsibilities to various functional committees. Some By-laws will be prepared during the current Conference year in the light of needs and experience, but these are seen to be flexible and not a part of the Constitution.

The 107th Conference needed to pass a number of motions that were consequential to and facilitated the newly adopted Constitution. It passed also with little or no discussion those necessary motions

that affected the Constitutions of the Christian Rest Homes and the Building Extension Mutual Fund. It dealt in the same way with the naming of present staff in their new functions for the present period of appointment — **Ed Roffey** as State Minister, **Gerald Rose** and **Ted Heard** as Associate State Ministers and **Colin Dredge** as Administrator.

Appointments

These included the re-appointment of **Colin** as **C.R.H. Administrator** to serve through to December 1985 and the appointment of **Rob C. Combridge** as Associate State Minister to succeed **Gerald D. Rose** from January 1982. **G. D. Rose** will move to Victoria to serve the **Cheltenham** church as senior minister. **Rob Combridge** has ministered in **N.S.W.** at **Lane Cove** and **Wollongong** and is currently ministering at **Edwardstown, S.A.**



Incoming President — **Max Thompson**

Conference President

Presiding with insight and an effective quiet humour was **Bob Clymer**, minister at **Colonel Light Gardens**. Public meetings were in good spirit. **Phyl McLean** as Women's President shared with **Bob Clymer** the Presidents'

Reception at coffee and dessert followed by a program including the **Good News Singers** at the **Prince Alfred College Assembly Hall**. Women's Conference again hosted all members of 45 years or more standing at the **Pioneers' Afternoon**.

Deliberative groups and plenary business sessions were well attended as was a pleasant Saturday musical evening at the **Marion** church presented by the **Glenlea Singers**.

Lloyd G. Cooke, minister at **Maylands** was our Sunday evening Conference Preacher bringing a challenge "The Church was the Family of God".

The closing part of Conference was the Induction of **Max A. Thompson** as Conference President.

Conference Concerns

Concerns were expressed in three motions passed as follows:—

"That the Institute for Church Youth Leadership be renamed **Birribi, Christian Learning Centre**, that **Birribi** continue to function as a leadership training organisation."

"That this conference conveys to the **Vanuatu** Conference of Churches of Christ greetings, with the expressed assurance that by concern and prayer we support them as they face the opportunities, challenges, and demands Independence has brought."

"That this Conference commends the **Federal Government** for apparently discontinuing the requirement for unemployed persons to report fortnightly to the **Department of Social Security Offices**. However, recognising unemployment to be endemic within sections of the **Australian Community** and that there are many times the number of unemployed persons than job vacancies and believing that the community as a whole bears the responsibility to ensure the social security and dignity for the jobless, this Conference of Churches of Christ in South Australia calls upon the **Federal Government** to:—

(1) Increase the Unemployment Benefit to a minimum of the poverty level as determined by the **Henderson Commission**

(2) Maintain the payment of Unemployment benefits to persons under the

(3) Investigate all possible avenues to distribute work opportunities more evenly through the community in **Australia**."

— **Ed. Roffey**.

It's Tough to Choose the Light

Paul Williams

John 3:19 "Men chose darkness rather than light".

What a denunciation of mankind. And yet there are many reasons why some people choose darkness rather than light, even if only for a short time.

This is the story of Sup, (pronounced — Soup), a village elder and important person in relation to singsings, i.e. spirit worship and appeasement dances. Sup was in the process of building a new house on one of the most impressive sites in the village. When it came time to carry the main posts from the bush to the village, Sup readily accepted the offered assistance of some men. Unbeknownst to Sup, these men had worked incantations over the posts and had marked them for a singsing house. By accepting their offer of assistance, Sup had incurred a village obligation and debt that he could not get out of. Later, when it was pointed out to him that he could not sleep in his house or put up walls before the singsing was held, he realised how he had been manipulated. However, it was too late to back out. His house would have to be the singsing house at least for one singsing.

What placed Sup in his great dilemma was the fact that he was in the process of choosing the "light". He had completed a discipleship class and had indicated his desire to be baptised along with another married couple. He had counted cost (Luke 14:28) and realised that he would be giving up much in regard to village position and prestige if he decided to accept and follow Christ.

As the days for the singsing and baptisms drew closer, poor Sup was really "up tight". He didn't know what to do. Could he be baptised and still participate in the singsing? How could he get out of his village obligations and responsibilities without becoming an outcast within his own people? There was also the matter of food exchanges to consider. The village had a feast debt with another village that was to be repaid during the singsing.



Sup of Papua New Guinea

What could he do, was his constant question to Judy and I?

I don't think we, as Europeans, could give him a black and white answer. We just can't imagine the cultural pressures that were on him. All we did was continuously point him back to scripture and the promises of Proverbs 35:6 and 1 John 2:27.

From a missionary's point of view, it was sad to see Sup choose darkness rather than light. However, he has solemnly assured us that when this singsing is over and he has fulfilled all his obligations, etc., he is finished with this part of his old life.

And so the drums continue day and night, the bamboo flutes call the spirits in from the bush, the feathers and dogs' teeth necklaces are displayed and Sup tries to remain outside of it all, but fails miserably.

Pray for Sup that he will choose the light. Pray that others involved in the singsing will realise that they are in darkness and need to come to the Light.

Paul Williams who ministers at Bunapas wrote a sequel to this story. Sup chose the light and was baptised into Christ. Sup still needs our prayers.

Let the Light Shine

Ralph & Barbara Bennett.

It is evening here in Madang. We are sitting in one of the camps in which we work. The Bible School children have just finished their lesson. They have met out of doors and their class has consisted of youngsters from toddlers to teenagers. As we wait for the adults to gather for their service, the darkness begins to close in. Pastor Pekene reaches for the Coleman lantern and as its light begins to shine out and dispell the darkness, the singing begins — our service has started.

There is much darkness in this sun-drenched island. Not just because of the night, but the darkness of ignorance that has caused the death of a child who was only three minutes from medical help. The darkness of custom that binds a man to a system that says that he must feed his relatives even if his child had to be hospitalised for malnutrition.

Add to this the darkness of selfish motives — motives that forbade a young pastor in training to return to his Bible School. It meant that this young man had to sneak out of his village like a common criminal. With his wife and a few possessions they drifted for many hours down river in a small canoe to a place where they could get transport back to school.

And there is the ever recurring darkness of sorcery, of false prophets and prophetesses. At this very moment a few of our new Christians have fallen for the delusion of one such prophetess. They have ceased working their gardens and are expecting in a very few days to receive, here in Mandang Province, all of the riches of the world.

But of course the greatest darkness is the darkness of sin.

Is there any light in this land? Yes! Look at the young people in the schools and know that the darkness of agnorance is slowly being driven back. Look at the young men and women in medical training programs who are learning to drive back the darkness of sickness and disease. And look at the joy on the faces of the young pastor and his wife as they are warmly and lovingly received back by their co-workers for Christ at the Bible School.

We often sit in camp meetings and look at these people as they sit on the fringe of the light of the Coleman lantern. We wonder — how many of these people will ever know Jesus? There are so many problems, so much heartache.

But then our eyes are drawn to the light of that lantern and we remember that the darkness is not in control, rather it is the light that is driving back the darkness of the night. And we know, as surely as we sit there, that it is Jesus, the Light of the world, who will push back the darkness of these people.

So with thankful hearts and with new appreciation we read again the words of John. "In Him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness overcame it not."

Ralph and Barbara Bennett have been working in partnership with Pastor Pekene in the ministry of the church at Madang.



Ralph and Barbara Bennett

A Holiday with a Difference

Ever heard of a colorimeter? One was installed at the beginning of this year in the Ashwood Memorial Hospital in Daund, India. It's a device which analyses the blood. For instance it will determine blood sugar content.

It was possible through a three-way partnership. The church at **Box Hill**, Victoria, provided the finance and **Brian Matthews of Maylands, S.A.**, together with laboratory technicians such as **Jacob Kamble**, helped in the installation. It was frustrating for voltage fluctuations caused globes to suddenly glow brightly and then die. This was just one of the tasks in which Brian and Eleanor Matthews and family were involved when they spent six weeks working in the Churches of Christ mission area in India last January/February.

One of Eleanor's memories is going into the operating theatre and assisting patients while they underwent surgery under local anaesthesia. Another is the aching muscles after cleaning in the hospital. Another of Brian's efforts was two weeks spent in lecturing and tutoring in haematology at the **Wadia Hospital in Pune**. Encouraging memories are those of seeing some of the Indian Christians preaching under the hot sun in the bazaars and seeing a film strip of a story from the gospels drawing village people together at night.

Visiting India has enriched the lives of the Matthews family. The experience will be of particular value to Brian as he continues his ministry as a member of the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board in Adelaide.



Jacob Kamble, laboratory technician, Daund.

**OVERSEAS
MISSION
OFFERING
JULY 5**

THE LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS...

Dorothy Geyer of India

(Dedicated to the faithful band of Christians who preach Christ every Sunday afternoon in Daund's crowded market place — by Dorothy Geyer, who accompanies them).

I am the world's light, Jesus said, the one who follows me
Will walk in light, and not in darkness ...

So, in the market place today, under a scorching sun,
We preached that light for sin-darkened souls,
That light for ignorant minds,
That light for the valley of the shadow of death,
Yes, light of the knowledge of the glory of God
In the face of Jesus Christ.

But so few stopped to listen.
As the crowd passed by, the Devil taunted:
Don't you know I've blinded their eyes?
They cannot see your light, Nor do they want to.

What point then, Lord, in preaching?
We're hot and tired and thirsty. Let's go home.
I was tied and thirsty too, by Jacob's well,
But found one there who needed me.

Can you find none at all?
Perhaps that man who's just sat down
In the soap-seller's patch of shade?
Friend, do you seek the Light? I do.
Do you believe our message? Yes, I think it's true.

You see, our village killed a Christian preacher,
And in awe, I've watched mysterious judgment fall
Upon the murderer ... Now I hope and pray
That if your God can punish, He can also save.

Yes, He can save, because He died ...
Dear Lord, as we speak, we remember
That hot and much more terrible day,
When you hung for hours in sorrow and pain,
Thirsty, forsaken and shamed.
They wagged their heads and jeered at your failure,
One thief was saved.

If you're really God's Son, come down, they said.
What if you had obeyed? ...

O seeking, suffering, conquering Light, Help us to shine in your way.

Worried About Investing?

In these times of inflation many people are. Bonds, shares or real estate; what is it to be? Wait a moment. Have you given thought to making a major investment in the kingdom of God? Here's an investment that produces dividends forever. Who can determine the marvelous results from just one life that has been turned around by the gospel of Jesus Christ. That person could become an evangelist through whom thousands find Christ as Saviour. Or a person could become a teacher of agriculture who makes it possible for others to rise above starvation level. Or become a doctor through whom healing comes to those who suffer.

Take your opportunity to invest in people overseas on Sunday July 5.

Could we ask for just one more thing? Your prayers?

A Truck with a Past

Some trucks have a colourful history. One diesel powered truck made by Toyota in Japan arrived safely in Santo in the New Hebrides in 1980. Suddenly it had a new owner when the rebels commandeered it in May of that year.

5000 kilometres later it was liberated and returned to the original importers. New tyres, new window and a few repairs have restored it to near new condition. At a price of approx. \$7200 plus a new vehicle warranty it was a bargain. **Jack Murphy** the business manager raced in and put down the deposit. \$4000 on new price was immediately saved.

After the adventures of the past, the truck will be leading a duller, but far more productive life. It will carry **Londua** school students to their garden plots. It is hoped that land will be able to be purchased or leased about 8 miles away and a plantation established. In five year's time the first crop of copra, coffee, or cocoa could be ready for marketing.

Christian Nightspot

Gathered around suitably decorated tables the chatter of 140 men, women and children, dwindled as "Sugar & Salt", the Berwick Regional church's Gospel Group rose to sing. The first Berwick Christian Night Spot was under way. As the subtle blended voices of the girls thrilled the audience with gospel songs appropriate colored slides were flashed on the large screen depicting the Nativity and the life of Christ.

The popularity of the Christian Night Spot was indicated by the fact that the seats were sold out a week prior to the actual performance. The Berwick chapel was transformed with suitable lighting creating an appropriate atmosphere as for two hours people enjoyed the various talents of local and imported artists. So successful was the night that another Night Spot is planned for Saturday, August 8.

To top off the evening supper consisting of three desserts and coffee was served.

Apart from "Sugar & Salt," the Church choir participated as well as outstanding Gospel singers Mac Hawkins and Hillary Clifford and elocutionist Lyn Dickson. As a special treat the church was able to have outrageously, preposterous relation of Dame Edna Everidge, Dame Sybil Sidebotton who related to all present, her most recent contact with the "Royals" and how she had left the audience speechless at her recent Carnegie Hall Concert.

The Christian Night Spot provides a variety of entertainment, offering an interesting night out for the family.

— M. G. Walker.

Nicaraguans Learn to Read

The Nicaraguan Prime Minister Tomas Borge has requested that 800,000 of his countrymen should receive a copy of the Spanish New Testament.

After the end of civil war in 1979, the new government instituted a massive nationwide literacy campaign among the estimated one and a half million Nicaraguans who could not read or write.

The New Testaments are in the common language Spanish Version called 'Dios llega al hombre' and are being printed in Colombia. The initial print run of 100,000 copies is being two thirds funded by an international Christian businessmen's association. The remaining third has come from Bible Society supporters in response to a United Bible Societies emergency appeal.

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Grapes and Garlic

Jan Mugale.

Once upon a time, in the land of garlic, leeks and onions, there lived a man and a woman in possession of great wealth. Since others in their country also possessed great wealth, the couple decided to travel to another country where they could share what they had. They knew very little about the new land they were going to, but they were adventurous.

Some of their friends and acquaintances tried to discourage them from going. "How can you go to a strange land you know nothing about?" they asked. "How can you give up the garlic, the leeks and the onions?" Yet when the couple left, they were praised because they were willing to leave behind the fine products of their homeland. "What sacrifice!" their friends said.

When the couple got to the new land they could hardly believe their eyes! This was a land overflowing with milk and honey. To be sure, there were some giants and some battles, but the grapes here were so large and succulent that it was impossible to describe them to the people in their homeland.

The garlic, leeks and onions quickly lost their value in their eyes of the couple. In fact, the memory of them seemed almost distasteful when compared to the milk, the honey and the sweetness of the huge grapes they feasted on.

Imagine the couple's amusement when they received letters and magazine articles from their homeland — referring to them with wonderment, awe and pity. One article mentioned how the couple had left the homeland at great personal sacrifice. The couple shook their heads in disbelief; obviously the people in their country had no idea of the life they were enjoying in this new land. How could they make their friends understand when they had never tasted or even seen the grapes?

They had gained so much. But their loss, their "sacrifice"? Only some garlic, a few leeks and a couple of onions.

Jan Mugale wrote this while working with the Chlnantec Indians in Southern Mexico. She and her husband work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

— HIS Magazine (March, 1980)

Breaking Down Walls in South Africa



Scripture Union's multi-racial boys' camps

For five years Scripture Union in South Africa has been running high adventure holiday camps for young people of all racial and cultural groups in an attempt to demonstrate that the answer to South Africa's racial dilemma can be found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Camp Havago was launched as part of a dream for an outdoor action program where boys could meet each other, play, swim, act and laugh together ... and experience the Gospel of Jesus together. After much heart-searching, Scripture Union dedicated itself in the context of its evangelism, to work for a society without discrimination working with Jesus in the way of peace — 'breaking down the wall of contempt that used to separate us' (Ephesians 2:14).

So Camp Havago began. At the most recent camp, some boys came with fears about mixing with other races, others came with resentments following school boycotts and closures. But the living presence of Jesus brought acceptance and peace as the boys found him for themselves. "We're not fooling ourselves," says Prest, "that these multi-racial activities will produce world-shattering results, but we are convinced that God's intervention is needed in South Africa today. So we press on."

Boat People

Arrivals of Vietnamese refugees by boat in Indonesia and the Philippines have tripled in 1981 as compared with the same period of 1980. About 1800 refugees arrived in the Philippines between January and April, compared with about 400 in early 1980.

World Vision's mercy ship "Seasweep" continues to transport people and supplies in the Anambas Islands of Indonesia.

Priests Detained

Eight Jesuits and a parish priest have been detained in Vietnam following changes in personnel in the Government department for religious affairs, but church authorities hope they will be released soon.

Apparently, alarmed by the strength of the Catholic Church in Poland, Vietnamese leaders have moved to tighten control over the Church in Vietnam.

Salt at Fort Apache *Bob Smith*

Bob Smith is the 1981 "Australian Christian Foundation" Scholar. He has just returned from overseas studies in which he was sponsored by Christian Projects Limited. He writes in a letter, "I am grateful to God and to C.P.L. for the experience."

"I hope you've got your machine gun with you", snarled the New York cab driver when I asked him to take me to the South Bronx.

It wasn't the most encouraging introduction to life around Fort Apache (as the movie calls it). It was fairly accurate though.

The Bronx

The Bronx is one of the five boroughs of New York City. About 1½ million people live there. Most of them are Irish, Black or Hispanic. They live for the most part in ugly, brick tenements, many of which are sub-standard, fire traps.

You rarely see flowers or greenery there. But you do see a lot of garbage.

Violence a Way of Life

Violence is a part of life in Fort Apache. While we were there the house behind where we lived was broken into. I was warned against going in because of the likelihood that the intruders would have guns. Another day two heroin addicts tried to force their way into the house we lived in. Only the presence of her brother saved our hostess from being robbed, and probably assaulted. Another day we saw several police cars and ambulances converge on a supermarket nearby. It was like a scene out of Kojak. Cops with drawn guns rushing into the store. There had been a holdup and someone had been shot. However these things happen so often that no one could give us too many details.

Household of Faith

Just round the corner from 183rd St., (voted by the New York Times as New York's most dangerous street) is the Bronx Household of Faith. It is a church comprised almost totally of young adults. Many of them grew up in the Bronx. Others, like Jack and Bob, the Co-Pastors, came to inner New York as volunteer missionaries.

Several of the church members live communally in the house we stayed in. This is also the scene for the church's worship services. It is a little oasis in an



Some of the Bronx Household of Faith.

urban desert. There are flowers in the windows, and a sign inside says "kindness is spoken here".

"Salt of the Earth"

The church members, both those who live in the household, and the others who live in apartments along the street, have committed themselves to live out their Christianity right there in the Bronx. Their aim is to be the "Salt of the Earth", ... the light of the World," in a place sorely needing both.

No Salaries.

They do it by living, working and witnessing right there ... None of them draws any salary from the church. Jack is Director of the Hope Christian Centre, a Christian Drug Program. Kate is a district nurse who tends the sick and shares her faith in the tenements (a dangerous occupation for a young woman alone). Scott is a teacher of retarded students. His aim is to bring a new quality of teaching in an area where teachers describe themselves as zoo keepers. Priscilla saw her drug addicted brother taken in and cared for by Bob and Jeannie. He is now a radiant Christian. This sort of love won her from bitter atheism to Christianity. She suffers from Lupus, a rare disease. She

can no longer work as a teacher. So she lives in the household and devotes herself to caring for some of the Bronx's most disadvantaged people — the poor aged. She visits them, shops for them, leads Bible Studies in their homes.

Half of me was very glad to leave Fort Apache. The other half hated having to leave these unique and beautiful people. I now really know what Jesus meant by "The Salt of the Earth ..."

Aboriginal Missions work in Victoria

Recently two members of the Vic.-Tas. Aborigines Committee paid a flying visit to Albury and Mooropna to discuss the work at these centres and other areas of the state.

The church at Lavington (Albany) under the leadership of Cecil Grant is growing. They are conducting visits to Wagga, Griffiths, Barellan and Deniliquin were believers are meeting in homes. Several of these meetings are overflowing and they are looking for larger meeting places. This year two families have commenced training at Bimbadeen Bible College.


At Mooropna the church is consolidating under the leadership of Max Wright. Visits from here are made to Nathalia and Barmera. At Echuca working with Arthur Symes the minister there, contact is being made with Aboriginal families in the town.

There is a need for certain equipment to help in outreach work. The immediate needs are a strip film projector and Alexander or Redemption hymn books. Does your church have these unused items lying around in cupboards? If you would like to donate them to the work of the Aborigines Mission contact Lance Fisher, 8/372 Auburn Rd., Hawthorn, Vic. 3122 or phone (03) 818 6862.

Caringbah on TV

The Caringbah church will be featured on the Divine Service program on ABC Television. The service will be broadcast on Sunday June 21 at 11 a.m. (10.30 a.m. in South Australia). This will be broadcast to all states on that date except Western Australia which will be a week later. The preacher for the service was the present minister Brian White.

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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.

AMATEUR RADIO

To the Editor,

At present a group of four amateur radio enthusiasts contact each other on a Sunday evening at 10 p.m. E.S.T. on the 3560 MHZ + or-. We are interested in starting a group similar to the D.A.R.F. in the U.S.A. and would like other radio operators to join us. At present those involved are VK 3A4M Cyril Minns from Barwick, Vic., VK3VPO Jim Pope from East Kew, Vic., VK5VH Ron Holmes from Naracoorte, S.A., and VK5ADD Don McDonald from Marion, S.A. The 1980 Radio Call Book will give our names and addresses.

If anyone else is at all interested please join us on air at the above time or contact the writer.

— Jim Pope (East Kew, Vic, (03) 857 5342).

THE UNITY FOR WHICH CHRIST PRAYED

We have given this correspondent more than the usual amount of space allowed (four times as much!) because the point of view which he presents is quite wide-spread and should be listened to and understood in the unity debate. It is a view point as old as the radical wing of the Reformation and is the present position of the right wing of the modern evangelical movement, especially in the U.S.A. We invite other correspondents on this subject, but only 150 words from each. (Editor).

To the Editor,

I must take issue with you over your Editorial in the "AC" (9-5-81), "The Unity for Which Jesus Prayed". Your explanation of John: 21-23 is very shallow, and your assumptions based upon your explanation are I believe, in error and misleading. Why must Christians worshipping and working

Thousands sent Greetings to 'Siberian Seven'

Keston College reports that 7 Siberian Christians trapped for three years in the American Embassy in Moscow received a 22-foot long banner containing easter greetings and personal messages from approximately 5,000 British Christians.

The group (5 Vashchenkos and 2 Chmykhalovs), known as "The Siberian Seven", have been described as "Hostages of Conscience". They belong to the Pentecostal Church, thought to be the largest group of religious dissidents in the USSR. Only three of the 13 Vashchenko children are with the parents in the Embassy. Mrs Chmykhalov and her son are separated from Mr Chymkhalov and 4 other children.

Following years of harassment, including Mr Vashchenko's imprisonment in labour camps and psychiatric hospitals and a camp sentence for the oldest son, the seven were stranded in the embassy in 1978 after they went there to discuss their case for emigration that turned into a desperate plea for refuge after the Vashchenko's 17-year-old son was beaten up in front of their eyes outside the Embassy. Despite assurances of resettlement in the USA, their requests for emigration have been refused.

together inevitably lead to organic union? And surely the "intangible inner unity of the Spirit" would not be intangible, if it is as you say, "wanting to worship and work together in the closest possible fellowship". Thirdly it must be a matter of choice, whether we follow the fellowship that Jesus prayed for, or disregard Christ's high ideals and plans for the church, and join what the Bible calls "Darkness", "Another Gospel", and error!

This lofty passage is one that cannot be glibly used to illustrate the need to join an organic union of worldwide, diverse and worldly churches. The Lord is dealing here with the mystical union which exists between the three persons of the trinity. It is further explained by Jesus in John 14:20-23.

here is no unity at all apart from the operation of the Holy Spirit who creates within the believers of the truth, a new nature, in line with being "born of the Spirit" of John 3, and Christians being "partakers of the divine nature" of 2 Peter 1:4. The unity that our Lord is talking about is a unity that can only be established among those who are regenerate. It is not something that a person, or a church fellowship, or conference, can decide to join. It is not a number of people deciding to form a coalition, or a society, in order that certain objects and purposes can be carried

out. That is not wrong in itself, if it is in line with truth, as revealed in the Scripture, but to say that it is the definite intention of Christ, is far from the truth.

There are many different churches in present organic unions which are not, by their worship and actions, obeying the commandments of Christ, and so John 14:21 cannot apply to them. If this appears to be a judgement on my part, then I claim the authority given to all Christians, to judge all things (1Cor. 2:15), to discern good from evil (Hab. 5:14), and simply to note whether or not the Apostles doctrine is carried out (Acts. 2:42).

The Lord's prayer in John 17 is not an exhortation to us to do anything but a prayer to the Father to preserve the unity that was already, and still is, in existence. Any "unity" or "union" that lacks the deep spiritual characteristics which Jesus mentions in John 17, is not unity at all. When "Light" joins in fellowship with "Darkness" and claims the prayer of Jesus to justify its existence, it seems to me to be close to blasphemy!

— Peter Pitts (Manifold Heights, Vic.)

FOOTSCRAY (M. Keatch). E.W.F. entertained mothers for lunch followed by bus tour of Williamstown and afternoon tea at Shirley Wallis' home . . . 95 attended A.W.F. birthday to hear Rev. Alex Kenworthy. Soloist was Mrs Adel Gore . . . Family tea followed by screening of film "Home Run for Rusty" . . . Covenant Players presented drama at evening service.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

KUBLA KHAN

To the Editor,

If you keep listening to sermons long enough you'll hear something that you never heard before. That happened to me on Sunday. Our minister told us about Kubla Khan the Mogul Emperor who ruled over China, Mongolia, most of what is now the USSR, Persia and Mesopotamia. It appears that Kubla Khan was interested in becoming a Christian and encouraging his whole empire to do likewise. So in 1270 or thereabouts he sent messages to the Bishop of Rome requesting 100 missionaries, well trained in the Christian faith and in the seven arts, to convince his people that Christianity is the best religion. (The other two contenders were Buddhism and Islam.) Then, he said, he would be baptized together with his nobles, and then their subjects would be able to receive baptism.

The Bishop sent only two of the requested 100, and they became homesick when they had only gone as far as Armenia, and they returned. Within 30 years Kubla Khan had died and within 100 years the Eastern Mogul Empire had become Buddhist and the Western had embraced Islam. I missed the rest of the sermon because my imagination was running riot about what might have been the outcome if the 100 had been sent.

But we must not be too hard on the Bishop of Rome. There was not only a shortage of good men, but of funds as well. The whole church was suffering from severe inflationary pressures at the time. There was not only the high cost of establishing such a mission to think of, but the higher cost of maintaining it. And the home church was involved in the biggest building program in its history. And while the Mongolian opportunity was great, there were millions of heathen nearer to home who had not been converted. As well as that western Christians had their standard of living to keep up, their children to educate and their garden pools to heat and maintain, and the cost of this was rising all the time, and obviously there was no point in spreading the missionary denarius too thinly.

Times haven't changed much have they!

Yours frugally,
Tertius

Churches of Christ, Who Are They?

"Churches of Christ-Who are they?" is the title of a small pamphlet published by the Federal Literature Department. It aims to introduce the outsider to Churches of Christ in a positive conversational way.

Special Outreach Issue

The Department has graciously agreed to "The Australian Christian" offering free copies to outsiders who may want them after reading the Special Outreach Issue being published on July 18. It is hoped that many of the 25,000 who read the "Special" will accept the offer.

Also For Visitation Purposes

Most of the churches availing themselves of the Special Outreach Issue are planning to visit those who receive free copies by courtesy of Christian Projects Limited. It is suggested that visitors might well have in their pockets copies of "Churches of Christ-Who are they?", in case there are inquiries about the nature and message of our churches.

Special Discount Prices

To encourage churches to use the pamphlet in the way suggested the Literature Department is offering special discount prices for bulk orders as follows (including posting).

	Vic. N.S.W., S.A., and Tas.	Qld.	W.A.
50 copies	\$11.40	\$12.70	\$13.10
100 copies	\$21.40	\$22.70	\$23.10
200 copies	\$36.60	\$38.30	\$39.30
500 copies	\$92.00	\$94.00	\$96.00

It is suggested that neighbouring churches might club together to take advantage of the special offer. (Write to Mrs. E. M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Av., Glen Iris, 3146.)

Conditions in C.E.S. Offices

Last year at Federal Conference a motion was passed expressing concern about the conditions of many Commonwealth Employment Service offices and the effect this had on those seeking work.

The Federal Conference Executive has received the following reply to their letter. We print it for the information of our readers.

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 18 February 1981 on behalf of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia concerning the need to improve conditions in some CES offices.

At the outset I should explain that a review of the Commonwealth Employment Service in 1977 revealed that many CES offices were poorly located in low standard premises. The review also established that if the CES was going to provide adequately for both job seekers and employers it was essential that its offices be laid out and furnished in a modern

Editorial

Overseas Missions Priorities

The financial statements published by the Overseas Mission Board in the Federal Conference Handbook do not tell the full story of overseas missionary giving by members of Churches of Christ.

The financial statements only tell of giving to missionary work managed by the O.S.M.B. on behalf of Australian Churches of Christ. However there is an unknown number of thousands of dollars going from Churches of Christ pockets and purses each year to many other missionary societies and movements. This of course is quite in order provided we have met our commitments to the missions we have set up and whose maintenance we are morally and spiritually (if not legally) obligated to.

The Australian Churches' Commitment

Churches of Christ in Australia, always with great enthusiasm, committed themselves to our Indian mission, then later to the New Hebridean (now Vanuatu) mission and later still to that in New Guinea, with other minor commitments to Indonesia and Korea. There is no doubt that all of our churches, through the Federal Conference and its Overseas Mission Board accepted total responsibility for these ventures and all that was implied in starting and maintaining them.

So the Conference and the O.S.M.B. have rightly assumed that local churches do not make light and easy commitments through their delegates and that they intend to honour all of those commitments.

Made by Earlier Generations

Of course some of our missionary commitments were made by earlier generations of Churches of Christ members. However that does not let this generation off the commitment hook. Each year at State Conferences and every second year at Federal Conference, representatives of all of our churches accept the reports of the

O.S.M.B. and in effect endorse its work and its budgets. This is in effect renewing this generation's commitment to our missionary work.

So in all honesty, the primary responsibility of our people and their churches is to the overseas missions work which we own, to which we are committed and for which we are responsible. When that commitment is met, then we have every right to give further amounts to the support of other missions.

Hard Facts and Figures

To translate this into hard facts and figures is simple enough. In 1981 our O.S.M.B. is going to require \$22 per head of our membership to maintain the present work to which we have committed it and ourselves.

If as well, we are to follow up immediate and pressing opportunities for new outreach (and if we do not no one else will) the O.S.M.B. will require from us \$25 per head.

In simple arithmetic this means that a church with 100 members should be giving \$2500 to our own missions before giving to any other missionary causes. If this seems unreasonable, then in all honesty the churches should tell the Federal Conference and the O.S.M.B. to retrench our activities so that our members can feel free to spread their missionary dollars over a wider area of missionary enterprise.

Personnel Too

Our missionary commitment of course does not only include giving money, it includes personnel. It would seem reasonable then to suggest to volunteers for missionary service, that they should be asking themselves if our own missions are fully staffed before offering themselves to other missions. In the past we have had outstanding missionaries at work both in our own missions and with other missionary societies. But in those days we did not have the rather alarming personnel shortage that today keeps a regular O.S.M.B. Situations Vacant Column in "The Australian Christian".

attractive manner and that confidentiality be preserved in interview situations.

In July 1978 my Department embarked on a five-year modernisation programme designed to up-grade all CES offices to a new Job Centre standard with attractive accommodation which is readily accessible from public transport. Features incorporated in new Job Centres include job self-service and improved interviewing facilities.

I am advised by my Department that from approximately 200 CES offices requiring up-

grading a total of some 120 offices now incorporate the new standards. It is expected that the modernisation programme will be completed by mid 1983.

There is no doubt that the policy of up-grading CES offices to modern well located Job Centres has done much to enhance the image of the CES and encourage a greater number of job seekers and employers to use its services.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.
Yours sincerely —
R. I. Viner.

BOOKS TO READ

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE

by Lloyd Cooke \$4.00

A selection of 19 poems of Lloyd Cooke each one illustrated by a drawing by John Mathieson. Lloyd Cooke has had ministries in Western Australia, Hobart, Tasmania (his home state) and in South Australia. His poetry has had wide coverage in local church papers as well as in "The Australian Christian". This well produced booklet contains poems on such things as the retaining of the pie cart in Adelaide through comments on Palm Sunday to one titled "You". Copies are obtainable from Lloyd Cooke, 38 Devitt Ave., Payneham South, S.A. 5070 for \$4.00 each (Please add extra for postage).

THEMES IN OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

by William Dyrness (Paternoster Press) \$7.95

An excellent introduction to many of the great themes of the Old Testament. This book provides an easily read overview of many of the great thoughts about God that flow throughout the Old Testament. To fully understand the New Testament we need to know the thought patterns that its writers were steeped in and these were the concepts about God and the world as found in the Old Testament. Each theme is examined and the development of thought through the Old Testament is set out in mainly non-technical language. Themes covered include:— The Nature of God, Man and Woman, Sin, The Covenant, The Law, Worship, Ethics, Wisdom plus others. Highly recommended

TM: A COSMIC CONFIDENCE TRICK

by John Allan (Inter-Varsity Press) \$1.75

John Allan in this small booklet looks at Transcendental Meditation as advocated by Maharishi Mahesh Prasad Warnar. The author argues that the whole of the meditation process as given out by TM instructors, including the mantras, is based on Hinduism. The booklet includes translations of the initiation rites and other ceremonies and shows their Hindu origins. He also attacks the scientific claims made for TM. The one unfortunate feature of the booklet was that it at no time sets out a Christian form of meditation (of which there are numerous examples) as a comparison with TM.

SIMPLY SHARING

by Tracy Early (W.C.C.)

The latest of the Risk Book Series published by the World Council of Churches, this is a personal survey of how well the ecumenical movement shares its resources. The writer is concerned that all who are involved in the sharing of resources (be they monetary, personal or other types) are not debased by this sharing. He is concerned that we should not lose sight of the very important point that Christ is the giver of all to the church. We are all receivers and this should effect our sharing of the resources that we have within the church across cultural and political boundaries.

A FATHER SHARES

by Ralph Bugg (Baker Book House) \$6.50

An optimistic look at the way that one individual father raised his children (along with his wife). The emphasis is on enriching the family life and helping each individual member of the family grow. It is not written as a 'how to book' but as ideas that could be adapted. All aspects of family life are covered. Realistic in that faults and problems are acknowledged. Whilst written in an American context it is possible to learn from much that Ralph Bugg has written.

PORNOGRAPHY: A CHRISTIAN CRITIQUE

By John H. Court (Paternoster Press). \$3.95

John Court is a clinical psychologist who is professor of Psychology at the Flinders University in Adelaide. In this study of the effects of pornography the author looks firstly at all the arguments advanced to support pornography. Each of these arguments is then examined in detail and especially scientific

evidence of the effects of pornography. Many references are given in the study. The final chapter argues for Christians to be involved in positive action about the problem of pornography in our society today. Dr Court is heavily involved with the Festival of Light here in Australia.

JONATHAN EDWARDS ON HEAVEN AND HELL

by John Gerstner (Baker Book House). \$6.50

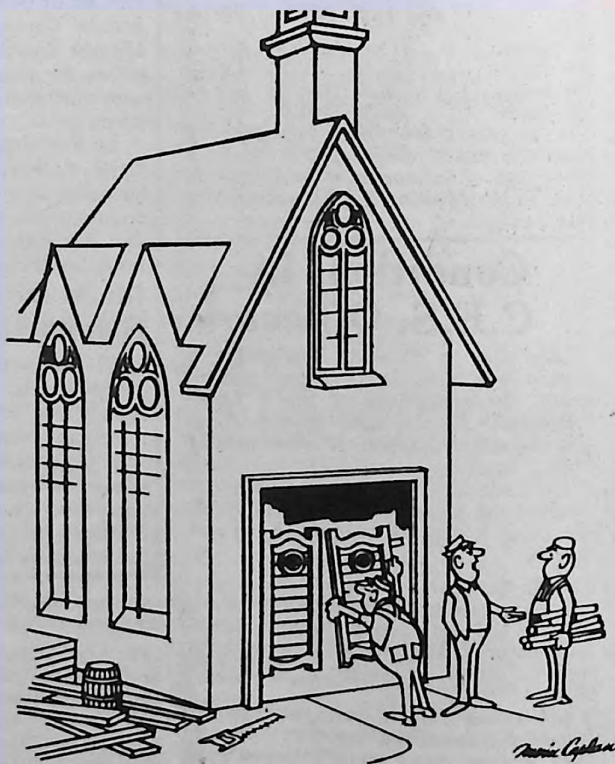
Jonathan Edwards was one of the leaders of the Great Awakening that occurred in the American churches and society in the 18th century. He is regarded by many as one of the greatest preachers in American church history. This small book is a compilation of his thoughts on both heaven and hell mainly from sermons and other of his published works. It is very interesting to see one notable preacher's view on these two subjects but this book is a little limited in its readership.

A COMPLETE CATEGORIZED GREEK - ENGLISH NEW TESTAMENT VOCABULARY

by David Holly (Baker Book House)

A book for the more serious student of New Testament Greek. This complete vocabulary lists all the occurrences of each Greek word of the New Testament in the order of the number of times they appear. Each word is also arranged in categories (e.g. nouns, first declension etc.). There is an interesting listing of words that are found only in individual books of the N.T. For more advanced user rather than the student beginner.

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.



"LET'S HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THOSE BLUEPRINTS."

Opening of Madang Christian Centre

R.S.A. McLean

The Madang Christian Centre for the Churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea was officially opened on Saturday, May 21.

The Church of Christ in Madang first gathered for worship in 1976 in the house rented by the mission for Graeme and Betty Sonsie, who pioneered the work in Madang. As numbers increased, services were commenced in a nearby rented workshop. The need for a Christian Centre was obvious and prayer was made for its provision.

There was the provision of a suitable site, which is on a main road and centrally located. The needed finance was provided as churches enthusiastically accepted Madang as a project. A generous donation of \$20,000 was received from the estate of A.J.K and A.V. Arnell in Queensland and \$10,000 from the Campbell Edwards Trust in Victoria. The Madang Fair organised by the Marion church in South Australia raised \$7,000. Other substantial amounts have been given by churches and various groups.

With the land and finance available, men were needed for the construction. Horace Christensen, Merv. Muller and David Lowe, from the Harlaxton church, formed a work party and went to Madang at the end of January. For six weeks they laboured with our missionary builder, Michael Burgar, and his New Guinean team of carpenters and workmen.

On several occasions the needed building supplies arrived just when needed. One example of this was the assembling of the pews. Two days before the opening the steel frames for the pews and the timber were all ready and all that



Finishing touches being made to Recreation Section

had to be done was for them to be bolted together. However, the expected shipment of bolts had not arrived. It appeared that the Centre would have to be opened without the availability of seating. Michael made enquiries with another supplier and was advised that a shipment of bolts and nuts of the exact size had just arrived and was available. With his workmen and the help of Rodney Feldhahn, the team worked into the early hours of Saturday morning, the day of the opening, to complete the job.

The opening ceremony began at about noon when the people from Minung village (the home village of Pekene, our Madang pastor), dressed in grass skirts, with their bodies painted and adorned with feathers, ornaments and colourful head gear, expressed their appreciation for the Madang Christian Centre in song and dance. This was followed by the opening service of worship led by Rodney Feldhahn. Brief greetings and speeches were made by Rosalie Rofe, past Chairman of P.N.G. Field Council, Manis, the Conference President, Pastor Eremot from Chungribu, a member of the Madang Provincial Council, Michael Burgar, the builder of the Centre and Ron McLean, Executive Director on behalf of the Overseas Mission Board. Pastor Pekene, brought the occasional address. Following the service, Manis cut the ribbon and declared the building open to the glory of God.

There were about 100 people present for the opening ceremony and approximately 270 gathered for the dedication of the Centre and for the praise service on Sunday May 3. Pastor Pekene led this

gathering and Pastor Eremot delivered a challenging message.

As a Brotherhood, we rejoice with our brethren in Papua New Guinea, not only over the provision of a worship centre, but for the way the church itself is growing. Sunday morning services averaged 200 during 1980 and there is an active membership of 90. Ralph and Barbara Bennett work closely with Pastor Pekene and his wife in the ministry of the church. Our business manager, Rodney Feldhahn, and his wife, Marion, are also actively involved and members of the Pioneer Bible Translators regularly attend worship and share in church activities.

The Worship Centre is 31.5 metres long and 15 metres wide. The main hall occupies approximately half of the building. This has no side walls and is ideally suited for the Madang climate. The only enclosed section of the building is the church office, store room and library, which separates the main hall from the recreation hall. The recreation section occupies the remainder of the building and like the main hall, has no side walls. The next stage of the project is the construction of housing for the New Guinean and expatriate pastors and transit quarters for missionaries.

Madang received twelve inches of rain in a matter of a few hours one night just before the opening of the centre. At 2 a.m. Pastor Pekene and his family were forced to leave their home because of flood waters. This is the fourth time they have suffered because of flood and highlights the need to provide suitable accommodation at the centre as soon as possible



Rosalie Rofe speaking at opening.

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HAPPENINGS

A recent Morgan Gallop Poll showed 54.4% in favour of women as ministers/priests with 20.3% opposed and 25.2% undecided.

Five million children in the world today have leprosy.

Christians claim that KGB agents are responsible for a systematic crack down on the church in Lithuania. The Catholic Committee for Defence of Rights of the Faithful claims that one priest died after being assaulted by unidentified assailants. Seven other priests have been beaten up. A number of Christians' homes have been ransacked and some churches desecrated.

In the United States there are about 50,000 scientists and technicians from India. This figure does not include Indian students in the U.S.A.

Thousands of Kampuchean are returning to their home villages after spending months in refugee camps in Thailand. The resettlement program includes the provision of ploughs, seeds, fishing nets and household utensils. Aid and relief work in Kampuchea this year is expected to total more than \$65,000,000.

Last year only one third of the 22,000 Soviet Jews permitted to leave the Soviet Union chose to go to Israel.

The Government is considering stricter control of schools in Taiwan including Christian schools and theological seminaries.

Jogging may be as effective as psychotherapy for people with mild to moderate depression according to a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin.

Two more leaders of the unregistered Baptist churches in The Soviet Union have been arrested. This leaves only three members of its governing council at liberty.

Malawi is to start producing fuel from molasses towards the end of this year in a bid to reduce its dependence on imported fuels. The project is expected to result in about 4,900,000 litres of ethanol a year for blending with petrol. It will cost about \$5,500,000 to establish but should provide Malawi with up to 10% of its petrol needs, thus saving about \$1,200,000 a year in foreign currency.

Diarrhoea (often the result of dirty water) kills 6 million third world children a year.

Nearly 20% of Korea's 38 million people is Christian according to a recent poll. However no one under 20 was questioned and the

percentage of Christians in that age group is even higher.

Elim's Emmanuel Secondary School in Zimbabwe has been re-opened after being closed following the massacre of nine missionaries and four children about three years ago during the civil war. All of Elim schools except Emmanuel were kept running by local Christians after the massacre.

A recent survey in America claims the average layman spends four minutes a day praying, the average minister seven minutes and only 1 in 100 couples pray together.

A team of Kyodan pastors (United Church of Christ in Japan) delivered 400 theological books in English when they visited Nanjin Theological Seminary in China.

The Sunday Schools of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

reported a 13% increase in enrolment and an 8% increase in attendance during 1980.

The South African Council of Churches will boycott state celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of South Africa. The council, representing all major churches except the Catholic Church and the Dutch Reformed Church, says three-quarters of the people of South Africa have nothing to celebrate.

The Melbourne City Mission has won a Silver Award in the Australian Institute of Management (N.S.W. Division) Annual Report Award for distinguished achievement in annual reporting for its 125th annual report.

An American magazine has claimed that with 12 minutes reading a day a person would get through the Bible in one year.

INNER SPRINGS

AN "EVERY DAY WORD"

I have been thinking much about the word "beginning". I have discovered that time has little to do with this fascinating word. It is instead the very essence of life itself. Never do I go into the garden without finding new beginnings — fresh life in tender green leaf and bud that is as triumphant as it is delightful.

"Every day is a fresh beginning.

Every morn is the world made new".

Looking for some light on this word a modern dictionary offers this definition " ... begin is an every day word ... " I like that! It needs to be an every day word. We need to know that in spite of all our failures we can begin again.

Facing the ruins of his home in recent bush fires the late owner was asked what he would do. "Clean up and begin again" he replied. His answer had nothing to do with time, but everything to do with life and the living of it every day.

Mercifully we can each begin again, right where we are, even in the midst of what may appear to be total failure, in the surety of god's promise in His word. (1 John 1-9).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

Take this "every day word". Begin — and go on with the one who is both the Beginning and the End.

"Would you have this life to triumph,

Victory all the way?

Then put God in the beginning

Of each coming day."

Our Father, save us from wasting our strength in useless regrets. Help us to walk in the sunlight of your promised forgiveness. Thank you for the joy of new beginnings and fresh opportunities. Amen.

1 John 1 : 5-10

Florence Rosier

"Troubled Water" song to help Bridge Financial Gap

The Sydney City Mission launched its Winter Appeal for \$250,000 with the help of the world-famous Paul Simon song "Bridge Over Troubled Water." The Appeal's theme is — "The Sydney Mission is a bridge over troubled water". The song is being used in community service radio and TV commercials.

The Mission desperately needs the funds to cope with the heavy demands on its services during the winter months.

With a network of 19 community centres and services the Mission's financial resources are stretched to the limit helping thousands of needy children, poor families, young people in crisis, the elderly, ex-psychiatric patients, drug dependants, alcoholics, the unemployed and handicapped at a cost of over \$4 million annually.

Last year the Missionbeat 24-hour emergency street patrol picked-up and helped over 10,000 homeless and destitute men, women and youths in city streets and lanes, saving many from almost certain death due to exposure. The Missionbeat street patrol now has five vans operating in the inner city, Newtown, Parramatta and Manly areas.

Since it began in 1862 the Sydney City Mission has literally helped millions of people in need.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Winter Appeal can send it to: Sydney City Mission, 103 Bathurst Street, Sydney 2000. Donations are tax deductible.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND BAPTISTS (3)

In this issue we complete the letter to Charles about differences between Baptists and Churches of Christ.

Union Between Baptists and Churches of Christ

You may be wondering, Charles, why Baptists and Churches of Christ have not united as they have so much in common.

Over the past 60 years or so there have been occasional conversations between leaders of the two groups with a view to possible union. They have been in good spirit, but each time they have broken down. There seem to be several reasons for this. The main one is the basic disinterest that Baptists have in uniting with any one. They would have cheerfully and graciously absorbed Churches of Christ under the Baptist name, which they find impossible to consider abandoning in the light of its significant history.

Baptism and Salvation

Also they have found it impossible to accept the assurance of Churches of Christ they are not baptismal regenerationists and do not believe that the act of baptism saves. Their history has conditioned them to be very wary of what they call "sacramentalism" and of salvation or special grace through the sacraments. They are strongly committed to the doctrine of salvation by faith alone. So they have found it hard to understand that Churches of Christ do not believe in baptismal regeneration (salvation by baptism), but do believe that the scriptures link the external act of baptism with the process of salvation, a belief held by all of the other main line churches.

On the Churches of Christ side there is a slight reluctance to unite with the Baptists because some feel that with their traditional disinterest in the visible unity of the church, it might preclude a Baptist-Churches of Christ union from subsequent discussions and negotiations concerning unity with other churches.

Why I Belong to Churches of Christ

You ask why I belong to Churches of Christ rather than to the Baptists.

First of all, let me assure you that I have a very high regard for Baptists and warm feelings towards them, and I have worked happily with them during 45 years of ministry. However I am a member of Churches of Christ rather than a Baptist because I believe that in all of the matters that I have tried to set before you, the position of Churches of Christ is more scriptural than that of the Baptists.

And I believe that the congregational life style of Churches of Christ is freer than that of many Baptist churches, with greater liberty for the expression of personal conviction. The position of Churches of Christ concerning personal liberty is summed up in a slogan that they have often used:

In essentials (matters pertaining to salvation), unity;

Page 13

In matters of opinion (all other matters), liberty;
In all things, love.

My Prayer

My prayer for you Charles, is that God will guide you through the scriptures, as you seek a church home, and that you will find in it opportunities for Christian growth, joyful fellowship and satisfying service.

God bless you.
Yours Sincerely,
Gordon Stirling.

When Baptists and Churches of Christ were United

As a matter of interest to our readers, in the United States, Baptists and Churches of Christ (Disciples) were united for some 15 years. It was always an uneasy union and was ended by the Baptists in 1830. It is interesting to note some of the deeply felt differences then, that caused the break between the two bodies.

1. The Baptists in that part of America were Calvinists, believing that only the elect would be saved, and that knowledge of whether one was saved or not would be manifested in an "experience of salvation" sometimes called "coming through". The Disciples believed that "whosoever will may come", and that the scriptures give all of the assurance of salvation that any one needs.

2. The Disciples believed that while the whole scriptures were the word of God, the New Testament was the rule of faith and practice for the church. Baptists used both testaments as authority for church life and practice.

3. The Baptists in the area subscribed to the Philadelphia Confession as a test of fellowship and membership. The Disciples rejected any credal statements used as tests of Christian fellowship, and they objected to some articles in the Confession as well.

4. The matters discussed above in relation to the sacraments and the denominational name provided sources of tension then.

5. For Disciples, church membership was on the basis of faith and baptism. Baptists required as well a testimony of personal experience and a vote of the membership on the admission.

As with the Baptists, so with all other denominations, it is easy for us to dwell upon and to magnify our differences. While remaining true to our convictions, and being aware of the differing convictions of others, it would seem that in the best interests of the Kingdom of God, we should be paying far more attention to those great matters of faith that we all hold together.

The Sequel

Charles (real name Karl) phoned me in appreciation of my letter. He informed me that he had decided to be baptised and to join the Dandenong Church of Christ . . . before he read my letter. He had read Lyall Williams' book, "Churches of Christ, An Interpretation" and he had met Jack Edwards.

A MISSIONS STRATEGY FOR CHINA

● From page 2

One of the Three-Self principles was that of refusing U.S. money. The relaxation of strict Marxist principles and practices has led to a growing spirit of materialism in China, and this has already infected some Chinese Christians with a spirit of covetousness. Jealousy and division have arisen over the distribution of foreign money already sent. The unwise use of foreign money could be disastrous for a church experiencing spiritual revival.

The proper and wise course is to seek the closest possible consultation and cooperation among all groups burdened to help the Chinese church. A single international body should be formed. This body should make a united and official approach to an equally representative church body or body of Christians in China. The international body would seek the fullest possible discussion and advice from its Chinese counterpart about how to aid the Chinese church. If foreign agencies act prematurely, without full consultation, and by-pass the existing church and its leaders, it will be disastrous.

Among the possible forms of aid are:

1. The supply of Bibles, literature, teaching aids, and the replacement of theological libraries.
2. The exchange of news items of the world church for Christian papers in China and in the West.
3. The exchange of visiting delegations of Christians to and from the West.
4. The more effective use of Christian radio transmissions.
5. Short visits by accepted Bible teachers (Chinese or Western) to certain main centers in China for a teaching ministry among Chinese pastors and leaders.
6. Scholarships for selected persons to study abroad at Bible and theological colleges, preferably within Asia.
7. The offer of the services of foreign scholars to teach in a proposed theological college and to help in Bible translation.
8. The best use of Christian educators, scientists, and so on, to work in China for the Chinese government.

If all this seems to be a counsel of perfection in the notoriously divided evangelical world, we should not therefore lower our aims. What may seem impossible today may be possible in days to come if we keep our sights high. The opportunity lies before us but the hour is critical. So let us be warned! That opportunity could be thrown away and lost forever by well-meaning but impulsive and blundering activism of any one of many agencies sincerely concerned for China's spiritual welfare. So let China speak, and let us listen. Then, and then only, let us determine what should be our corporate action.

— Christianity Today.

ACC Assists Christian Revival in Vietnam

To coincide with the observance of Asia Sunday on May 31, the Australian Council of Churches has launched a \$10,000 appeal for Church Reconstruction in Vietnam.

After many decades of suffering, the Christians of Vietnam are seeking to revitalize their worship and witness within Vietnam and to renew contact with other churches around the world. During the May Seventh Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia in Bangalore, India, the General Evangelical Church of Vietnam joined the regional fellowship of 86 Churches and 16 National Christian Councils.

During the war, many churches and other buildings were destroyed by bombing. Whilst some had been

provisionally repaired, they need to be permanently restored or completely reconstructed.

Outlining how the money will be used, the Rev Martin Chittleborough of the ACC said, 20 churches and chapels in nine provinces and in Hanoi, which were destroyed during the war, will be rebuilt. At present the members of the Evangelical Church are worshipping in private houses, several of the Pastors have no homes, and the communities have no rooms for Sunday School, church meetings, offices or bookrooms."

Donations to the "Rebuild Vietnam's Churches Appeal" can be sent to the Australian Council of Churches, P.O. Box C199, Clarence St., Sydney, or given to your State Council of Churches office.

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"A.C." Interview with Joe Lindsoe

Joe Lindsoe is currently on an exchange ministry with Magill church (S.A.) This has been for 12 months and his wife Betty and one son Eric are here with him. Very shortly he will be returning to America.



"A.C.":- Joe what is your background?

Joe:- I came to Australia on a 12 month exchange ministry with the Magill church and the Rocky Mount Disciples of Christ Church in Virginia. I have ministered with that church for the past 19 years. My training was at the Lexington Theological College. Betty and I have four children and one of them, Eric now 18, was able to come to Australia with us.

"A.C.":- What ministry will you be involved in back in America?

Joe:- I am going back to Virginia very shortly. I have completed my ministry at Rocky Mount and at present I am not sure where my ministry will be once I return home.

"A.C.":- What differences have you noticed between Australia and the U.S.A.

Joe:- Firstly I must say that these comments are only a comparison between three churches in Virginia and Magill as these are really the only situations that I know.

Firstly here the President presides over communion whereas in the U.S. it is the ministers role to preside over communion.

Elders have more authority and are more active and have a greater responsibility for the ministry.

Here ministers do not have the prestige and status as in America. Australians are friendly, casual, sports minded, very much in favour of the underdog and tend to be down on authority. This means that the minister is not pushed as the leader figure so much.

In America ministers have a higher level of education and it becomes a very important consideration in negotiations. There salaries are also all negotiated and there are no suggested scales.

One other area of difference is in regard to work. Back home the harder a man works the more highly he is thought of. That attitude is not so important here.

"A.C." — What do you see as possibilities for the Australian church?

Joe:- There are tremendous potentials for growth. There two significant ingredients.

(1) Enthusiastic, relevant preaching, and

(2) A visitation program that shows concern for people.

My observation is that probably you are over ministered. In the U.S. we could not afford a full-time minister with a congregation of under 100.

I have also noted the growth here of team ministries. These are very difficult. Ministers have ego problems and thus team members need to be complementary. There is also a need for leadership in a team which makes equal ministries almost impossible to handle.

"A.C.":- Could you add details about visitation?

Joe:- The church needs to be concerned in this area. Visit those who attend on a Sunday in their homes that week. Lay people should visit and share their concern about people. The church should be open to as many activities that help to meet Christian growth.

We do not have church sports programs in the States and I can see that these provide great opportunities.

The minister needs to be visible and participate in activities. These activities need to be opportunities to build bridges, e.g. carpet bowls with senior men.

The church needs also to work with and build relationships with people.

A.C.":- Are you taking any ideas back you you?

Joe: Yes. One is the spiritual maturity, concern and interest of the elders in the life and work of the church. I have appreciated a greater need to help in-

dividuals to know clearly their gifts in the community of the church. I have been enthused by the use of the gifts by all involved at Magill.

"A.C.":- Do you have any final comments?

Joe:- Yes. We have really appreciated the openness and responsiveness of people since we have come here.

I really think that you need to be more patriotic. You are not proud enough of your country.

We found Australians were more open about their faith to non-Christians than back home.

Lastly I would like to see more interchanges of this kind as we could both grow from the experience.


Increasing Persecution of Christians in Nepal

Nepal in the southern slope of the Himalayas, situated between India and China, has for centuries kept a low profile. So have the Christians in Nepal. Nepal is a Hindu country, the only Hindu country in the world. Buddhism is strong in Nepal. The number of Christians is small. The state and the people have always been opposed to Christianity. For some time, however, there was no active persecution of Christians in the country.

But recent visitors have shared stories of renewed persecution and harassment. It is estimated that over 50 Christians have been arrested during the last few months.

Two brothers, both high school students, who wanted to give their mother a Christian burial, were taken into custody.

A group of 10 believers in the village of Goomi, invited to preach in a neighbouring village, ran into opposition there and were arrested by the police.



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Is the Cost of Sharing the Light Worth It?

Judy Williams

I finished reading the article "Wanted to Sell" in the March Newsletter and I stopped to think. I have "bought" the missionary task. Is it worth it? Are the difficulties too great and the rewards too small?

As I pondered I looked out the window towards the Shraeder mountains. A group of men (9 Bible school students, 2 national Bible school lecturers and my husband) were setting out on a patrol to the village of Tajibu in the foothills of the Shraeder mountains. Tajibu is still held in the fear of the old ways. These men went to share their faith; to show the way that brings release from these fears and to strengthen these illiterate babes in Christ. I looked at the faces of those going, radiating the light of the gospel that had given them release from these same fears. Here was my reward.

think of the way God has provided and cared for them. I think of those whom God has used to uphold us both financially and prayerfully; those whom God has often used as channels to meet our every need. Here is my reward.

True, there are difficulties; climate, sickness, discouragement, even different foods. But even these God can use to His glory and through them we can be drawn closer to those we serve.

It is very true that God is no man's debtor. We are always His.

This article was written when Paul and Judy Williams and family spent seven weeks at Gokto helping with the Bible School there. Judy Williams has been recently appointed as Health Secretary in addition to her ministry in supervising the Pidgin library for pastors and other interested people.



Paul and Judy Williams

During the day I sat and shared fellowship with some of the Bible school wives. We shared problems common to us all. They found answers to their problems and we parted with our faith strengthened. Here was my reward.

I looked out in another direction towards the school. I saw the faces of children who are dining release from their fears through education, children who are finding a new way of life through Christian teaching. Here was my reward.

I smile as I turn to watch some healthy children play. I think of the many who have found life and health through our medical work. Here was my reward.

The local Pastors house is nearby. I think of Samgam, Nemli and the many others who have now taken up the task of spreading the Good News, as we give them support. Here is my reward.

My children run in happy and healthy. I

Responding to
Lyall M



Ranwadi High School stu

When I heard that the motto for the new nation of Vanuatu was "Long God yumi stanap", I hoped that reports I had heard of the beginnings of spiritual awakening there would be true. My first impressions of the church in Vanuatu were rather the opposite. It seemed to me many of the leaders were despondent because of lack of response and backsliding among Christians. Of course there were little pockets of brightness where God's Son was giving light.

Now that I have been there three months my impressions have changed. Maybe I was wrong originally, for I know that God has been at work in those months. Here at Ranwadi 17 students have accepted Christ and been baptised. A visiting speaker

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to the Light Muller



Students baptised into Christ.

shared with us and a great conviction of sin fell and 107 out of 120 went forward. Personal counselling by the staff the next day proved that all but one or two were very genuine in their response. Similar things are happening or have happened in other places.

We are rejoicing and praising God for all that He does. He is the same yesterday, today and forever and He continues to work miracles.

Now the challenge is to build these people into the Body of Christ... **LET THE LIGHT SHINE.**

Lyall and Jillian Muller and family left Brisbane for Pentecost Is last January. They are both teaching at the Ranwadi High School.

"Let the light shine" is the cry each evening as darkness gathers over the Bunapas station. The children usually give an excited 'hurrah' when they hear the first slow chug chug of the generator. As the crank handle is slowly and laboriously turned, the chugs become faster and faster as it gains momentum, and then with a flick of a lever she bursts into life. Clouds of black smoke billow from the power house and then the lights shine.

Fear of Darkness

The people of Papua New Guinea are afraid of darkness. They fear evil spirits which lurk at night; they fear being outside their own territory especially when alone; they fear someone may work poison on them and cause them to become sick and die. These and many other fears have to be allayed before they can glimpse the true light. It is a long hard road to teach the people that they need not be afraid and that if they walk with Christ they have nothing to fear, that He is able to overcome their fears. Missionaries,

Send Out The Light

Valerie Main

How's your geography? If its like mine you'd better hunt out an atlas and share with us in the excitement of what God is doing here in Pune! Pune is a centre for education and Indians living and working abroad send their children back here for schooling. As well, students come from all over India to study in the colleges and universities.

At present in our house church fellowship we are ministering to young people from Teheran (Iran), Djakarta (Indonesia), Dubai and Kuwait (Gulf Countries), Delhi, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Goa, Bombay, Madras and

Vellore. Most of these young people come from non-Christian or Catholic background and have found Christ here in Pune.

In the Happy Hour children's classes the mission field reaches even wider taking in Iran, Lagos, Ghana, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, Colombo, London, Dubai, Doha — a potential harvest of young lives to be given to the Lord and sent back as bright lights shining in this dark world.

This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes.



Valerie and John Main of Pune, India.

The Light Shines

Mrs. Julie Wythes

national pastors and church workers are labouring to show them the light of Christ.

Experiencing the Light

With those who stop and listen to the Good News, it is like the first chugs of the generator, as the Holy Spirit begins to work in their minds and souls. Then, as they listen and understand more and more, so too does their enthusiasm to know and experience the light, become stronger and stronger. When they respond to the Holy Spirit's convicting and accept Christ as Saviour, their 'black clouds' of sin and fear escape from their lives and they can see clearly the light of Christ. To see Christ shining in the faces of dedicated Christians is to understand a little more of the power and love of God.

There are two young men from the workshop who have found Christ to be real in their life. Kabre came to know the Lord about 12 months ago and his life underwent a dramatic change from an angry rebellious lad to a strong Christian who is being used by God as he witnesses to his fellow workmen. Kampun has been a Christian for some years but only recently has he realised that God can use him in teaching others and taking an active role within the Church. He is one of the first nationals at Bunapas to teach Religious Instruction in the national school. In his village he speaks out boldly in defence of the Christian faith and is

helping many Christians there to grow in their faith.

Just as it is important to daily check the oil, water and diesel in the generator to produce the power to operate efficiently, so too do we need to daily commune with God, so that the Holy Spirit can generate his power through us.

We pray that many more Papua New Guineans will see the Light of Christ and the Holy Spirit will use each of us to guide them to the Light of the World.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defence of my life; Whom shall I dread?" Psalm 27: 1.



Mike and Julie Wythes

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.

CUTHBERT, Mrs Annie

(8.5.81) Mrs Annie Cuthbert, was born in Dundee, Scotland almost 83 years ago. Her Christian fellowship in Scotland was with the Christadelphians. In 1927 with her husband, George and sons Alex and George she came to Australia living first in Kew then settling permanently in Balwyn where the family soon made strong links with the Church of Christ in Balwyn. Two further sons, Jim and Nell were born. As time passed father was joined by all four sons in the motor garage opposite the Balwyn church. Mrs Cuthbert was always bright and cheery with a ready Scottish wit and offered warm friendship to all. She had three great loves; her family; her church; and her music. Mother was the leader and encourager of her family of men. She was active in all aspects of women's work in the church, but above all she loved to sing in choirs, solo work, or as a strong leader in the congregational singing. Back trouble and other illness never prevented her from being cheerful to all who visited her, even in her last 3½ years spent in St. Mary's Nursing Home, Ivanhoe. Predeceased by husband George in 1970 and youngest son, Neil 2 years ago, she remained bright to the end. A. B. Wither assisted by the writer conducted the service at the Balwyn Church and the Templestowe Cemetery. Our congratulations to sons Alex, George and Jim, their wives, and families on having shared such a full and fruitful life with a wonderful mother who is now with the Lord.

— Don A. V. Thomas

FRASER, Gladys Clara

(7.5.81). A large representative gathering crowded into the Hamilton (N.S.W.) chapel for the funeral service of Gladys Fraser, who died in her 78th year in the Kara Nursing Home, Mayfield after a lengthy illness. She and her husband Will would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary had she survived until January, 1982. Like Mary of Bethany she entertained Jesus at her place and he enhanced the atmosphere of the home with his presence. But she also entertained others, including young people, whom she encouraged to follow Jesus and become missionaries at home and abroad. It was in this same house at 4 David Street, Georgetown that a Sunday School commenced well over 30 years ago, and when it was ultimately transferred to the new church building at Georgetown she became the first Kindergarten Superintendent, a position she held with distinction for 33 years. Under her wise guidance little children were instructed from God's word and taught lessons to equip them for their future lives. In addition she was involved in the work of Aborigines Missions, Christian Woman's Fellowship and with her husband in Youth Camps over a lengthy period, as well as the David Street decorations at Christmas time each year when thousands of people inspected the brightly decorated homes. Failing health over the last few years curtailed her activities in the local church but her influence continued to be exerted in the lives of those touched by her past ministries.

We commend her husband, Will, son Keith, daughter-in-law Phyllis, grandchildren and great grandchildren to the care and comfort of the Heavenly Father.

— F. D. Craig

PIEPER, Alexander

(30.3.1981) Mr. Pieper was born in Vernor, in the Lowood district in 1903, and together with his wife Alma, served the Lord well for many years in our churches at Fernvale, later transferred to Lowood. On their retirement from the farm in 1954, Mr and Mrs Pieper went to live in Ipswich, where they were actively involved in the work at East Ipswich. They then moved to Redcliffe where they served faithfully right up to Alex's death. In early life Alex felt the call to ministry and although circumstances prevented him attending Bible College, he found and accepted every opportunity to preach and will be remembered by many for his personal assistance and encouragement. Alex desire for ministry also found fulfilment in the fact that his son, Maurie, entered full-time ministry and is at present minister of Taree. As well as serving in many offices in the local church, including preaching and eldership, Alex was also heavily involved in the work of the Brotherhood. He was a foundation member and continuing supporter of Kenmore Christian College, the Bribie Island Retirement Village and an agent for the League of 500. His family; Mrs Pieper, son, Maurie, daughters Ella (Mrs Domrow), and Juan (Mrs Hillford), together with their families were joined by a large crowd for a service of thanks giving at the Redcliffe church. We are glad he passed our way and many will join in saying, well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.

— A. C. Taylor.

ROBINSON Cecil John

(8.4.81) There will be many throughout our Brotherhood who will join in giving thanks for the life of "Robbie." His ministry with our churches of 55 years took him to three States, and touched the lives of many. He left W.A. in 1928 to train at the College of the Bible, and exercised ministries at Hartwell, Red Cliffs, St Arnaud, Middle Park, Preston and Bendigo in Victoria; at Bassendean and Claremont in W.A.; and at Launceston and Ulverstone, Tasmania. He also served as army chaplain from 1942-45. Beyond the local church, he was always active at Brotherhood and wider church levels. He served on various departments and committees of Conference, and had terms as President in both W.A. and Tasmania. He had an ecumenical spirit and fostered co-operation between denominations — in latter years he exercised interim ministries with a Congregational and a Presbyterian Church. He also had a ministry as representative of the Bible Society. In earlier years he was active in youth work, and was associated with the late W. R. Hibbert in the early establishment of Monbulk. Robbie was a fine preacher. He was a very practical expositor and had the gift to be able to make God's Word relevant to life. He had strong beliefs about dignity and reverence in worship. He loved to play the organ and found great satisfaction, not only personally, but in the context of worship in helping his people appreciate the great hymns of the faith. Robbie was a strong man. He could express a conviction with clarity, and he would stand firm for what he believed to be right. Yet he was also a very kind and compassionate pastor, who loved and understood the needs of his people. He brought wise counsel and strong comfort to many, and in latter years has had a wonderful ministry to elderly folk. Though his work

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

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.

and influence has been wide, we, at Launceston, feel a special privilege in having shared with him very closely for the past 20 years — for 10 of them as minister and for the other 10 as a respected and kindly elder. The large congregation which assembled for his thanksgiving service was some indication of the esteem with which he has been held among us. We share lovingly with Mrs Robinson, Elwyn (Mrs George Green) and Ken and Rex as they especially feel his death.

WILMOT Helen Maud

(28.4.81) Mrs Wilmot will long be remembered by her friends and fellow-members of the Launceston church. Her active involvement in church life spanned more than 70 years, and she was known and loved by many. She was a friendly, motherly kind of person, given to hospitality and practical service. She came to faith as a teenager, and the unfolding years served to deepen that faith and to strengthen her devotion to her Lord. She took a most active part in church life and was one of the stalwarts, always at worship, strongly

Renewal at Elcho Island

The Bible Society in Australia will publish the Gospel of John as the first complete book of the Bible in Djambarrpuynu later this year.

Djambarrpuynu is spoken by 600 Aboriginal people on Elcho Island, off the coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. The translation work in this language is being co-ordinated by Miss Dianne Buchanan of the Uniting Church Missions Department, with the assistance of an Aboriginal woman called Wanymulu.

The main stories about creation and the life of Abraham have also been translated into Djambarrpuynu and will be published in a booklet format this year by the Bible Society. Miss Buchanan said a spiritual renewal among the people at Elcho Island in 1979 has brought about a growing hunger for the Bible in their own language. There is a conscious thinking among the people at Elcho Island to promote a Christian lifestyle. The local Aboriginal Council often take issues to prayer before making decisions.

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supportive of the church and its activities. Her marriage, in 1922, brought her into partnership with Tom Wilmot in which many common interests have been shared — her love of music and its place in worship, her love of home and garden, and her interest in people. Tom and Helen were among those who gave leadership in the early days of the establishment of the Invermay church. Then, returning to Margaret Street, they have given faithful service. Mrs Wilmot has been a most active member of the Women's Afternoon Fellowship, as Treasurer for over 30 years, and as an executive member for even longer. She always had wider interests than the local church and kept up with State and Brotherhood activities. We will miss her warmth and friendship, yet we are glad to have known her. We seek God's strong love and peace for those who miss her the most — for Tom, daughter Lynette (Mrs Birtwistle), for her sisters, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Bubb, and for her brother, Douglas Duff.

ACC Aids Polish Churches

The Australian Council of Churches has made a grant of \$2000 to the Ecumenical Council of Poland for material aid to alleviate hardships faced by large segments of the population. The new assessment of the serious food shortages indicated the need for emergency shipments of commodities and material aid.

The aid will be provided in co-operation with the Polish Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Commenting on the grant, ACC executive, the Rev Martin Chittleborough said "We are all aware of the very difficult period Poland is going through. In making this grant we are offering a hand of fellowship and support to the Polish churches."

Magarey Lectureship

Early in May 50 ministers in South Australia and 8 wives spent three days at the Longwood campsite for the annual Magarey Lectureship. This year the annual lectureship was held after the S.A. Conference for the first time. The theme of the lectureship this year was "Stress and Coping in the Ministry Today". The lectureship was conducted by Dr Denis Ludbrook Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the Western Australian Institute of Technology and a member of the Bull Creek Church of Christ.

The lectureship took the form of discussions and sharing. The original session saw Denis ask for the various stresses that we individually felt and these were then listed into various areas. The areas of pressure and stresses included workload and time pressure, expectations of others and ourselves, sustaining a creative ministry, managing conflict, sharing and communication, dealing with impatience, dealing with frustrations, achieving balance and letting go.

We broke up into small groups and shared the ways that we had coped with the stresses that were identified in the first session. After each group reported back into a sharing session the reports were collated together and circulated to all prior to leaving camp.

Apart from stimulating various people to share their coping methods in the group sessions Denis Ludbrook also led a variety of sessions aimed at giving us input to help develop our ministries. Sessions included discussion on the pattern of marriage relationship decline and how people cope with that.

Other sessions included helping the minister to retain a spiritual vitality given all the pressures that he is placed under.



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OLD

BAROLIN ST., BUNDABERG (B. M. Nowitzke). Meeting combined with Avenell Heights for meeting with Aileen Draney from N. G. . . . Gideons International addressed church . . . Nine attended C.W.F. camp at Caloundra . . . Easter services well attended. 117 at Easter day service.

SO

MUNDALLA Combined churches youth groups functioning well . . . Inter-church Lenten studies held mid-week . . . C.W.F. shared in Women's World Day of Prayer . . . Men assisting with the building of a new manse at Keith . . . Senior church members Mr and Mrs E. L. Milne ill.

VICTOR HARBOUR (Robin Mitchell). Senior C.Y.F. held annual soapbox derby. Cubs joined this year . . . Young ladies singing group "Young Faith" sings regularly at evening services . . . Youth service on appearances of Jesus after the resurrection . . . C.W.F. invited ladies from other churches to social evening . . . Church anniversary service held. Basket luncheon followed . . . **SAMMY** (Singles and marrieds, mostly young) aiming to reach out to contacts.

MAYLANDS (Lloyd Cooke). Mother's Day special emphasis placed on worth of the home and family. Young children from B.S. shared in service . . . Senior members recalled with appreciation ministry of Keith Jones at Maylands. Letter of sympathy sent . . . Extensions to property underway which will give more room for the Friendship Centre and eventually a Christian Community Centre . . . Doll and hobby display and trading table arranged by Lindus family raised \$290 for the building project . . . Lloyd Cooke preached Conference sermon and attended Magarey Lectureship . . . Leprosy boxes yielded \$106.

VIC

MILDURA (B. W. Brown). Flea market raised \$400 toward support of Barry and Maureen Jenkins in India. Tapes and slides have featured work on Indian field . . . Mildura women represented at Riverland Conf. at Loxton . . . Youth club raised \$123 towards Mildura Base Hospital by car washing project. 17 participated . . . Kaleidoscope practising for presentation of musical "Spirit" . . . After church luncheon held at home of Max and Rosemary Graham . . . P.G.P. program conducted at end of May.

STAWELL, ST. ARNAUD (Peter Matthews). Board Planning Retreat led by Don Smith and George Warren at Hall's

Gap. Five year plan worked on. Family picnic held Sunday afternoon . . . Prayer meetings held in church 6.30 a.m. Monday - Saturday . . . Cell groups being established . . . Messages recorded for S.S. teachers and shut-ins . . . S.S. now meets in nearby hall and growing under leadership of new Supt. Debbie Russell . . . Bruce Hemer new church secretary . . . Peter Matthews chairman of local C.Y.S.S. committee . . . Combined service held with St Arnaud on Easter Sunday evening.

SWANSTON ST. (A. L. Webb, B. Morton, R. Haverfield). For first time communicant average for April reached 400 . . . 31 additions so far this year . . . 300 overseas students shared in May camp. Several made commitments . . . Focus on the Family film series well received. Each screening followed by a time of practical discussion and application . . . Many renovations made to area beneath church including new furnishings and carpets.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezendanner). Small groups commenced. Board to review future planning of groups . . . Mutual Market committee formed to raise 60% for church building fund and 40% "Dollars for Darwin." 60 attended BBQ at Graham Bryant's property . . . C.W.F. visited Ripponlea and Warragul C.W.F. Speakers D. Turner, Hospital Visitation C'ttee and Neville and Dorothy Munyard . . . Happy Hour on Mondays popular with children . . . Mother's Day service taken by ladies.

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Snatch them in Pity from Sin and the Grave

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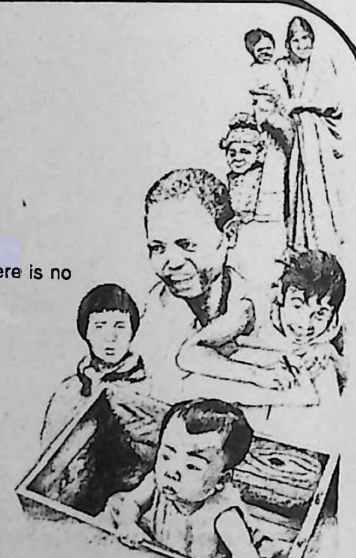
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AC381

BENDIGO (G. Wegner). Mini-mission with G. R. Stirling held May 8-10. Program included ladies' night, men's breakfast, family night, family service and Mother's Day tea. Alan Rowe was guest entertainer on family night. At Mother's Day tea men waited on the mothers ... Boys club took part in evening service ... L. Melberg, student minister, helping with preaching ... At A.B.M. K. Lacy and E. Mott were elected elders ... Youthquake district rally crowded with G. Deuble, Shepparton, speaker.

CHELSEA (P. Bradley, S. Ogden). Peter and Wendy Breen guests at family tea and evening service. They demonstrated leadership available from disabled Christians ... Recent visiting speakers included Denise Wissmann and Charles Wilson both previously student ministers ... Recommended Good Companions now numbers 14 ... Mrs Joy Fielder elected as President of Chelsea Inter-Church Council.

BERWICK (Daryl McLeod, Norval Bunch). "Sugar & Salt" sing at local nursing home ... Children's choir presented "His Fleece was as White as Snow" prior to Easter ... Sound and light presentation of Crucifixion presented on Good Friday ... First Christian Saturday Night Spot sold out ... Special Project Dept. program to pay off chapel this year ... Three baptisms ... Barry McMurtrie took recent morning service ... Two busloads attended Conference Service ... Street stall for equipment for kitchen ... Regular services held in Elderlies Home with regular visitation ... Barbecue after church held at Rosslyn Park ... Weekly home groups operating. New group in Dandenong North ... Christian business men speak at evening service ... Guitar group helps with song service.

NSW

INVERELL (Ian Morton). "Observation Drive" on Anzac Day saw 38 enjoy barbecue with Ralph and Beth Julius at Ben Lomond ... Annual S.S. picnic held at Copton Dam ... S.S. made posters for Missionary Convention (May 15-17) with theme "Till the Whole World Hears" ... Donations, lamington drive and trading tables boosting C.W.F. Manse Carpet Fund ... Tuesday Afternoon Bible study group studying Revelation. Ian Morton screened slides depicting artist's view of John's visions ... Combined churches choir (80 voices) presented Easter Cantata "The Miracle" in Town Hall.

WA

CARNARVON (B. Yesberg). Carnarvon folk travelled to a variety of Easter camps and conventions. Y.P. attended farm camp at Morawa. Some families went to Onslow. Majority of church family met at Warroora beach 150 miles north of Carnarvon. Dawn communion service held Easter Sunday. Highlight of

weekend was baptism in sea of Royce Dalton ... Tom Cuddy, Melbourne, spent some weeks after helping at Roelands ... Farewell evening for Lincoln and Irene Davies who have been transferred to Esperance.

NOLLAMARA (A. J. Anderson, J. Hicks). Telephone prayer chain amongst ladies operating daily ... 2000 Easter booklets "In our place" with accompanying letter of invitation to services distributed ... Various members sharing in Explo '81 ... 160 attended annual church family camp at Baptist campsite, Serpentine, on Anzac Day weekend.

RIVERVALE (B. Thygersen). 150 attended Mother's day fellowship tea. Youth groups waited on tables ... Two sisters baptised ... Delegates excited by Explo '81. Church bus has been transporting people ... Neil and Jocelyne Rowcroft and Vicky Duda commenced New Life Club at Forrestfield for children 6-12. 35 attending.

NORTHAM (M. Randell). Many travelled to Perth for Explo '81. Saturday night rallies ... Second K.Y.B. commenced ... Film series "Focus on the Family" to be filmed as a community service ... John Herbert speaker at Easter Sunday evening service ... Worship service now commencing at 10.15 a.m.

KALGOORLIE. (L. Gibb). C.W.F. Easter service well attended. 40 ladies from various churches present. Larry Gibb led communion service ... C.W.F. held lunch at home of Alice Tinetti ... Minister and 10 Y.P. attended Easter camp at Naremben. Larry was one of the study leaders ... Youth group held coffee shop. Gene Howell speaker. Drama group ACTS performed. Next day Gene Howell and Rick Mellor were speakers at Sunday services ... Good News Bible used in readings to encourage children to follow ... Church and S.S. combined for family service on Mother's Day ... Ben and Marion Bakker (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) shared in evening service with audio-visual and sang.

SCARBOROUGH. (Leroy Randall). 10 Y.P. attending Explo '81 as full-time delegates and several as associates ... Many participated in 'March of Witness' through Perth ... C.W.F. held Mother's Night outreach evening ... Young adults held ten pin bowling and ice cream sundae supper.

SA

NARACOORTE (Ron Holmes). B.S. held camp at Karingul. Ron Holmes study leader ... C.W.F. entertained senior citizens of town with social evening ... Christine and John Fazakaley on vacation from Norseman Mission spoke to B.S. ... Dorothy Hackett spoke at midweek meeting on Bible translation work for Aborigines ... Easter Sunday service packed ... Leon Verco speaker on Conf. Sunday.

CROYDON. (Rex Chamberlain). Play "The Oak of Mamre" presented by Chancel Players prior to Easter ...

Maundy Thursday communion service created awareness of events during Last Supper ... C.W.F. arranged special Mother's Day evening service featuring Mrs Marny Pearce M.B.E. as guest speaker ... Past minister Bart Burt recent speaker ... Youth group spent an evening ice skating ... Rex Chamberlain now President-Elect of Conference ... Minister has accepted invitation to extend his ministry.

QLD

CHARTERS TOWERS (R. Wissmann). Youth group growing rapidly. 32 went to Senior Easter Camp at Magnetic Island. Lois Mark baptised at camp ... Grant of \$4,000 from National Heritage Commission and \$4,000 from Charters Towers Lions Club for restoration of historic bell tower and bells ... Frank Schneider won two awards in Country Music Festival.

VIC

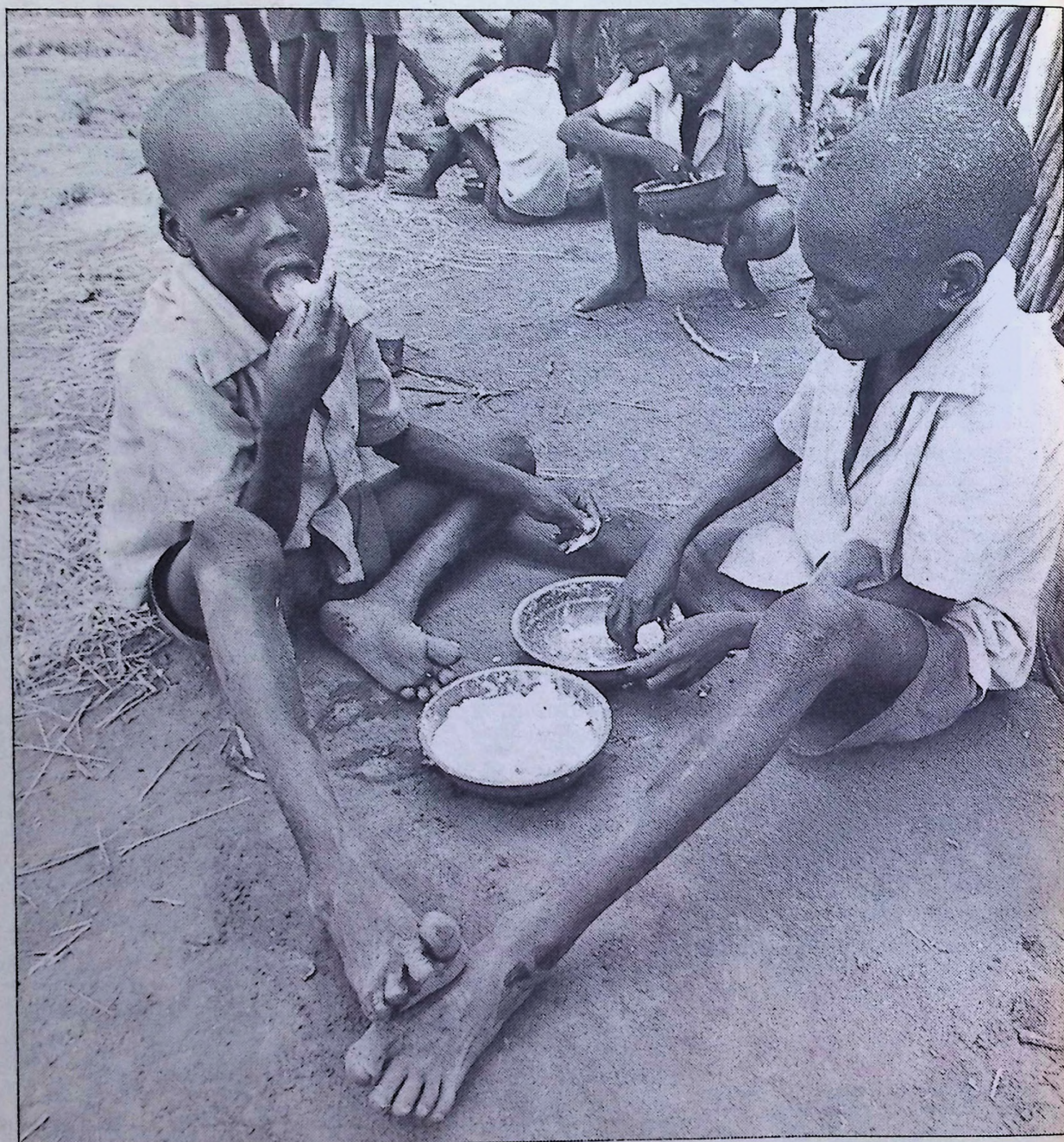
PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (J. Manallack, C. Jones). Youth group participated in local Community Aid Abroad walk-a-thon ... Jack and Jean Manallack attended Ministers Camp at Monbulk ... Val Best demonstrated floral arrangements at afternoon C.W.F. ... Evening C.W.F. enjoyed travelogue of Canada with Keith Miller ... Church responsible for Sunday morning services at Fred Combridge House for May.

BENTLEIGH (Chris MacKenzie). C.W.F. farewell Mrs Daisy Baensch, Pres., and Mrs Olive Winstone, Sec., at tea as they are leaving district. Presentations made to them and their husbands Jack Baensch (church secretary) and Doug Winstone ... Rod Lindroth new church secretary.

HORSHAM (Wally Gibney). Board gave dinner for senior members with Wes James guest speaker. Wally Gibney attended Conf. and Ministers Camp. Gordon Stirling recent guest speaker. I.C.C. settling two Vietnamese families in Horsham. Church people helping with household goods. Series of special meetings with John Frizelle, Dean of students at Word of Life Bible Institute. David and Robyn Harmer now have visas for entry to N.G. after 12 month wait.

BOX HILL (S. Downie). Church held 70th anniversary with Gordon Moyes speaker. Senior Christian Fellowship held bus trip to Williamstown. C.W.A.F. speaker Amy Whittaker from Counselling Centre. J.E.W. speaker Mr Townley. Craft session made gifts for hospital. Y.P.C.E. speakers Alan and Judith Moore. R.I. service held in chapel. Good Companions second in senior section outdoor sports. Artists have been Parable, Chas Nipps, Dulcie Gray, Robyn and Geoff Wigney, Liz Lloyd, Glenys Reaby, J. Wigney and J. Marchant.

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An elderly lady whose days at home used to be long and lonely won't miss the Thursday "Open Door" Coffee morning for anything. A middle-aged gentleman who was forced into early retirement after 15 cancer operations is now meeting new friends.

These are just two of the regular attenders at Brooklyn Park's new Community Care and Friendship Centre.

The Centre, located in a bungalow next to the existing church complex, consists of a large meeting room (formerly the lounge/dining) as well as rooms for counselling, typing and administration.

The huge backyard serves as a very attractive playground area for children and also a spacious picnic/barbeque area.

Overnight the house at 9 Allen Ave., was converted from one of the most ordinary homes in the street to one of the most attractive, with a fully landscaped front garden.

The Official opening three months ago was in one sense the climax of 12 months of planning, fundraising and hard work by a dedicated group of members who had a vision of what could be achieved through such a Friendship Centre.

Even at this early stage of development the opportunities available for friendship, relaxation and creativity at the Centre are many and varied.

Something happens every day including morning drop-in sessions, macrame class, social tennis on the courts, a crocheting group and a recently commenced art class.

Generally speaking these groups are fairly small and "homely" — a deliberate move away from the larger style of Friendship Club. By far the best response is on Thursdays when up to 20 people at a time cram into the living area for coffee, cards, darts and fellowship.

A well stocked trading table, the beginnings of a Community Information Service and the availability of the minister for counselling are among the additional resources which the Friendship Centre is providing.

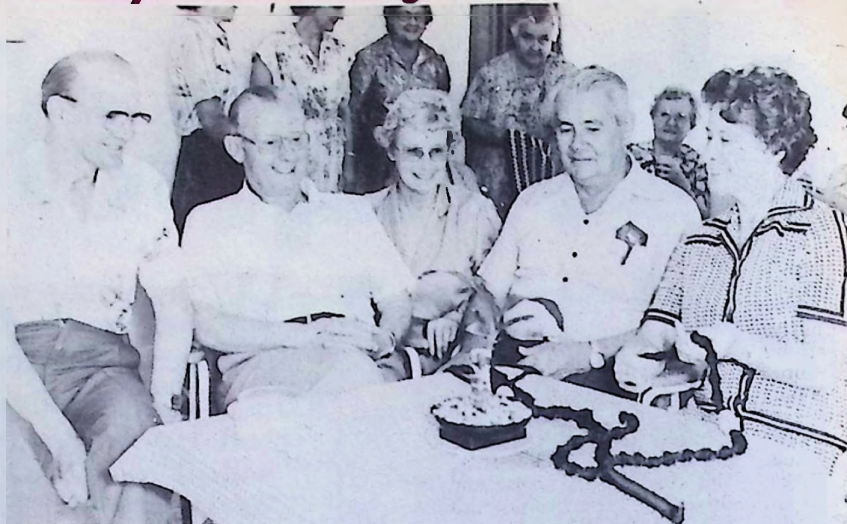
And quite apart from these community oriented programs, the Centre is also proving to be an ideal setting for meetings of the regular auxiliaries, committees and various other small groups within the life of the church.

Future plans for the Centre include the commencement of "Open Forums" when guests will come to talk on specific topics (like "Home Security"; "Medical Benefits and You"; "Health and Fitness" etc.) As well as this, two special community service projects are to be explored:

1. The idea of regularly bringing Meals on Wheels recipients to the Centre for combined luncheons.
2. Allowing groups like the S.A. Lip Reading Service and similar help agencies to use the facilities for meetings.

Bridges of friendship are being built by members of the Brooklyn Park church to the residents of their district. Now, perhaps more than ever before, the church is seen to be genuinely concerned about the needs and hurts of people. The project is based on the idea of "Service without strings . . . in the name of Christ".

Brooklyn Park Building Bridges of Friendship.



A group at Thursday's "Open Door" Coffee Shop inspect Irene Gardiner's macrame work.

Latin American Evangelizes in Scotland

The five-week Luis Palau crusade started in Glasgow on the first Sunday in May. Over 6,000 attended the opening service in this largest indoor meeting place in the country. A similar number came on Monday night.

The Latin American evangelist told his audience, "It's either back to the Bible or back to the jungle." Newspapers picked up that blunt warning and flashed the statement across the nation.

Palau pointed out that Scotland, which in the past had supplied the world with great preachers, Christian scholars, and missionaries, had in recent years experienced spiritual decline. Church membership has dropped from one and a half million in 1955 to about 700,000 today.

The evangelist then suggested that the city's severance from its spiritual roots was reflected in the overwhelming problems.

The 36-day crusade, which concludes on June 7, has been three years in planning. 600 churches are participating, and 1100 counsellors have been trained. The Palau team has established a downtown family counselling centre which is open daily and staffed by 80 local trained volunteers.

New Bible Translations for Ethiopia

Last Christmas tribal Christians from southern Ethiopia received the New Testament in their own language. Until recent years it was forbidden to publish in tribal languages. Before this New Testament came out in their language, members of the Walayata tribe used parts of Scripture recorded on cassettes. About 30,000 people (divided in 2,400 groups) used to study and memorize Scripture from the cassettes.

-- Keston College

Ken Medema opens Eyes to New Concepts in Gospel Music

Ken Medema performed before an audience of over 600 in Sydney's Bankstown Civic Centre, on May 19.

It was fitting that the program commenced in total darkness. This introduced the audience to the world in which Ken Medema lives, creates and moves as he has been blind since birth. He then moved his audience with him as he travelled through the evening.

Sensitivity to people and their needs was the basis of the whole evening's presentation. If the person's need was entertainment, it was expertly provided for. If the need was to be pointed in the direction of a Lord who could help and comfort, it was also evident.

Asking for three words, and then three musical notes, from members of the audience, Mr Medema proceeded to create a song on stage. The instantaneous creation held those present spellbound.

Ken has started a whirlwind tour of Australia.

— Worldwide Photos Ltd.

Churches Aid Lebanese War Victims

The Australian Council of Churches has made a grant of \$5000 to assist the civilian victims of the escalating conflict in Lebanon. The grant has been channelled to the Middle East Council of Churches which has begun distributing material aid, including blankets, to the people displaced by the fighting.

Lebanese-born, ACC President, Bishop Gabriel Gibran, announced the grant saying, "The situation appears to be worsening with people trapped by the fighting in Zahle in Southern Lebanon, with growing shortages of food and medicines. Casualties are estimated as up to 200 killed and 300 wounded. I trust that others will contribute to their need."

One Brick at a Time



Southport church was badly in need of a new building. They were using a very old fibro building next to the church, affectionately known as "nexdoor". It had originally been six flats. We had been converting people. Now also converted "Nexdoor" into a Kindy, library, office, club rooms. But alas it began to sag and the Council would not renew the permit granted for "Church Activities".

New Building? No Money!

Southport were faced with the expense of a new building and no money. Well there is nothing unusual about that among our churches. Through I.C.A. ('Inter Church Aid') another Queensland project headed by **Cliff Coward**, we were able to raise an \$80,000 'Interest Free Loan'.

We planned a two storey brick building with suspended concrete floor, downstairs Minister's office, Library and Youth Director's office, three store rooms, toilets, large meeting room with kitchenette, internal stairway and large foyer. Upstairs two craft rooms with stoves and sinks and a hall marked out for basketball plus store room and a fire escape completed the complex. Added to this was a sealed car park and landscaping with a full length of the building concrete patio. Council's insist on the extras these days and in case you are thinking we are extravagant our attendance at Girl's Club last Tuesday night was 200.

Voluntary Labour!

An estimate by a builder for the completed complex was \$140,000. It was decided (not with any great enthusiasm) to build the extension with voluntary labour where possible and to build it within \$80,000 budget. One of our members, **Mal McCallum**, a registered builder, took the responsibility for the quality of workmanship and **Jack Gray** organised the whole project. Once a start was made the whole church became alive. When a general working bee was called, 30 to 40 would turn up, when four or five specialists were needed that's all we would ask and have everything in readiness for them. Through the week some retired men worked. Our ministry team, **Noel Newton**, **Doug Holloway** and **David Capuano** proved that not only were they skilled in their professions but were also willing and able to get stuck into some manual labour as well. The experience within our membership was terrific. People got to know one another. Young people worked side by side with older folk.

Surfing Suspended

Can you imagine a perfect Gold Coast Saturday morning, not a cloud in the sky, the surf terrific with about 30 young people age 16 to 23, girls and boys, throwing a great stack of bricks up, one at a time, to a third level scaffold or passing the bricks along hand to hand the length of the building. The girl at the end of the line, about 17 in little more than a bikini, passing the bricks up to an elder statesman of the church (aged over 70) on the fourth tier of the scaffold. That's team-work. And perhaps the fellowship, understanding and tolerance that developed was the most important thing that happened about the whole project. A close second was the fact that we built the

extension including car park, landscaping, the works for \$57,000. Actual building time, seven months.

Perhaps this experience will help other churches.

God is still working through people and performing miracles if we are willing to give a little help.

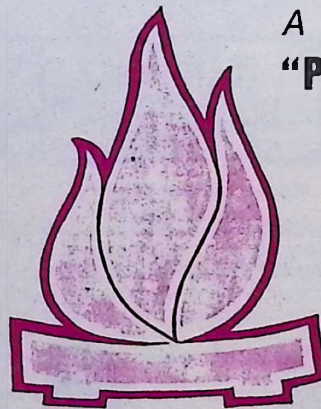
Health Scheme sells out poor

The Victorian Council of Social Service and the **Uniting Church Health Care Task Force** are deeply concerned at the announcement of changes to the health scheme.

The inescapable pressure to join health insurance schemes will add to the burdens of the working poor; in fact, the working poor will effectively subsidise those able to afford insurance through the tax rebate part of the scheme. The restriction of the numbers to be classified as socially disadvantaged to one million when there are measurably two million will increase the degree of desperation and humiliation for people already struggling to survive.

The charges for public wards and outpatient treatment will similarly make the right to hospital treatment beyond the reach of people who cannot afford to be insured. The effect of pushing people into being insured will only increase the amount spent on health services.

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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITHIN CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN RENEWAL RALLY:

SATURDAY 20th JUNE - PRAHRAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
4 p.m. Bible Study • 5.30 p.m. B.Y.O. Fellowship Tea • 7.30 p.m. Rally
Speaker: Mrs. NANCY HARKINS

Love Maharashtra Follow-up

Hazel L. Skuce

Love Maharashtra Outreach has finished, the teams have all dispersed to other States and now the important area of work that remains to be done is Church Planting.

During the Campaign we had received 6,468 letters, these came from people all over the State and a cross section of the community. The average age would be 22-23 years. In each letter there was the same strain going through them, we have bought literature from the team that came to our village or town, we have read these books and now we would like to know more about the Christian religion, would you please send us the Bible Studies that you have.

Each person who wrote in received the Bible study on John, which was originally prepared by Dr. David Hammer. In this period we have marked 8,872 lessons. The marking is still going on daily — letters are also coming in daily from contacts that Love Maharashtra Teams had.

Visiting Contacts

In the next few months groups of people will be visiting these people who have written in to the Bible Correspondence Schools. Lists of all the contacts — district wise will be sent into the Love



Love Maharashtra girls' team Baramati

Maharashtra office, who will then send them out to the co-ordinators. Each contact will have a personal letter sent to them, asking if they would like a visit to their home of our Christian worker, or would they be prepared to meet them in a public place. We have to be very careful in our visiting program.

Establishing Churches

Those who show a desire will be visited and more teaching given, so that they will

really know what it means to be a Christian. Then the church planting will begin. We feel that where we have a strong Evangelical Church established and where we know that these new converts will be shepherded we should feed our converts into these churches. The church in Pune, that used to meet in the home of John and Valerie Main but now meet in a hall in the city, have already received five or six new converts through the Love Maharashtra Outreach. These are being cared for by the church and daily John Main has Bible studies for them.

Enthusiastic Cyclist

At this moment we have a young man of 20 here in the office. He has come in to see what has happened to his lessons, as he expected to have a new set to work on. So anxious, was he to get his lessons, that he has biked in 12 miles to see what has happened. The reason his lessons were not received on time was because we didn't receive any mail for two days. We have some very keen young men in the Baramati area who are doing the courses. In May the Theological students will be helping here in the office and they will be visiting each person in the Daund, Baramati and Shrigonda area.

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Resolutions of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference

The Year of the Disabled

Whereas this year 1981 is known as "The Year of the Disabled" we would draw the attention of congregations and members of congregations to the particular need to make provision for disabled persons both in the church and in the wider community.

This Conference urges congregations to study the architecture of their buildings to ensure this provides ease of access and use of buildings by those who have physical disabilities.

This Conference reminds churches that we are all equal in the sight of God and have equal responsibilities and privileges in the Kingdom. We, therefore, urge congregations to extend the opportunities of leadership, and particularly leadership in worship, to all who desire and are willing to be trained for such leadership.

We urge congregations to pay particular attention to programming so that people are not excluded from participation because of disabilities.

Public Transport

Whereas the decisions of the Victorian State Government to curtail railway services consequent upon the reception of the Lonie report, have met with widespread opposition; and whereas those people most severely affected are those least able to cope with curtailed rail services, i.e. the disabled, the elderly and the poor of our society, and whereas all rail services in Australia require large contributions of money from public funds to enable their operations to continue; this Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania urges the Government of the State of Victoria to reconsider those decisions it has taken with regard to reduction of rail services, and in fact to offer greater services to those most in need of public transport.

Poker Machines

This Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania commends the Premier of Victoria (The Hon. R. J. Hamer) for his Government's stand against the introduction of poker machines into this State and by so doing indicates the support of Conference for him in this matter.

Records go at Explorer Sports



Victorian Annual Explorer Sports on April 11, brought record crowds, with over 300 boys participating in the events, with 16 clubs competing.

The club winners and runners-up were: Senior, Bayswater and Doncaster; Intermediate, Glen Waverley and

Frankston; Junior, Frankston.

A feature of the Sports Day was the number of records broken: Senior events, Burwood, Lower Templestowe, Bayswater and Doncaster; Intermediate, Frankston and Burwood; Junior, Burwood and Frankston (2).

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BIRTHS

CLARK Maureen, Adrian, Julianne, Anthony and Michael welcome a new brother Jonathon David 16.5.1981.

GODDARD (ABERNETHY) To Margaret and Doug a son, Martin Peter, born 12.4.81. A brother for Jenny and Ross.

PRINCE Marilyn and Andrew give thanks for the safe arrival of Clinton Robert on May 28th at Airlie Hospital, Ivanhoe. A brother for Jessica.

ENGAGEMENTS

FLEET-LEE Graeme and Lyn of Belmont and Maurice and Lorraine of Torquay are happy to announce the engagement of Carolyn to Mark.

DEATHS

MILNE Emily Jean (nee Scown) Passed away May 9 at Bordertown. Loving wife of Arthur. Mother of Val, Betty, Cheryl and Erica. Mother-in-law of Peter, Michael and Andrew and loved Nan of Brenton, Samantha, Leica, Kirsten, Brooke and Daniel. She died as she lived, loving others and her Lord and Saviour. "In God's care".

MORFFEW Edith. Loved mother of Elva and Allen Orr, Ray and Gwen Morffew. Loving Nana of Geoff, Doug, Malcolm, Trevor and Michael and her great-grandsons. Passed away peacefully at Oakleigh May 20th.

FOR SALE

INTERESTED? We anticipate selling our home in Brisbane shortly and would very much like it to go to a young Christian couple who could take our place in the church we now attend. It is a two bedroom highset chamberboard on a brick base and is 12-years-old. We are only 8 kilometers from the city in a very lovely northside area. It lends itself to additions at a later date and is reasonably priced. If you are interested, ring (07) 38 3679.

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nsw

NARRAWEENA (J. Sweetman). 24th anniversary celebrated with special dinner attended by 60. Slides of highlights of past years screened . . . Board of three elders and six deacons elected. Each member allocated special tasks. Plans generated include special gospel services, church and S.S. program for rest of year and painting of buildings . . . Singing group under leadership of Beth Howard presented musical program at gospel service . . . Gospel film night presented by deacons . . . Friendship Group organist Mrs N Prior played at gospel service.

CARINGBAH (B. H. White). Church packed for recording of ABC-TV Divine Service to be televised on June 21 . . . Minister and wife conducted Marriage Enrichment Seminar at Epping . . . Special outreach to Senior Citizens by C.W.F. 38 attended program and luncheon. Church considering developing a ministry in this area . . . Adventure Day run by S.S. in school holidays. 25 prospective pupils contacted.

PENDLE HILL (Ron Bassett). Teaching mission of one week held with Ken Bond

. . . C.W.F. day group celebrated birthday with Devonshire tea and entertained ladies from Cole and Ashwood Houses. Mrs Baker speaker . . . Ron Bassett's health improving . . . New S.S. venture in Greystanes area. Judy Gordon assisted at start. Ed de Ridder leading the outreach team . . . John Bassett and Ed de Ridder returned home from Explo 81 Perth.

wv

KALAMUNDA (T. Hanna). Two initial commitments eight rededications and one baptism in recent weeks . . . Six Bible study groups operating. 60 involved . . . "Teen Scene" held class camp . . . Hector Price reappointed to eldership . . . Family film night held as outreach . . . Morning preaching series "Discovering Your Gifts" . . . Church heavily involved in Explo '81. 18 participating.

FOREST HILL Jack Stewart in hospital for surgery . . . Annual meeting held. L. Michael Chairman, R. Handasyde Secretary . . . David and Toni Shepherd S.S. Superintendent . . . Peter Inglis, Jim Seymoyr and Norm Handasyde youth leaders . . . Albany assisting with speakers once a month.

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The Social Service Department is seeking applicants for the above position to commence towards the end of 1981 or early 1982.

Applicants should either be qualified Social Workers or be Ministers with an interest and/or experience in social fields.

The position will require someone with initiative and self motivation and will involve oversight and social work in our existing children's facilities at Mackay, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gold Coast, development of new facilities, development of family care programmes in co-operation with local Churches, negotiations with Government Departments.

The successful applicant will need to be based in Brisbane, but will be required to travel extensively about the State.

Salary, allowances and conditions to be negotiated.

Interested persons should contact Don. E. Stewart, Director, Social Service Department, P.O. Box 8, Sherwood, Q. 4075.

THIS IS A CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN QUEENSLAND SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT PROJECT.

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Applicants: Successful applicants will have a love for the Lord and His Work and will have considerable scope for using their own initiative. Ability to do more than required is desired, because of lack of volunteers for jobs to be done.

Location: Work entails wherever there is a need, but primarily at the Ormond Church of Christ.

Conditions of Employment: No set hours. No lunch, morning or afternoon tea breaks. No Annual Holidays. No excuses allowed. No bonuses on earth, but the greatest Superannuation Scheme ever offered is available — Eternal life through Christ.

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How to Apply: Pray about it, ask God to guide you, and then volunteer with your fellow workers in Youth Leadership.

For details phone Alf Knee 578 2810 Home 541 8888 Bus.

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- Teachers required for the Ranwadi High School for 1982, especially in the maths and Science areas.
- Carpentry teacher for Londua Training School commencing 1982.
- Double certificated nurse (male or female) to assist at the Ndui Ndui Hospital on Aoba Island.
- Business manager for the office in Santo to commence September, 1981. Accounting experience essential.
- Suitably qualified minister to assist in theological training at the Banmatmat Bible College.
- Carpenter/handyman to assist in maintenance tasks on a voluntary basis.

Papua New Guinea

- Suitably qualified ministers to assist in a teaching/pastoral ministry.
- Double certificated nurse (male or female).
- Motor mechanic for maintenance tasks.
- Agriculturalist to assist in Community Development Project.

Indonesia

This is a new venture in partnership with the American Churches of Christ/Christian Churches in establishing a program for the training of Indonesian pastors.

Bible College graduates with initiative and leadership qualities are needed. It is hoped that two couples from Australia will be able to share in this ministry. Would you like further information? Please write to:—

Mr. Ron McLean, Executive Director,
Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board,
P.O. Box 320,
Unley, South Australia, 5061.

PART-TIME CO-ORDINATOR

Hervey Bay Church of Christ is seeking the services of a Part-time Co-ordinator of their Family Day Care Scheme.

An active member of the Churches of Christ is sought for this position.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience in the fields of early childhood, social-work, kindergarten or pre-school teaching, or nursing is desirable BUT not essential.

The successful applicant must have his/her own car.

CONDITIONS:

The Part-time Co-ordinator will be responsible for maintaining and developing an established Family Day Care Scheme mainly in the Hervey Bay area in accordance with the guidelines of the Sponsoring Body and the Office of Child Care. Office facilities will be provided.

The Co-ordinator will select, advise, support and arrange licensing of Day Care Mothers, so organisational ability and the ability to work with adults is required.

SALARY:

By negotiation.

A car allowance will also be paid.

For further information please contact:

The Minister,
Hervey Bay Church of Christ,
31 Neils Street,
PIALBA, Q. 4655.

PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

• Sharyn Stewart, Mrs Janet Southway, Rivervale, W.A. • Nigel Darch, Nollamara, W.A. • Lois Mark, Charters Towers, Qld.

• Sue and Laurie Martin, Horsham, Vic. • Ron Devonshire, Prospect, S.A. • Peter Maxwell, Kalamunda, W.A. • Gayle Joyberry, Box Hill, Vic. • Iris Powell, Gisborne, Vic.

MARRIAGES

• Margaret Booth to Bruce Kennard, Epping, N.S.W. • Margaret Booth to Steve Hall, Kalamunda, W.A. • Karyn Oliver to Stuart Drummond, Muriel Renshaw to David Willis, Box Hill, Vic. • Meryl Lord to Greg Tilley, Gisbourne, Vic.

DEATHS

• Mrs L. Burton, Prospect, S.A. • Mrs Mildred Ryall, Ashburton and Doncaster, Vic.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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THE CHANGING WINDS

CAN BE SEEN SOON AT:
MELTON CHURCH OF CHRIST
 3 p.m. P.S.A. Sunday 12th July
GREENSBOROUGH UNITING CHURCH
 7 p.m. Sunday 26th July

Western Region Outreach Committee Seminar 1981

BECOMING A CARING CHURCH
 Saturday June 20th
 9.30 — 4.15

Essendon Church of Christ
 62 Buckley St.

SESSION 1 — Dr. Alex Kenworthy
 'Why should the Church care'

SESSION 2 — Gordon Stirling
 'Practicalities of Caring'

SESSION 3 — Rev. David Treloar
 (full-time consultant to funeral director)

'Caring for the sick, the dying and the bereaved'

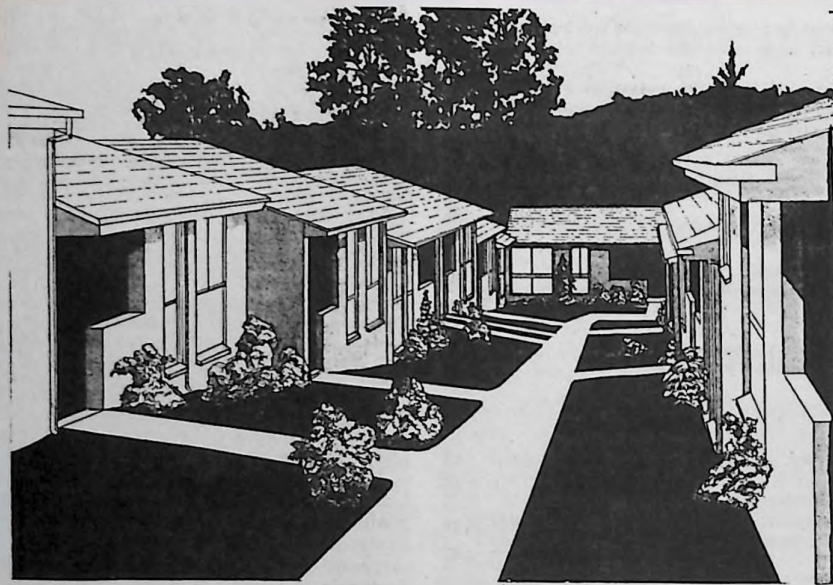
SESSION 4 — Panel of W.R.O.C. ministers

LUNCH — B.Y.O.

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Further details — Alan Niven
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M.P. Opens Retirement Village



Sketch of Village

In the presence of the President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference President, Ron Elbourne, the Hon. Norman Lacy M.L.A., opened the Tar-ralla Retirement Village, as part of the total complex of buildings that make up

the Croydon church Christian Community Centre.

Located within a kilometre of Croydon City (Vic.), the Village comprises three double and 18 single bedroom units, fully self-contained. The complex is supervised

by a resident manager. It covers over a hectare of land and includes a lounge, games rooms, a craft centre, a hairdressing salon and a clinic for the chiropodist and the visiting nursing sister.

The units are open for inspection on Sunday afternoons by appointment with the manager on (03) 725 6439. A number of single bedroom units are available.

Meditation on ABC radio

ABC Radio presents a series of short programs over 8 weeks, Mondays-Saturdays, after the 11 p.m. News (10.30 p.m., Central Time) on the Radio 2 Network exploring the experience of Meditation.

Statistics indicate that the prayer life of most people is rudimentary. Harvey Cox has written "The failure of most churches actually to teach people how to pray and the difficulties involved in learning the difference between reading, studying and meditation on a text have produced a generation of Christians who have practically no spiritual discipline at all."

Many people know prayer as meditation contemplation, or an experience involving strict control of the body — physically, mentally, spiritually.

Prayer is commonly thought of as asking for something for oneself or for other people, that is as petitionary prayer. Such petitionary prayer is usually linked with thanksgiving for benefits received and with adoration. But prayer is essentially a discipline, a form of spiritual exercise, which is deliberately undertaken with a definite object and a technique of accomplishing that objective.

Father William Hewett S.J. leads each Meditation — taking his listeners, step by step, on a journey in which he teaches how to 'meditate' (or if you prefer, to 'pray').

Floods in Somalia

Heavy rain in the mountains of southern Ethiopia has resulted in floods in Somalia as the rain water moves to the coast. Several refugee camps in southern Somalia have been evacuated and flooded roads have hampered distribution of food and medical supplies.

About 160,000 refugees have been affected but no loss of life has been reported. The Las Dure Camp in northern Somalia, where World Vision has a medical team, has not been affected by the floods.



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Disabled People Tell What They Want

Disabled people demand equal access to services — a right, after all, not a privilege — which are currently inaccessible and inappropriate to their needs. Disabled people also seek the opportunity to be consulted about the sorts of services they want and how they will best be provided.

"Assessing services for disabled people" a report put together by a team of disabled people for the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) deals with two main services — transport and information, and has been hailed as an important step forward towards the removal of discrimination against the disabled population.

"It is time we decided what is best for us.

For too long we have been patronised and excluded from opportunities taken for granted by the rest of the community. Disabled people have a right to the same opportunities in life as the rest of the community".

Dr Bruce Ford, Chairman of the State IYDP Committee said that the report was timely and particularly appropriate to the more independent and articulate disabled people. "Institutional care must continue to be provided for the severely mentally and physically disabled people in the community and it is to be hoped that the momentum for breaking down barriers occasioned by the report will filter down to help these people as well."

The research for and writing of the report were directed by disabled people. A further 56 disabled people were interviewed and it is their views of what is presently wrong with services provided.

The report recommends funding for disabled self-help groups, an immediate review of the Handicapped Persons Assistance Act which currently regulates the distribution of \$50 million a year.

The report documents a wide range of inappropriate services which are endured by disabled people. For example, those disabled people in wheelchairs forced to

rely on public transport can only use trains — trams and buses are inaccessible. Unless the train is of new design they must travel in the guard's van, and then only if there are no perishables or money there.

The report says that 7/8ths of the pension of disabled people who are forced to live in institutions is "taken from them before they even see it" which leaves about \$1 per day for toiletries, clothes, maintenance of wheelchair and other "luxuries".

Ms Edith Hall, deputy Chairman of the National IYDP body and a member of the committee which prepared the report said that the whole matter of income security was a major aim for change in this international year. "People in the community, even people involved in the delivery of services for disabled people, might not realise the extent of poverty within the disabled population."

The Sheltered Workshop Program was criticised for the extremely low earning capacity of employees, and, because the procedure whereby employees of sheltered workshops to be offered jobs in the open community when they exist obviously is not working. During 1980 only 29 cases of employers receiving the \$500 grant available from the government for employing a disabled person from a sheltered workshop were recorded.

Michael Uniacke, a member of the committee which prepared the report said that the matter of information services raised in the report were particularly important for deaf people. The report urges the development of an information and education centre run by disabled people for disabled people.

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V.C.C. appoints Secretary for Orthodox Church Relations

The V.C.C. has announced the appointment of a part-time Secretary for relations with Orthodox and Eastern Churches. He is Themis Adamopoulos, a former teacher, and a member of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Mr Hardie says that his main task will be to promote mutual understanding between the Orthodox and Eastern Churches and the other member churches of the V.C.C. The Orthodox and Eastern Churches are now a significant minority in the Victorian community. Mr Adamopoulos will also be endeavouring to facilitate mutual fellowship and support between the various Orthodox and Eastern Churches, especially those who are members of the Council.

There are now five Orthodox or Eastern Churches who are fully participating members of the V.C.C.: Armenian Apostolic, Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Romanian Orthodox and Serbian Orthodox.

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(Changes of information are as notified by appropriate department.)



Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

Hobbies

Last night I was reading some of the articles for the special issue of "The Australian Christian" getting them ready for typesetting at the printers. I was interested in a couple of the articles as they related to one of my hobbies — that of stamp collecting.

During the past few weeks we have at Coburg been conducting a Bible study series on Christian Living. Several times in various discussions the passage in Matthew 22: 34-40 has been read and commented upon. Jesus summed up the law by saying we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. He was saying that God should come first in all that we do.

I have been thinking about how we can use our hobbies and interests to the glory of God. The first point that seems obvious is that these interests which are a necessary part of life, should not become so important that they affect our relationship with God and with other people. Sadly many of us would know people who became so involved in an activity or a job that this caused them to loose a real deep faith that they once held.

Another important factor to remember is that a hobby, interest or sport can be an opening to talk on a one to one level with non-Christians. With a common interest friendships can grow or even casual acquaintances which enable us to gossip the gospel. I am not here thinking of button holling every fellow philatelist (stamp collector) when I discover their interest and forcing the gospel down their throats. It is a bridge that can be built upon.

When I first came to Melbourne to study at the College of the Bible, I kept up my interest in hockey. It was

interesting to see the reaction of fellow team mates when they found out what I was doing. Sometimes when we were running laps of the ground some questions would come and I would try and answer naturally and honestly about my faith. Another occasion which remains in my memory was of attending a social function with Mary and having one of the older stalwarts of the club spend half an hour apologising for using a mild swear word in our company.

I found this was a helpful thing to me in several ways. One was that it kept me fit, secondly I was in contact with people outside the church and the college community and thirdly it gave me an opportunity to share my faith in a natural way if only occasionally. I know of no life changing results of my conversations.

Hobbies such as stamp collecting can also be used in a further way in our work as Christians. There are possibilities of fund raising by these interests.

How can our different interests bring us closer in our relationship to God? Some of them do this by awakening us to the beauty of and majesty of God's creation. Photography and travelling plus bushwalking would be hobbies and interests in this area. Other interests make us use skills and talents that God has blessed us with especially those in the craft area. Some interests stretch our mind and make us use this God given part of our whole person. I love reading. I read a great variety of material and even material that I disagree with makes me think

Space is running out so I guess I will finally reflect on just how well I use my time and my abilities? Are each of us as Christians using or misusing our hobby or interest?

THE LAST WORD

Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian.

— G. K. Chesterton

The lamp cord which seemed awfully short.

When stretched from chair to wall... is, I have found, quite long enough... to make me trip and fall.

— Donna Evleth



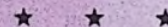
A lady was prodding her three-year-old nephew to show a friend of hers how smart he was.

"Tell the lady how old you are," she said. "I can't," the youngster retorted. "I've got my mittens on."



"What's the matter with you, Joe? You look mournful."

"That's just it. I've eaten so much I am more'n full."



Waiter: Would you like some pie for dessert?

Diner: Is it customary?

Waiter: No, it's blueberry!



The application blank for a new driver's license carried the following question: "Have you ever been arrested?"

The applicant put down "No."

The next question was, "State why?"

The applicant put down: "Never been caught."



First Indian: How come you not send-um up smoke signals?

Second Indian: Got-um massive pow-wow failure.



"I haven't got the heart to tell him someone turned the chart sideways!"

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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