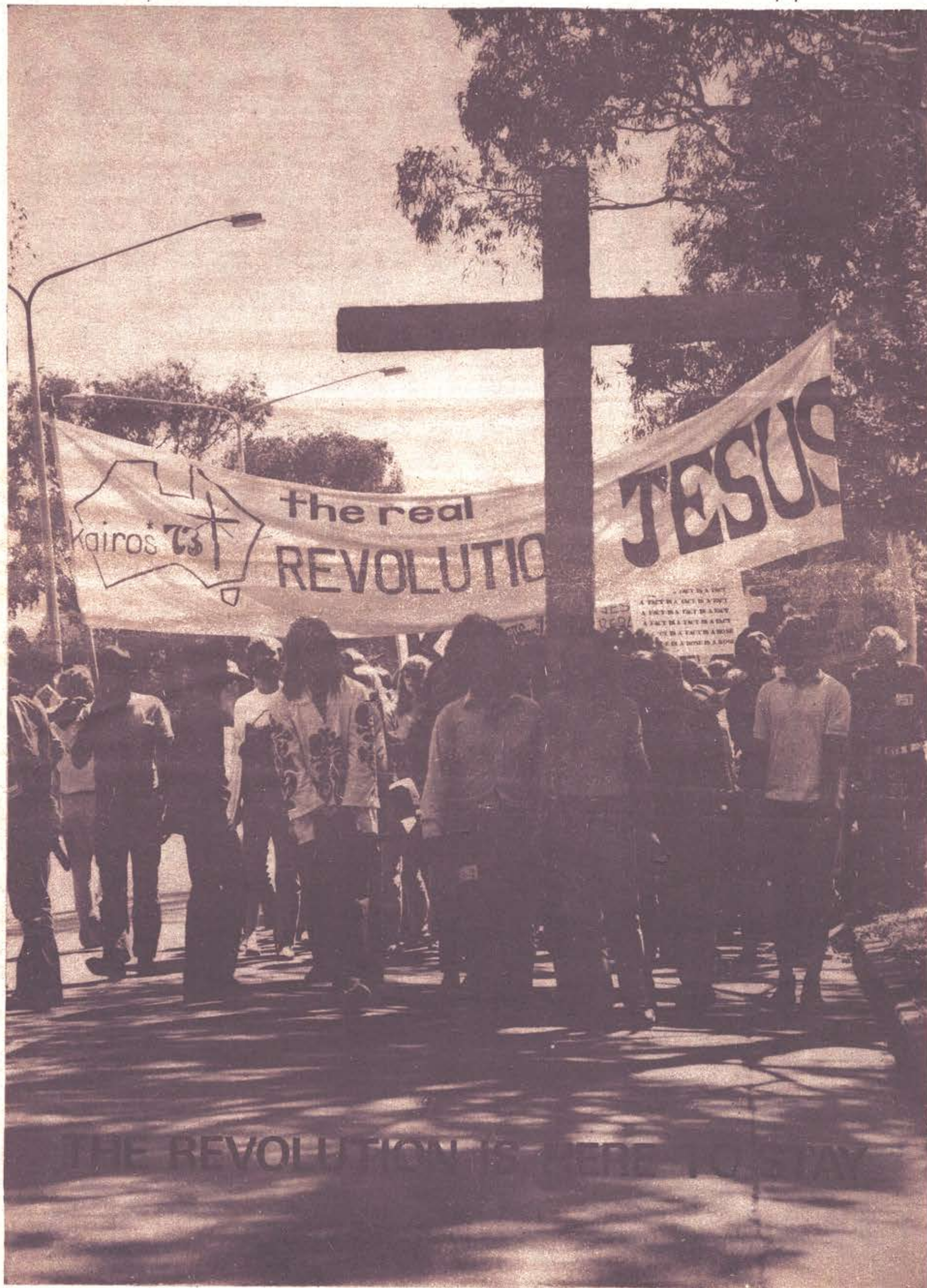


# TRUTH & LIBERATION

"You shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall liberate you"-Jesus

Volume 2 no 1

a Jesus paper.



THE REVOLUTION IS HERE TODAY



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# editors vibes

There is some heavy reaction to recent statements made by Jesus People about the institutional Church scene of late. For all those who really want to know the truth as to what Jesus People feel (—OUCH—, did that hurt somebody?) lets set the record straight. First. I wish people would listen to ALL we say, not simply one sentence in three.

Quote— "Unless the local church is renewed and built up I give the Jesus Movement 2 years to fold under its own weight. And it will. Then leave a tragic trail of disillusioned kids without roots and without spiritual homes."

In the U.S. it is stated in one news release: "For a variety of complex reasons the Jesus People are edging back to the Church of their parents." So says Ray Ruppert religion editor for the Seattle Times: "The Institutional church is being rediscovered as a living and hopeful community by many of those who were ready a short time ago to abandon it as rigid and obsolete."

One factor he states was the drop-out rate of some street Christians. But I think his second reason bears heavy emphasis in Australia... "the willingness of Church laity and clergy to accept them."

You see the Church is changing and for those Jesus Freaks who have thrown aside their staid and often tradition bound "heavy" brothers and sisters we say "Have some patience and love towards all the family."

However, as John Hirt put it: "We believe the true traitors of the Church are those who would rather stay in the ruts of a dead tradition than follow in the steps of a living Christ." We believe that! The true compassionate pastor will always receive our warmest support in his ministry. But if men hide their unChristlike isolationism and disobedience to the great commission behind 'out-of-context' scripture quotes such as "Come out from among them and be ye separate — etc" Well — what else can we do but challenge them.

The slack Christian or church has every good reason to fear the Jesus People, for the Pharisees and the true disciples of Jesus will always be at odds.

The question is not — "Has he criticized the Church?" The real questions are — Has he criticized it out of concern? Has he abandoned it? Is the criticism valid?

What are the loving criticisms we as adult members make? First — the great commission has been reversed: Jesus did not say, "Come all sinners into our church building to hear the Gospel." He said

"Go my disciples..." into all the world. Incidentally, we probably do as much evangelism IN the Church as almost any comparable organization, but the people — 90 per cent of them, are NOT THERE. They are in the Pool room, at the road races, on the streets, in their homes!! And that's where Jesus' disciples ought to be.

Secondly — The Church was made for the people — not the people for the Church. How may I ever bare my heart, ask my question, share my dilemma in the heavy structured worship of today? We must open the system and turn Church into a two-way communication. It must be a feeling family relationship.

Thirdly — Me thinks some have lost sight of the fact that Jesus is the only product we have worth selling (pardon the gross analogy!) Unless we become Jesus People before Methodists, Pentecostals, Baptists, evangelicals, neo-orthodox etc. we are lost.

Fourth — Hey Man! Did the Holy Spirit get lost in the Book of Acts? I don't hear much about experimental knowledge of Him. Oh yes, a few bitter skirmishes over the theology of it all. The Spirit isn't a theology brother, He's a person and without Him and His gifts 'we ain't gonna make it.'

How can an editor evade the counter thrust of the erstwhile critic with so little space allotted to him? When recently asked by Matric. students why youth (that is 95 per cent!!) do not attend Church, I replied:

1. In some cases the Church isn't worth going to. (If yours is, you don't need to flinch).
2. In many cases because he speaks English and the Church speaks Chinese — Well, almost that bad. Truth is always communicated by words. If my words are not in the language of the people, they will not hear my message. (Try some disjointed tape recordings of Sunday morning worship music mixed with modern folk, rock, etc.) Oh my brothers you know what you are saying, but they do not.
3. And of course in many cases — Its a great Church, real people, real love, real fellowship, real communication... but the kid won't go because he is scared that Jesus will expose his emptiness.

It isn't all the Church's fault because — Jesus said "Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil". So, if your Church really knows Jesus and is more concerned with living his life-style of undying love, than with mere traditions of the past, you ought not to be embarrassed by some loving analysis.

## house news..



dave

The accommodation at the house is becoming chaotic, we have been inundated with deluge of human needs. In a few weeks, we will have six full time workers and possibly a secretary as well. More and more kids who are running away from home, or seeking to break the drug habit, or finding themselves on the edge of a nervous breakdown are arriving here. As it is with office room, so it is with accommodation.

So three weeks ago we opened a fund to buy this property (with its enormous area for expansion). Since then Jesus kids have given almost \$2,000 towards its purchase. The property will cost us about \$13,000. It would be great if we could raise the bread without having to borrow from the bank. Think of all the interest that would be saved!

### MORE WORKERS

As you probably all know, three guys have been working full time at the centre here. Mike joined John to assist in the administrative rhubarb and in many aspects of the spiritual programme. The "Count" — Chris (whose story is found on the GOD'S SQUAD page of this edition) joined us to help the needy guys who were constantly dropping into the house and to lead kids in street witnessing teams.

Now Dave Deprose (whose picture appears here) is the latest worker to join us. Dave is the lead guitarist, singer and manager of FLOCK, our Jesus folk rock group. Dave is a creative writer who composes much of their music and words. The High School kids, as well the older counter culture guys really dig him. He will have plenty of work to do — writing new songs; looking after our cassette ministry; singing at Schools, Colleges and Uni's etc. He needs more guys to support him with bread and needs you all to pray for him.

In the next edition we will share with you the stories of all six staff workers. In the words of Teen Crusader leader Mel Garvin — KEEP POWERING ON!

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# CHANGE: THE FUTURE SHOCK!

## Treatment? Jesus therapy.

One of the most important characteristics of the contemporary world which distinguishes it from times past is the ever increasing rate and extent of change. If one could represent the situation on a graph, it might show a curve gently rising through about 95 per cent of recorded history, then rising markedly in the past century, and finally soaring off the paper at a near-vertical angle in the last generation.

The current best-seller by Alvin Toffler, *FUTURE SHOCK*, diagnoses the damaging effects of rapid change on individuals and societies unable to accommodate it. He then proceeds to suggest ways of coping with this situation in order to prevent psychological, social and environmental collapse. Although much of his book is devoted to strategies for coping with change on an institutional level, Toffler and other writers on "modernization" problems have tended to view the central problem as a personal one: men need to be changed.

There are several ways in which a person finds himself unable to cope with new social situations. He attaches himself to a particular lifestyle or group and resists any idea of abandoning it. This goes not only for the middle-class materialist, but also for the social critic who calls for change but refuses to entertain the possibility that his methods of dealing with it might be either obsolete or not as effective as alternative ones. Another reaction to the problems caused by change is simply coping out; hang loose and do your own thing.

A further problem is extreme disorientation by the extent of change and the choices available; not knowing which end is up and being unable to act often when wanting to.

Certainly part of the solution is informational. If we could anticipate change better and map out possible alternative responses to it, we would be less "shocked." But Toffler seems to realize that at its root the problem is a moral one. We must anticipate and direct change because it is RIGHT, since (assuming Toffler's diagnosis of future shock is correct) uncontrolled rapid change is harmful to human beings. It is also moral because each individual must be willing and able to change his own attitudes and behavior.

In order to solve the moral problem, Toffler and others call for a new consciousness in the individual; indeed, a new man. This new man ideally would desire to know what kind of change would be least harmful and most just to men, and be willing to support and participate in such change.

"... just as the acceleration of change and increased novelty in the environment demand a new form of organisation, they demand, too, a new kind of man."

Toffler's new man is to be entirely self-created; like most other secular humanists, he finds his answer in "education." Part and parcel of this man-centered view is that there are no moral absolutes; man must create his own values in response to changing personal and social needs. This "ought" is solely determined by the calculations and prognoses of social scientists. Presumably, when he is educated to what changes are most warranted by society's need to survive, new secular man will realise that stubborn attachment to the status quo or coping out is not in his self-interest. Furthermore, when the society is oriented toward change as the most important fact of life, the new man supposedly neither is overwhelmed by the pace of change nor fears the future.

Fundamentally, however, the malady of "future shock" goes deeper than just the condition of being overwhelmed by the pace and extent of change because of lack of experience or information. New secular man is also supposed to escape psychological collapse by becoming (through education) secure in his understanding of his place in the world. But the rapid change gives new urgency to the more basic human hang-up of wondering what is the purpose of all this change, of life itself. Toffler has no answer to this problem.

There are two probable reasons why Toffler might be concerned about the harm of future shock to human beings. One is the rather cold, biologically deterministic idea that we as men must work for the "preservation of the species;" we do it because we must. The alternative to this is the moralistic view that human beings are wonderful and we must seek to minimise harm to them.

But from his secular humanist frame of reference, Toffler cannot say WHY human beings are wonderful. Existence has no purpose; it just IS. Toffler presents no remedy for this more basic "shock;" his new man has no way to alleviate the meaninglessness we experience in living this life of changes.

The New Testament also speaks about a new man. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again (John 3:3) Paul was talking about this new birth when he wrote, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17) Being a new man in Christ demands an attitude which is READY FOR CHANGE in obedience to the moral standards of God: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

The new man in Christ is prepared for change because 1, he knows that the significance of individual and collective life is not lost in a purposeless cycle of existence but that it is moving somewhere in accordance with the plan of an objectively-existing, personal God, and 2, he knows that the present state of the world is full of imperfections (which the Bible calls sin, rooted in man's willful defiance of God) and that therefore change is imperative.

The moral commitment of new secular man is not only limited by the lack of a sense of ultimate purpose, but also by the necessity of depending upon a self-made moral code and faith in the power of education. The new man in Christ, on the other hand, is able to evaluate the moral choices posed by the demands of a rapidly changing society on the basis of moral imperatives revealed by the Lord of the universe (James 1:5). Since his commitment is to the will of God and not to his own self-interest or to the interest of any group of men, he is constantly ready to regard his own social and political commitments, and all systems of men, as open to question, and to change his allegiances when necessary.

This commitment also does not allow the Christian to be a cop-out; the love of God fleshed out in Christ's life demands that the Christian support whatever social or political arrangement most conforms to God's standards of love, healing and justice. Finally, new Christian man differs from "new" secular man in that in admitting the inability to change himself and in letting God do it, he receives the power of transformation from an external source: the Holy Spirit.

Toffler and his colleagues do have some good practical suggestions for strategies of institutional adaptation to change, but there is little promise for the solution of the most basic problems on the level of the individual. While secular man is scurrying about on a social treadmill, the new creature in Christ is being truly transformed (Phil. 1:6). Not only is he being made more and more capable of facing up to change, he is also being prepared for the most mind-blowing change of all: the end of time, and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1-6).

Steve Hoffman.

## new? morality

Stephenson, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to debate with you. I enjoyed it, so I hope you did. I thought you might like me to clarify my ideas about the permissive society, so that you can better understand why I reject it.

### WHAT IS THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY?

A hundred years ago everybody accepted that right and wrong were clear-cut, black and white opposites. Almost without exception, the whole human race believed in absolutes. Everything was absolute—absolute moral standards, absolute truth, absolute good, absolute authority, absolute right and wrong.

This period was one in which people's thinking could be categorized as thesis-antithesis. If one thing was right, its opposite was wrong. If peace is good, then war is bad. This type of thinking didn't allow for something to be right for you and wrong for me. Either it was right or it was wrong. It couldn't be both.

During the twentieth century, this style of thinking has gradually changed. The absolutes which we clung to grimly last century have become blurred. Man has tossed out the concept of absolutes. Our thinking could now be called "thesis-antithesis-synthesis". This implies that what is right for me isn't necessarily right for you.

The last decade has seen the emergence of situation ethics. Under this system, you can do what you like, so long as it is OK in your own eyes. Some people add the proviso that it is only OK if it doesn't harm anyone else. But then if you are the judge of your own behaviour, you probably also feel like judging that it doesn't hurt anyone.

The permissive society is one in which the traditional moral values, and the social sanctions for enforcing those values, are openly being abandoned. These changes in moral values are coming about under the humanistic philosophy of the self-regulating man. Humanism is a philosophy which postulates that man can start from himself and find all the answers. Hence only self-imposed moral sanctions are valid, according to humanism. However, a look at the world today is enough to throw serious doubt on the proposition that man can solve all his problems himself.

Situation ethics is the basis for the permissive society. The situation is the deciding factor in all moral behaviour. The permissive society, under the influence of situation

ethics and humanism, recognizes no absolute standards of moral behaviour. Now if you push this permissiveness to its logical conclusion, nothing has any meaning. What I do depends on how I view the world myself. Any I can view it however I like. It need have no relation at all to reality.

It is at the point of its relationship with reality that I would question the permissive society. It seems to avoid reality. The reality is that man is not capable of directing his own affairs. He has made an ugly mess of God's world. The reality is that we live in a society and everything we do affects the society. The reality is that I cannot "decide" that my actions are right, and thus make them right. If this were so, I could decide that it is right for me to assassinate the Queen. But this would not make it right. The reality is that right is right and wrong is wrong, irrespective of what I may call them. (I am not saying that I will decide what is right, instead of you. I am saying that no-one is capable of drawing up his own code of behaviour. Because right and wrong are independent of people).

The reality is that truth really is absolute. If something is true for you but not for me, then the concept of truth is meaningless.

Whereas the permissive society avoids reality, the Christian system faces reality. It values all people, not just the individual himself. It deals with the universe as it really is, and it deals with man as he really is. The Christian system doesn't hide from the absolutes that are real. Instead it is based totally on the person from whom those absolutes came.

Laurie Krepp

## The Cosmic Jesus

Jesus words are popular. Some of us like to use them to bludgeon the bourgeoisie. We point to Jesus the revolutionary who attacked the status quo and defied the establishment to the point of death.

Others seeking Eastern enlightenment turn words like "I and the Father are one" to pantheistic account and claim him as an avatar, while others like James Taylor speak of "Jesus" as a vague metaphor, a soothing ointment to apply when times are bad. "In a euphoric society existentialism would be fine. The way things are now, though, it certainly is necessary to have buffers like Christianity. To me Jesus is a metaphor, but also a manifestation of needs and feelings people have deep within themselves."

And then of course some of our own establishment have found the teaching of Jesus on submission useful in keeping the down-trodden down and "render unto Caesar" an argument for conformity to "King and Country."

Right and Left, good and bad, violent and peaceful, we all seem anxious to co-opt this Jesus and use him for our own idealistic ends; forgetting that he did not allow us that kind of option. Those who tried to use him were repulsed. He demanded FOLLOWERS.

His role was not that of a powerful Socratic gadfly come to sting an impervious Rome; it was to seek and to save men who were lost. He did not speak as an avatar within the pantheistic tradition but spoke as Messiah from within the deep rooted monotheistic tradition of Judaism. Astrologers worshipped at his cradle, demons were afraid of him, and even the natural forces of the cosmos yielded to his command. He pointed back to an Alpha before time and forward to an Omega when time would end. He even said "I am Alpha and Omega."

This is a Jesus of cosmic dimensions. Before we drag him down to finite proportions and divest him of his majesty let us look at his claims, his place in history and the destiny he fulfilled. Most of us think we know the Old and New Testaments but often our "knowing" is second hand like our knowledge of the Koran or Das Kapital. Our sources are rarely primary. The weekly popularizers and myth makers with their instant wisdom are far more tempting sources.

We attempt to portray Christ as we find him in the Bible, and to show what it means to truly follow him. You will find that is the character of many of our articles, as we believe that the best service we can perform today is to demonstrate who Jesus is and what that means for our lives.

The significance of the life and death of Jesus reaches backward to an ancient promise made to Abraham and forward to the end of human history. That event is crucially significant to each one of us. We invite you to take down a copy of the Bible from your shelf (or borrow one, or failing that call us for one — 729 0554) and look up the references we have quoted; then follow step by step God's mighty acts in history. It is our prayer that some of you may be moved to see that Christ cannot be divorced from that history. To use his words and ignore his purpose in coming is to choose darkness rather than light. Since that time when man first fell, God has been seeking men who will turn to Him from their rebellion.

He is seeking still.

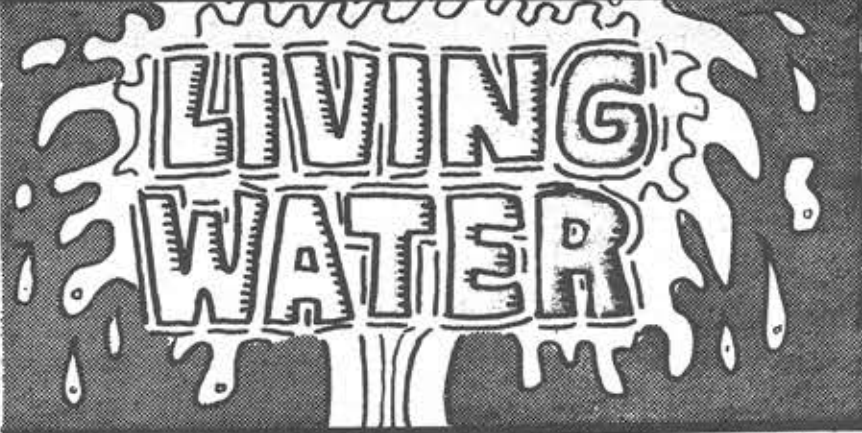
John chapter one

Hebrews chapter one

**EMPTY BECAUSE YOU DID NOT SEND YOUR LARGE CONTRIBUTION !!**

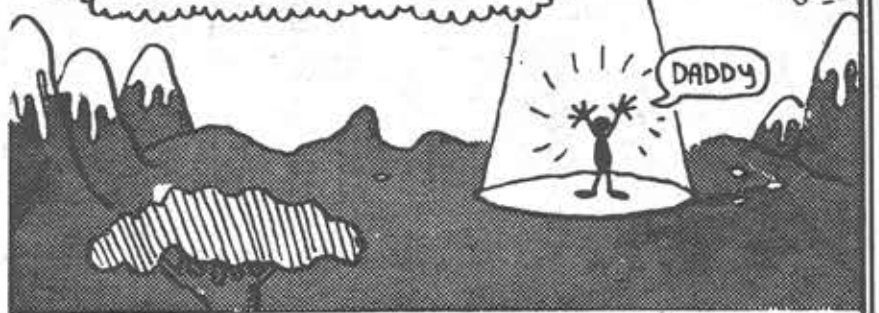


1



2

GOD CREATED MAN TO HAVE  
FELLOWSHIP WITH -



3

HE GAVE MAN A FREE WILL BECAUSE  
GOD WANTED REAL LOVE AND MAN  
REBELLED...



4

THUS MAN WAS SEPARATED FROM  
GOD BECAUSE OF



5

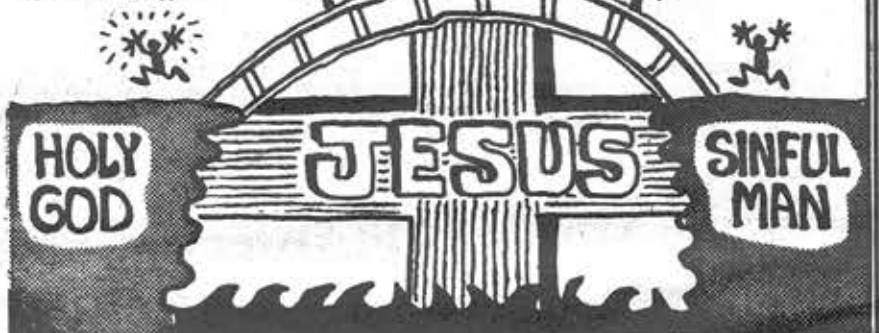
BUT GOD LOVED MAN SO MUCH HE GAVE  
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON \*



\* JOHN 3:16

6

AND WHEN JESUS DIED HE BRIDGED  
THE GAP -



7

EVERYONE HAS A GOD-SHAPED  
BLANK INSIDE ...



8

THAT CANNOT BE FILLED  
WITH -



A PERFECT FIT!



10

HE THAT BELIEVES\* ON THE SON (JESUS)  
OUT OF HIS HEART SHALL FLOW RIVERS  
OF LIVING WATER!



\* TRUSTS IN, RELYS ON

11

IF WE WANT THE FULLNESS OF GOD  
WE MUST GIVE ALL!



12

GOD IS LIKE A CLOUD, AS MUCH VAPOR -  
(OURSELVES) AS WE GIVE TO HIM IS AS MUCH  
RAIN (BLESSINGS) HE WILL GIVE TO US ...



\* IF WE GIVE ALL WE WILL GET DRENCHED!



WE MUST BE WILLING TO BEAR THE CROSS  
TO WEAR THE CROWN



14 **GOD** IS WILLING THAT ALL SHOULD  
COME TO REPENTENCE, GOD DOESN'T  
SEND ANYONE TO HELL - **WE** DECIDE  
OUR ETERNAL DESTINY! **JESUS**  
**DIED** SO WE COULD BE **SET FREE**  
FROM THE BONDAGE OF **SIN**!

15 **WHY** DON'T YOU GET LIBERATED  
FROM SIN AND TAKE A DRINK OF  
LIVING WATER? SPIRITUAL  
REFRESHMENT COMES FROM THE  
LORD! ASK JESUS IN YOUR  
HEART AND FIND ETERNAL  
**PEACE WITH GOD!**

16 **THINK** ABOUT WHAT **JESUS**  
SAID, BEFORE YOU LET  
YOUR MIND REJECT HIM -  
LISTEN TO YOUR **HEART**  
INSTEAD AND YOU WILL  
**ACCEPT HIM!**


17

**NOW**

IF YOU'VE RECEIVED JESUS

18 **TIPS FOR GROWTH ...**


#1 **READ  
THE  
BIBLE**




19 #2 **PRAY  
& PRAISE**

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING"  
1 THESS 5.17

"LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS  
BREATH PRAISE YE THE LORD"  
PSALMS 150.6




20 #3 **WITNESS** "DO THE WORK OF  
AN EVANGELIST"



21 #4 **FELLOWSHIP**

"FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLING OF THE SAINTS"

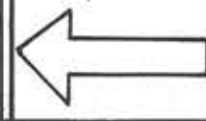


22 IF YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS PAMPHLET  
AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT **JESUS** READ THE **NEW TEST.**  
(START WITH **MATTHEW**) AND WRITE FOR  
LITERATURE ...

**WRITE TO** **JESUS Light &  
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Nth Bayswater 3153.

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ADDRESS IN THE APPROPRIATE  
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# GOD'S SQUAD

Bikes,

Everyone knows it's windy! In winter-time, it's cold: very cold. It's easy for a bike to become the sole thing in a guy's life — or a chick's. They look good — they give status and recognition in the eyes of envious onlookers. They feel tremendous, out on the road, eating the miles up.

But bikes clog. You bust a chain, blow the head off a valve, buckle your wheels in a pot-hole, and suddenly: the beautiful machine is a heap of junk: sometimes only good for the memories. Any person who relies on a bike for "the permanent trip" in life soon gets sick of the things and people in the scene he or she is in — and wants to split. If the bike gets dropped too badly, there's nothing much left to keep you going: Like the old folds say: "nothing to live for".

When a human being will open up to Jesus (and I am telling you: he is still around because he is God and is eternal) the bike moves well down the line in the things that seem important. Man, nothing can thrill like Jesus when he really touches one of the children in his family. "Nortons or Kwakas" or anything else just aren't in it.



Why do it? Because every person who is a club member knows what it is like to genuinely give the whole self to Jesus (he's alive! remember). When a person has such peace and starts to get blessed in so many ways he never thought could happen, the person usually wants to help other people around him into God's family. Jesus has shown to us that the clothes a fella or chick wears mean nothing: neither does their social background or their individual life style. All people need Jesus — Bike guys, surfies, hippies, High and Tech kids, parents — old fols: everyone's a person underneath. And it's no good if God's people keep to themselves in church each Sunday if Jesus' message is what he has told us it is — if it's for all — the guys in the pubs and pool rooms as well as the ones in seats in church. And you know, even if you shout, when you're shouting inside a church, you can't be heard much outside. If you don't believe me, try it!!

God Squad is **non-establishment, not anti-establishment!** We love Christians in church just as much as we love the people in the drive-in down the road. Christians are God's children and many people in church are far closer to God and live far better for Him than I do! that's dinkum.

No-one has the right to knock a group of God's people. But sometimes the life-style of a group is not as open to the freedom and joy, kindness, tolerance and love as it might be. If Jesus can use his servants — on bikes — to help others come to Him in Church and out of Church, then we must be open to anything he'd like us to do.

What about the other guys, in the outlaw bike clubs? Well. Like it says: everyone's human underneath. If we in the Squad, treat guys in outlaw clubs with the respect and fair-dinkum openness (which any Christian should treat others with) then it's up to the guys what they do. If a fella wants to listen we will tell him what God has told us. If he doesn't, we know, like everyone else that bible-bashing is no good for anyone. Jesus himself went where people were, and if they wanted they listened and believed: if they didn't want he left them to make up their own minds.

One last thing. In our club we have Triumphs, Kwaka's, Nortons, Yammies, Laverda's, Ducati's and Hondas etc. We meet at the "Jesus Light and Power House" in Bayswater. Check us out.



Its always open — you can drop in whenever you feel like it. We go on runs quite often. Sometimes we get invited by a church — (we went to Kaniva a few weeks ago by invitation) or go to a coffee shop or the streets at night — sleeping in a hall, people inviting us in for breakfast. We meet guys and chicks with a lot of different hangups, and some wonderful Jesus people. Jesus gives us a grouse time) — sometimes we go just where it seems a good place to go — to talk to people and to share thoughts, problems, ideas and experiences closely with each other. We have a Secretary, Sarge, treasurer and President like any club, and some rules which we've all got to stick to, if we want to look like a club and not Brown's cows crossing the creek. (Well, its God who called us together and God who keeps us together — we don't need rules for that: but we need a few rules when we are bunched up on a run: Christians do dumb things sometimes too).

Really it's a challenge. We've never seen a guy drop out because it's dull. Some just can't keep up the pace of really living a Jesus life style.

We wish to share that challenge with you.

John McLaren.

## meet Chris....

Chris has left a life of boozing, fuzz-hassling to work full time at the Jesus House

Here he tells his story



I have been asked to give a testimony of some of my past. I don't know who reads this, but I just hope that my testimony will be worthwhile to someone.

I left school at the age of fourteen, and ever since I left school, I have been roaming Australia trying to search for something that would satisfy me. I always seemed to be in and out of jail, always seemed to be doing something wrong, and I never seemed to be able to live my life without doing something stupid. Maybe this is because I had to force myself to be someone that I wasn't because of the way society was — unless you are a certain sort of person, you aren't really accepted.

I spent a lot of my life in the Northern Territory and the northern parts of Australia. I think my life really started to go down when I had an accident on a motor-bike when I was only sixteen. I smashed into a car at about seventy miles an hour, and I nearly killed myself. I thought then I might just as well have been dead.

I've got many convictions and a pretty big record from some of the things that I foolishly did as a young bloke. I was the sort of person that was hurt very easily, and I had a great love for my friends. I was let down so many times, that I just couldn't be bothered being a good friend to anybody anymore. I just didn't want to have any contact with any people. I just wanted to be on my own. At times I just wished that I had no-one that was really close who knew me. I sometimes wished that my parents would vanish into thin air, and all my relations, and anybody that ever knew me would just leave me alone. And I suppose because this wasn't possible and I couldn't seem to run away from these things I fought within myself because I couldn't get it together.

All through these years I tried so hard to prove myself. I didn't want to have to answer to anyone. If I was away I never used to write unless I had to. I just wanted to escape. I never seemed to miss



anybody, and I found it very hard to love anybody after a while because I'd been let down so many times by people that I thought so much of.

But anyway, I got married, and I thought, now that I'm married this'll be an excuse to say no to my friends when they want me to go down to the pub; and to say no to this and that. I thought I'd use my wife as an excuse and that this would be an excuse to start a new life for myself, but what I didn't realise was that it wasn't my mates and my friends that were to blame, but it was me. My friends would come and ask me to go out, and I'd go out. I'd get rotten drunk and I'd come home and treat my wife bad. I just couldn't get over this kind of life. I ended up starting to run again, with my wife this time, and ended up going to the Northern Territory.

I thought, well, this'll be good because it'll give me the chance to start again. I never learnt the lesson.



and no matter where I went I was never happy. But I thought with my wife I would be happy, so I tried it again, and I went up to Alice Springs, and the story was the same there, and I ended up in trouble again. I was thrown into jail up in Alice Springs for fighting in the street, and even though it wasn't much and didn't cost me much, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. The policeman that picked me up was a Christian cop, and he was really nice to me. He wasn't like the rest of the police that I'd dealt with before this time, because most of the police that I have dealt with have been very plastic and unreal. But this policeman was very forgiving, and just told me that he was doing his job, and told me that he was a Christian. It was good to see someone who cared. He really helped me a great deal but it didn't do any good because I was still running from people. I went back down to Victoria to try again, and I met up with my old mates. Things were still the same. I just couldn't seem to win and I knew that I had to do something with my life soon or I'd just have to finish it, because it was really bad. Anyway, I ended up becoming a Christian, trying to make my life worthwhile. I really wanted to be a Christian. I read the Bible so much that I think I studied more than most people study. After a while the devil just got to me, and got me right down again, and I just went right down, and I went back into the bike scene again.

I hung round with a few guys in a club in Morwell, and got around with them for a while; things just didn't seem to be right. I just couldn't seem to get it together. Anyway, I ended up meeting one of the God's Squad up in Melbourne and I came along with them to a meeting that night, and I gave a testimony that night saying that I would try, and come back to the Lord, even though I wasn't a very good Christian.

Anyway, I went back, back to my home town and got back with the old club again, and went down again, this time worse than ever. I was really getting stoned out of my mind and my wife and I were fighting all the time, and we just couldn't seem to make ends meet. It ended up that I got on to another girl. And I started going down to see her. My life was just a complete mess. I just couldn't get it together. I heard the Squad was coming down, and I suppose I was a bit rebellious and everything that seemed to happen seemed to be against me and I just couldn't seem to work it out. I thought that God was to blame and when I heard that the Squad was coming down, we got the club together and we waited for them and went up to the Church where they were going, and I broke up their whole meeting and really made a mess of things. I was just so stoned out of my mind that I just didn't care what I did. I knocked God, and everything else. I knocked John Smith and really made a mess of things that night. The day after, the God's Squad asked me to come to a camp with them, and I went there but never took much notice. Later I decided that I'd go up to Melbourne with these guys, and if it was any good and I could get it together, I'd get my wife to come up after.

Anyway, I went up to Melbourne, and I was just as bad up here, mucking around and drinking all the time, coming home to the Centre stoned out of my mind some nights. Me and my wife broke up all together. I just started to wonder whether I could make it, and thinking that I was the only one in the world who was so weak. I thought I must have been the weakest person in the world.

I ended up going on a trip with the God's Squad to Perth, and while I was on this trip with these guys I saw a lot of things that I wished I could have in my life, and I gave Jesus a go.

Since then, I've had a lot of hassles, and a lot of things have happened that have got me down, but I believe that all these things have had a purpose. Jesus has really changed my life, I know that much, because this time I really meant it. Sometimes I wonder if Jesus is real or not, and I hassle it out in my mind and I see things that are just so amazing to me that I say to myself, well, how can he not be real?

So many things that have happened since I've become a Christian that are just absolute miracles, that I just can't deny that Christ is alive. He's really given me a new love for people. I've gone out witnessing for Him, and this has given me a new love for people on the street level. At the moment, I'm looking after the house here at the Centre, and I have my own little flock under me. Kids that are trying themselves and I can understand them, because I've only just come out of the scene myself, and I haven't really forgotten any of the horrible feelings that I had while I was in that scene. I really love them and feel for them deeply.

Now my wife and I are really happy and we're back together. I've never been so happy in my life as far as a marriage is concerned. Jesus has just brought my marriage together. He's put the pieces in my life together. It's just been really beautiful.

I'd just like to say to any kid who feels the same way as I felt, and who just can't seem to get it together. I feel for you brother, and I just wish you could come and talk with me. If there is anyone around Melbourne or even further away than that, that is so hassled in his brain that he just can't seem to get it together, and you're running all the time, and don't know what you're running for, come and see me, and we'll try and work out something together.

Thank You.

# KANIVA Jesus Event.

## RANDOM JESUS HAPPENINGS

It is progressively difficult to cope with reporting Jesus Happenings. There are now too many of them. So in T&L this time we will content ourselves with just a few — Kairos in Canberra, Kaniva, Jesus Happening at Belgrave Heights.

### KANIVA

To see a crowd of Jesus Freaks marching down the almost deserted western township — watched idly by a guy from the H.A. motorcycle club and his mates ... Wow. It really looked like an old-fashioned lynching party crowding through the streets. But if you look closely at the picture, you can't see hate. And they're singing "We are one in the Spirit ... and they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Hey you revolutionaries. All is not lost in the Church. Some great guys in the Church Ministry and many Church Jesus People are lovingly inviting even the scruffiest Jesus Kids and the loudest Jesus Musos to bring some of their freedom in Jesus right to the Church.

Hundreds of kids from the surrounding Wimmera joined with local Kaniva guys joined in an unbelievable Jesus happening of folk-rock (Jesus message music of course) rapping about His POWER — AND HIS DEMANDS on our lives. We were switched on by the fellowship, love and great openness of spirit of the local Christians.

And many who attended were truly changed by Jesus and the Holy Spirit — the letters are still flooding in from the kids.

Jesus was obviously working in the Wimmera long before we came. Ask some Wimmera Jesus Freak!



HUNDREDS TAKE TO STREETS OF KANIVA FOR EXUBERANT JESUS MARCH.

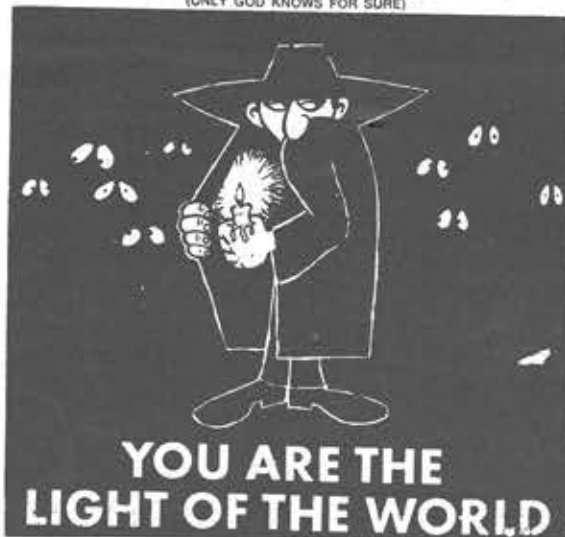


CROWDED CIVIC HALL SATURDAY NITE.



SECTION OF THE CROWD LISTENING TO JESUS MUSOS AT LOCAL SHOW GROUND

SECRET SERVICE SAINTS ...  
UNDERCOVER CHRISTIANS ...  
LADY CLAIREL CHRISTIANS  
(ONLY GOD KNOWS FOR SURE)



I HAVE THIS EMPTINESS INSIDE!  
I HAVE NO PEACE, NO JOY, I HAVE  
THIS TERRIBLE GUILT ABOUT MY  
PAST. I'M MISERABLE. I NEED  
SOMETHING, SOMEONE, I'M LOST,  
I NEED ANSWERS, A REASON  
FOR LIVING, A HOPE, A  
PURPOSE. PLEASE, CAN  
YOU HELP ME?



GULP... THIS LOOKS LIKE  
IT MAY POSSIBLY BE... AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS.  
MMM... BUT I DON'T WANT  
TO BE TOO PUSHY OR SEEM  
AGGRESSIVE. HE MIGHT... EVEN  
THINK OF ME AS A RELIGIOUS  
FANATIC OR SOMETHING.  
LET'S SEE, WHAT CAN I SAY?  
MAYBE I SHOULD START BY  
TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER?



IF YOU WERE ON TRIAL FOR  
BEING A CHRISTIAN WOULD THERE  
BE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO  
CONVICT YOU?



# KAIROS—SUCCESS OR

## Two thousand march.

About sixty Bikie Jesus People joined two thousand others for a weekend invasion of Canberra recently. The aim of the weekend was to expose the plastic nature of our world system to the politicians and to the people of Canberra, and to our nation as a whole, and to present Jesus Christ, His life and His teachings, as the only real solution to the transformation of human nature and, thereby, of the whole of society.

In many respects it was an outstanding success, in that it brought together brothers and sisters from an incredibly wide range of background and experience: buys from right within the Church scene; kids who'd been in Christian communes and had found the Lord in the midst of drug situations. However, some of us feel and want to put down in print, something of the challenge of the after thought of Kairos.

We know in our hearts where we are, and although Jesus means a tremendous amount to us, He has changed our lives in such a way that there is simply no easy explanation for it apart from what Jesus explained Himself about His own power. In spite of all this, the Jesus People need to think very carefully through the slogans which we shout; through the posters which we carry and the buttons which we wear on our clothes.

Kairos was a great challenge to many of us to think more deeply about the alternatives which we have to the plastic life styles of people in our society. We not only need to be able to say to them that they can find Jesus and begin a change within their lives, but we need to fill in some details of what a real Christian life style is in the midst of a technological day; in the midst of many philosophies of freedom and sometimes despair.

It was the beginning, many of us believe, of a show of strength of a growing Jesus Movement within our country. Some reporters, particularly in religious press have recently stated that the Jesus Movement is winding down. On the contrary, those of us who are in the midst of it are impressed by the daily growth, and we are quite convinced that though it might change its form in days to come, some may be turned into hard core Jesus revolutionaries right in the midst of the system — on the street, and in communes. Some may be turned back to the more normal institution of the Church to bring new life and renewal there. But we are convinced the Jesus Movement had only just begun and the show of selected strength of two thousand at Canberra is only one indication that God is on the move in our country.

Some of the accommodation was certainly not first class. Many of the kids in their desire to share Jesus were willing to sleep in a number of sheep pens at Queanbeyan. Certainly the kids must have felt pretty strongly about their relationship towards Jesus Christ. They must have felt strongly about their desire to communicate love to our country. You had to be keen to sleep in these open sheep pens (with a little bit of fresh hay). Of course, there were those who slept on concrete steps!

Saturday morning the Canberra traffic was slowed down, and even stopped at times briefly, while the Jesus People marched two miles through the city streets.



No doubt in this quiet . . . well calculated atmosphere of Canberra it must have been quite a shock to many to see a long haired bikie hand a carnation to some old lady by the side of the road. To see fresh looking kids waving slogans, shouting Jesus slogans, and singing "We are one in the Spirit" as they marched along the street.

The local police told us that the 60 bikes that were there represented the largest show of strength from the bikie kingdom that they had ever seen in the history of Canberra.

The march finished on the lawns of Parliament House. This was the scene for a concert of folk musicians and Jesus Rock music interspersed with various speakers such as John Hirt and Mal Garvin of Teen Crusaders. During this period on the lawn, a manifesto to the nation was read and presented to the parliamentarians of our country. Following the reading of the manifesto the crowd joined hands in a ring around Parliament House and prayed for the politicians. This symbolic gesture may sound corny, but it was motivated by a genuine concern for the people of Australia. Prayer may sound outmoded but for many of the guys and chicks who sat and prayed; memories of their own escape from drug addiction, the change of their nature from moral weakness and defeat must have been strong — the results of prayer in their own lives. No wonder they prayed for a nation that seems to be heading more and more into materialism, and which seems less and less capable of meeting the needs of people. This seemed to be one of the ways that we could express our concern for you, the people of Australia, and for our Parliamentarians.



During the week-end we ran a number of Coffee Shops; got involved with people on their level; on the streets and wherever they could be found. Several rock concerts were held in various strategic positions throughout Canberra and creative Jesus People musicians expressed their belief in Christ through the media of modern music.

We believe that some have had their lives changed permanently or as another reporter has put it "They were changed by Jesus at their own request." However to some of us there is one sour note, and that is that the press of our country, in their plastic way, managed to ignore this peaceful protest by so many kids, despite the fact that the record of our country so far as drug addiction is concerned is appalling; and the Jesus Movement seems to be the only thing with the power to lift a kid out of his drug addiction; despite the fact that the violence on the streets is best cured when a guy finds the love of Jesus, and no longer wants to hurt but wants to love because of Jesus in him; despite the realities of what Christ is doing in the lives of these kids, and the fact that they felt strongly enough about it to pay their own way for a week-end like this, the press remained strangely silent.

To me it only shows again the unreality of those who control the media within our country. It was a kind of souring note that so much peaceful love could be exhibited at the heart of our nation and the press still go on reporting about some cat that's stuck on the top of a pole, or somebody's small thoughts about the latest social happening but they could not find decent space in their papers to express what so many kids wanted to say.

No doubt in this quiet well calculated atmosphere of Canberra it must have been quite a shock for many to see a long haired bikie hand a carnation to some old lady by the side of the road. To see fresh looking kids waving slogans, shouting Jesus slogans, and singing "We are one in the Spirit" as they marched along the street must have been a culture shock.

The local police told us that the 60 bikies who were there represented the largest show of strength from the bikie kingdom that they had ever seen in the history of Canberra.

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## manifesto

We are standing today before Australia's Parliament House, representing Christian youth across our nation. We are here at this time because it is a significant time — what the Greeks of old would have called "Kairos". It is significant because we, the Australian people, have a new Government. It is significant because we, the Australian people, have a dream. A dream of peace in Asia and of social security at home. It is significant because we, the representatives of an enormous number of Australian Youth, are no longer hesitant to declare to you that Jesus Christ is real in our lives. So we are here to make it known that we share the concern of this and every government for a better quality of life, both for the voting majority and for the oppressed minority; but we know from our own lives that no amount of legislation will liberate man from those basic desires that make legislation necessary, such as hate, lies, greed, apathy and lust for power. Legislating for the symptoms of the ills of our society should be preceded by treating the root cause of those ills. Therefore, we declare to you our conviction that the only workable life-style for mankind, the only way of dealing with the root cause of society's problems, is personal submission to the authority of God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. We know that God's love has brought a revolution in our own lives and we want to express that love to you, the Parliamentarians and to all whom you govern, that in your life and in the lives of thousands of Australians there will be a revolution for Jesus.

Signed The Jesus Family  
Saturday, March 3, 1973  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.



# FAILURE!



## circle of love

Following the reading of the manifesto the crowd joined hands in a ring around Parliament House and prayed for the politicians. This symbolic gesture may sound corny, but it was motivated by a genuine concern for the people of Australia. Prayer may sound outmoded but for many of the guys and chicks who sat and prayed; memories of their own escape from drug addiction, the change of their nature from moral weakness and defeat must have been strong — the results of prayer in their own lives. No wonder they prayed for a nation that seems to be heading more and more into materialism, and which seems less and less capable of meeting the needs of people. This seemed to be one of the ways that we could express our concern for you, the people of Australia, and for our Parliamentarians. During the week-end we ran a number of Coffee Shops; got involved with people on their level; on the streets and wherever they could be found. Several rock concerts were held in various strategic positions throughout Canberra and creative Jesus People musicians expressed their belief in Christ through the media of modern music.

## plastic press

Some have had their lives changed permanently. As another reporter has put it "They were changed by Jesus at their own request." However to some of us there is one sour note, that the press of our country, in their plastic way, managed to ignore this peaceful protest by so many kids. Despite the fact that the record of our country so far as drug addiction is concerned is appalling, and the Jesus Movement seems to be the only thing with the power to lift a kid out of his drug addiction; despite the fact that the violence on the streets is best cured when a guy finds the love of Jesus, and no longer wants to hurt but wants to love because of Jesus in him; despite the realities of what Christ is doing in the lives of these kids, and the fact that they felt strongly enough about it to pay their own way for a week-end like this, the press remained strangely silent.

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The world rushes on in its mindless emptiness and despair — occupied with its social and materialistic trivia!



"Let me put it to you this way, son: would Jesus have spent all his time going around preaching, never turning an honest dollar?" Copyright 1972 by CHRISTIANITY TODAY

## ultimate failure

Laurie Krepp has suggested in the Burwood Teacher's College paper that in one way the Kairos week-end failed. We quote from Laurie —

However, in the final analysis the "Kairos" weekend failed. It failed because the nation hasn't got the guts to listen to what Jesus is saying. It failed because the world system is so corrupt, so artificial and so plastic that it is scared to face reality.

Let's face it. The world system is crumbling! Society's double values no longer make any sense. And yet we go on believing everything's O.K.

## we need a change

"It's Time" was the slogan that in itself was instrumental in bringing to victory the A.L.P. at the last Federal elections. Why was a mere slogan so successful? Why did the Australian electorate react so positively to the theme song of "It's time for a change"? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that it really was time for a change. Australians could see the mess their country was in, so they voted for a political change. Yes, perhaps, even more than the ALP realised, we were truly in need of a change.

## we need to be changed

Well, we got our political change. And it has changed our country somewhat. But we still have unemployment. And we still have poverty. In fact we have not got rid of exploitation, corruption, injustice, prejudice, materialism or selfishness. A change of Government has brought only limited change to Australia. It just hasn't been big enough. We need a more radical change, a deeper change, a more permanent change. We need changed people, not just a change of government. The only answer for today's society is for the people to be changed.

This change must come from outside us. New Year resolutions just don't work. We need a powerful outside agent to change us completely. I suggest that we should look at the agents for change that are available and see if they work. It is my belief that the powerful love of Jesus Christ is the only thing that can change people completely. Check out his record. Look at His list of healed addicts and compare it with the Government's. Look at the ordinary people He has changed. Talk to them. Find out if it's real. Knowing Jesus has changed me in a way that I've found quite exciting and very real. He can change you.

It looks as if society, the Church and that part of the Church nick-named Jesus Movement — all have much homework to do! And so have you.





# JESUS CELEBRATION RAP: as spruked at Kairos by Smithy.

Possibly there are some of you here who were around the University complaining that all we could talk about was praising Jesus. Then brother, I am sorry about that, but we are at it again. It is all we have got to say. In Luke 4, it talks about Him going to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. He went to the synagogue as was His usual custom and he stood up to read. There was given to Him the book of the prophet Isaiah, the same beautiful prophet we just had read to us. And he opened the book and He found the place where it was written, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." He closed the book and He gave it back to the attendant and He sat down and all the eyes of the synagogue were fixed upon him. So we are not the first lot of people to be "grabbed" by Jesus.

'Everybody sitting in the place, whether pro or con, found themselves with their eyes fixed on Him as He spoke to them. And He began to say to them, "Today this scripture is being fulfilled in your hearing".

Brothers and Sisters, this is a Jesus celebration and I just want to say to any of you who don't know Him, that the reason we celebrate Jesus at this time is twofold. His words and His life. Look just for a minute at the words he spoke and what it says in Luke 4:14-44.

First, we celebrate Jesus because He spoke gracious words. Have you ever tried to reach out to somebody? I have in the last two days. I have sat down with guys who wouldn't take me seriously. Who wouldn't take me as another human being. Who tried to goof off. Who weren't prepared to think. Who would say all kinds of silly little irrelevant asides to get off the real subject matter. And I find it frustrating. I find it as sometimes maybe you do, difficult to keep showing grace in the midst of a situation that is grave, a world that is disintegrating. This society wants answers, but won't listen when you start coming with some answers from Jesus. Well Jesus tolerated all of that. He was no mere Jesus freak like we are. He was the king of glory. If ever there was a man that ought to have stood up and become frustrated with the people, it ought to have been Jesus. But he didn't. Brothers and Sisters, I want to say to each and every one that we are going to leave this place with some thrills and some frustrations.

We are going to leave it with frustration because of the Press. If ten guys stood here with a black power fist up, they would have made front page news. But if we stand up here in our thousands and march in peace and love and talk about Jesus, they don't seem to think it's news. That to me is frustrating. You can pick up a newspaper and read page after page of inconsequential garbage. But when you get on to something that has got to do with real revolution, they don't want to touch it. They bury it. I go home with a gut full of the dishonesty, of the media. But, Brothers and Sisters, we dare not, because we follow the son of God, and because he spoke words with grace; we dare not, we must not lose our patience, and lose the graciousness across our own message as we present it to the people of our land. We must go back with peace, back with love, and we must go on and on and walk in the steps of the one of whom it was said, 'He is a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and the people hid as it were, their faces from him.' Yet he was willing. They rhubarbed Him. But His love was equal to it.

Secondly I wish to celebrate him this morning, because he spoke with courage. Now, I am just not knocking the church in general, but let me say this, that in this little account we read, Jesus stood up and he said some heavy things to an establishment religious situation. And they got mad with him. He said to them, 'Listen, you are just the same as your fathers. There have been the little prophets and I have risen up as the great prophet in your midst, the Son of God, but you won't listen. He said, 'You know, in the days when Namaan was beautifully healed of his leprosy through the power of God — in that day, there were many lepers, but few of them were healed. Not because they couldn't be healed, but Namaan was the guy with the humility to get down and face the facts. And I want to say, Brothers and Sisters, I love Jesus. I more than admire him, I worship him, because he spoke with courage. And it didn't matter who got the barb.

He spoke with courage because he was a man concerned about truth. Bros & Sis, irrespective of what some neat philosophers might say to us, we dare not accommodate anything but truth. We must stand by that and we must stand by this book. And we must challenge them to read it, because of those that do not accept its truth, 99 per cent of them have never read it. We had a brother here yesterday who was telling me it was all crapp. It was about all he could say. When we asked him if he had read the life of Jesus, read the New Testament, he hadn't read it.

Yet he was prepared to say 'It's crapp'. The world is still like that. It will not read, it will not be intellectually honest, it will not take seriously the data that Jesus has given us. It will not examine the Son of God to see if he is real or not. But we dare not change simply because we live in an existential era when people think any vibe that turns you on becomes truth. We must stand by the propositions God has given us, and work them out in a real world.



J.S. DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE....

And thirdly we celebrate Jesus because he spoke with authority. They could not handle that. If there was one thing that disturbed the teachers and leaders of the day, it was that Jesus spoke, not like the scribes with their endless inter-interpretations, but with clarity, with persistence and authority. You know, Brothers and Sisters, if you open the book of Acts you will find 2 illiterate guys, Peter and John, were out there preaching after a lame man was healed in front of thousands of people in that city. The people had testified to the fact that that lame 'guy had been lame all his life and was leaping like you guys were before when we were singing, 'We are one in the spirit.' But the heavies wouldn't listen. They wouldn't believe it. In fact they were cunning. They said, 'We can't stir too much because the people know what's happened. Let's try to cool it and get to the guys that caused it. They came to Peter and John and said "Cool it boys. Just cool it a bit. We don't mind if you have your little Jesus Festival. We don't mind if you sit on the University lawns and play your rock music. But don't get up there and tell us anything about truth. We don't want to hear it. Even although we say we are an open forum for it." And in that situation, Peter and John were not intimidated. Bros & Sis, our world is on the brink, of despair if not disaster. We dare not be silent. We must speak and speak and speak again. With a courage and conviction we must speak of the man of authority who indwells us. He has given us authority and his name to speak about truth. And in that situation, Peter and John stood up and they said, who do we listen to? God or man? They still continued to preach. 5,000 of the plebs were wrapped in what they said and got beautifully converted, much to the distress of the heavies. The common people said this, 'We can see that Peter and John are unlearned and ignorant men. But they speak with authority. It says, when they saw the power and authority of the speaking of Peter and John and that they were unlearned and ignorant, they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. Bros and Sis, you will find that Christians are people of conviction, and they stand out in ugly contrast to the apathy and indifference of Western Society. They are difficult to handle because they are different. They speak with authority — not their own authority, but the authority of Jesus.



BISHOP OF CANBERRA CONCLUDING THE MEETING....

Fourthly, He spoke with power. This leads to a final major point that is important. There are many men that can speak with counterfeit authority. There are many people today that speak with authority, but the kind of authority they express is not the kind of authority that changes lives. I want to say to students particularly today, that any philosophy that will not work in practice, any philosophy that does not change people's moral behaviour, any philosophy that does not make people easier to live with, any philosophy that does not make people compassionate and involved is not worth the paper it's written on. And I want to say I am a Christian because Christianity is practical.

My final point is this. We celebrate Jesus, Bros. & Sis, not only because of his words, only but because of his deeds. Because of the deeds he manifested upon a cross, where they crucified him — yet he loved them. I have been thinking about the National Uni lawns, and the time I was attacked by some of our radical Bros & Sis. It was after I stood up in front of the microphone and said, 'Bros & Sis, in the name of Jesus we love you as students.' They could not handle it. They could not handle Jesus. It is like Tom Skinner puts it. Maybe it's over dramatic and maybe some of you exegetes will pull me to bits on it, but I think it's beautiful. He describes Barabas, an underground merchant, a guy who if he lived today, would have been throwing Molotov cocktails, and insurrectionist, a political hate monger, and they have Barabos. They have got Jesus, and they say, 'no worries'. We can deal with this guy who drops molotov cocktails. He is working on the level of the establishment. We can fight him on his own terms. We will just drop some napalin instead. And so they say, let's release him.

We can handle a man that fights like that. We can all deal with a man like that. But what do you do with a man who loves you when you hate him? What do you do with a man who comes up to a blind man and says 'See,' and the guy gets up and sees? What do you do to a man that comes to a dead man who stinks and says, 'Lazarus get out of your grave boy? and he comes alive? They could not handle Jesus. The only way to deal with him was to crucify him because he revealed the ugliness of their own hate, and the plastic nature of the whole system. That is why some of our Bros & Sis react so violently when we speak of His love.

Luke 4 says that he healed their emotions. The spirit of the lord is upon me to heal the broken hearted. It says that he released the personality of people who were in bondage. Bros & Sis, where do you find free people? There are few free people around today. There was freedom across most personalities today — the anointing of God is upon Jesus his son to release captives, to give emotional liberty and freedom, to allow a man to know release from the bondage of his own self-centred ego. He enlightens our understanding because he gave sight to the blind. Those that search in vain to find a practical answer to the world's dilemmas, when they find Jesus, begin to see the real problem of man. He enlightens the eyes of the understanding. Is it any wonder that all their eyes were fixed on him, Bros & Sis? If we could get this crowd to file past this microphone for those that don't know Jesus, we would have Bros & Sis here who a few years ago were hooked on heroin, who had been through Govt programs, who had tried all sorts of bandaid therapy, who tried all sorts of surface answers, who sat in group therapy clinics, who have taken remedial drugs and it all was a bummer. But now they are released from the captivity of drugs through the sheer power of the indwelling Christ. And I want to challenge the Govt to have a look at the record of the Jesus movt. in terms of healed addicts. I believe statistically, we could back up the fact that Christianity works in this field. We have got Bros & Sis here amongst us who could only find release by being boozed out of their brains on the weekends and who could only find joy in hitting someone else with a bike chain. Today they can sit down with tears running down their face in compassion for their own generation in the bike world. One of our Brothers sat in our lounge room one day with tears pouring down his face. He said, John, there was a day that I hated everybody. I hated even the guys in the bike club. I hated my parents. I hated the whole thing. But he said, since Christ invaded my life I just long to tell my Brothers and Sisters in the bike world that there is something better than hate, that they can be changed from within. They don't have to grunt their way through some religious culture pattern imposed from the outside — but be liberated from within so that they want to praise, want to rejoice, want to love, want to be involved with people on a compassionate level. I think of one Sister who was schizoprenic and lesbian. She would tell her story from up here. She met Jesus, and what the psychiatrist had tried to do for years, Jesus did in weeks. You have never seen a more beautiful family than that one. And yet the Govt only knows how to do patchwork jobs.

ctd. next page →



# JESUS HAPPENING AT BELGRAVE HEIGHTS

The weekend of the twenty third saw the bringing together of youth from throughout Australia under the heading of a YOUTH HAPPENING.

The teaching was given by John Hirt, John Smith and Gary Coleman. Two of the speakers were leaders of Jesus people centres in Australia. The messages were gusty and to the point. John Hirt called Christians to lay aside their preconceived ideas about what the kids on the street level are like, and place their ears to the ground so that we can understand them and feel the anguish that they feel, as they try to live in today's society.

Gary Coleman spoke on how the Holy Spirit works in our lives and of how we are set free to really love others by realizing that God forgives, accepts and loves us just as we are.

John Smith on the other hand, called Christians to be prophets in this day and to stand against the gross injustice of the world's system. He also said that the church must change to be able to gather in and nurture the many converts that are finding reality through the witness of the Jesus Movement. He also asked us as the body of Christ where we stand on Technology and other similar issues, proving a point perhaps, that we as Christians, have on many issues, been hyper-spiritual and less intellectually honest.

The music was provided by many groups whose styles ranged from folk-rock to country and western, but possibly the most enthusiastically received was the counter culture music of Flock, who provided a heavy beat to the weekend.

The most outstanding part of the weekend was Saturday night when Flock played "One in the Spirit" as everyone in the auditorium rose to their feet, many of them clapping and singing, whilst others threw their arms around one another, hugging each other in true Jesus people style. Whilst yet more kids joined in a circle and did Hebrew dancing in the aisles. After the message, well over 200 packed the aisles and the front of the auditorium — many in tears to seek Jesus. Letters are pouring into the house from kids revolutionized by the weekend.

Brothers and sisters, when God put together three men of God is trying to tell us something.

Incidentally — Thnak you Y.F.C. for sponsoring this challenging and provocative weekend.

We hear of many guys going back to their Churches and bringing a touch of revolutionary love to the established organisation.

Many others have written to tell of new love for people and new ability to communicate Jesus love.



enthusiastic crowd.



John S. John Hirt Gary Coleman Clive Stebbins.



TRUTH

## CASH IN

To many of us Johnny Cash is the only non-counter-culture muso we dig. I guess there is something gutsy and plain compassionate which gets to us. Many Jesus freaks attended his show recently at Festival Hall.

Johnny certainly has charisma.

For us freaks several songs from his new film on the life of Christ were a thrill.

To me it was kind of unreal to feel the audience response to his Jesus songs (especially the Nichodemus 'you must have a rebirth — a spiritual awaking' routine). How can such a grossly materialistic 'couldn't-give-a-damn' average aussie crowd clap a message like that?

Dumb or Hypocritical!

Hey Johnny, we in the Jesus Family have one wing mate. Many of us tried to get to you for an interview with our Jesus Family reporters. We hear you are a Pentecostal switched-on keen Jesus Freak. We realize the entertainment world is hard to handle unless you are protected from the plastic public. But next time, how about a moment or two for your brothers in the Jesus Family!



We see the psychiatrist deal year after year after tedious year with therapy that so often doesn't get far, even although there is truth in psychiatry and psychology. But it has got no dynamic, it has got no moral guts, it has got no spiritual power. That's to be found in Jesus. And as I finish, we want to say to Canberra, we want to say to Australia, we want to say to our Govt, we are not a bunch of fanatics, we are a bunch of hard headed pragmatists whose lives are different because of Christ and his teachings.

We do not have to answer to the critics questions. They have to answer to our questions. How come we are changed people if Jesus is not risen? He is alive. He is alive, and he is alive in me and in you and we can demonstrate it to any Brother that wants to talk about it.

We celebrate Jesus, our great lover, our great Saviour our great revolutionary. He has changed us. And we say to our city and to our country. Make room for His revolution and we will become different people and as different people, we will have a different nation.



■ Tim Begbie & the Biscuit Factory played a heavy sound.

■ The Bishop of Canberra concluded — begging Jesus people to "bring their enthusiasm into the establishment."

■ Jesus people sang, held hands and danced for joy.





## The Letter To The Street Christians

Remember, no one is in the forever family unless he has been made right with God thru Jesus. Let's not fool ourselves; people who get drunk all the time, people who really dig on dope, who are heavy into free sex and homosexuality, who are thieves, bad moutherers, astrology freaks, and like that, — are not in the forever family. These are the very life styles you used to have. But you have been washed clean from all this trash, set apart, and made right with God; not by anything you have done but by Jesus and His Spirit in you.

I can do anything I want to because of this new found freedom, but there are some things I shouldn't do. Jesus has set me free from God's law, but I'm not going to get hooked on my own selfish desires. Like even something as important as food. Food was made for our stomachs and our stomachs were made for food, but God's going to wipe them both out when Jesus comes back. It's the same with all the desires of our bodies. Sex is an important desire but God didn't make it for us to just ball anybody that comes along. Our bodies were made for Jesus and to be filled up completely by Him. Besides, someday He's going to remake our bodies just like He did Jesus' body. On the other hand, our bodies right now are parts of Jesus Himself. Should I take a part of Jesus and unite Him with a woman He hasn't given me as my wife? Forget it! God tells us that two people joined in the sex act become one person. To be one person with more than one person is to prostitute that act and the reason God gave it to us. No, child of Jesus, — when you meet Him you are united with Him in one Spirit. That's why we say run away from wrong sex acts. No other wrong things that you could do affect the body the way this one does. God's Holy Spirit is inside your body and that body does not belong to you anymore. Dig it. God bought you and the price was Jesus hanging on the cross. So honor God with your body.

Now to answer some of your questions. The way things are it's a good thing for a man not to touch a woman. But with all the balling that's going on it's best to get married. Then the husband and wife should pay attention to each other's needs and remember that they belong to each other for life. They shouldn't hold back from sexual relations with each other unless they agree to for a short time, so that they can spend their whole time talking to Jesus. Afterwards they should come back together so that Satan can't tempt them through their desires. We're not saying you have to get married but God wants you to have freedom in your relationships with each other and your relationship with Him.

As far as marriage itself goes, these are hard times. It would be far-out for us as individuals if all of us had the ability to live without sexual activity. But we don't all have that ability and it's a lot better for a person to get married than to be all hassled up by unsatisfied sexual desire.

If you're already married, God's got something to say to you about your lives together. First of all, a wife should stay with her husband. If she does leave him, she should stay unmarried or get it together with her husband again. And husbands shouldn't leave their wives either. Also, even though God doesn't say you have to, if a brother has a wife who doesn't know Jesus, and she'll live with Him, he shouldn't leave her. Same for a sister in the same situation. Like the one who does know Jesus (husband or wife) brings the partner into touch with other Jesus people and the children have a chance to get behind the Good News. But if the one who doesn't know Jesus decides to leave, let him split, God won't hold you responsible, and He wants us to live at peace with each other. Besides, you don't know if you'll be able to help your partner come to Jesus anyway.

So when you meet Jesus, don't be in a big hurry to change the situation you're in. If you belong to a church, don't drop out just because you've met Jesus. If you don't belong to one don't be in a big hurry to join. What's important is to do what God says. If you have a job, keep it 'til God tells you to do something else. Jesus set you free from all the trips that men try to drop on you so don't sell out to any of them. Stay where you are with your marriage partner and everything else until God puts you in a different place.

## LETTERS TO STREET CHRISTIANS

A limited number now available at the centre — \$1.55 each plus postage.

## VIBES MIXED

### AMERICA IS IN A BAD WAY

Dear Judy,

Wow! Am I glad to hear from you! It's just really neat to know there are brothers and sisters around everywhere. "All over the world the Spirit is moving..." as one of our songs go.

Things could be going better here in Seattle and the U.S. in general. Last year the Jesus People were swarming all over the place (in Seattle). Then a group calling themselves the Children of God moved in, and began taking over. They insisted that complete detachment from the world (literally: i.e. don't work, someone's bound to give you what you need) and the necessity to "go witnessing" (which means standing on corners telling everyone the gospel) were the only ways to get to God. Not only that, but they held that they had the only true interpretation of Bible passages.

One of the prominent Jesus People leaders, Linda Meissner, decided that the Children of God had it all together because she liked discipline and the Children sure had it. So she joined them. There were a lot of hassles involved in switching over and the newspapers and television picked up on the small religious war going on between the two groups. A lot of us have been wondering how good it was for so many people (the Jesus People) to depend on one human being to stay together. Now we found out, because the group, as such, began falling apart and now is virtually extinct.

Meanwhile, the Children were out telling everyone that feared God to get out of the U.S., go to Canada or Europe, because the Bible predicted its doom and it was soon to be destroyed. They took over the Truth printing and completely changed it. It now reminds me of some doper's mag only with a bit of Jesus in it. They say they must attract attention, but I personally feel that compromise is not the way to win souls.

So now they're gone (almost) as well. The city seems comparatively quiet now. There are still lots of Christians and lovely people running around but they don't say "our group is right" like the other two did. (I except certain church groups from this statement.)

I really feel that something is going on, though. There are still many organized marches (like Easter and Christmas) and rallies and concerts, but they are not as appealing as they once were, probably because they are individuals putting on a show instead of a mass organisation.

I'd like to sort of clarify all my prejudices I've been mentioning. I personally do not feel that street witnessing is the only way to witness, like the JP and C of G were implying was so. I feel myself just loving to talk about Jesus to people individually and not necessarily to non-Christians. A lot of brothers and sisters need to be told stuff like "God really will forgive you" etc. And I believe rules are completely individual in God's family (although there are basic moral ones like the ten commandments). For instance, I do not listen to loud, acid rock music because it reminds me of bad times before I met Jesus. I really feel guilty when I do although I realise that it is only a feeling and not a fact. But like there are a lot of Christians who can turn the volume on nice and loud and actually feel refreshed because they dig the music.

Anyway, in general the scene in the U.S. is not as beautiful as it once was. There really does seem to be a feeling of doom resting upon it. Everything seems to be going wrong. People are still getting saved (praise God!!) and there are groups everywhere sharing prayers and burdens and ideas. Billy Graham is pretty happy about the responses he's getting across the country.

Sure I'll pray for Peter and Rhonda. It's really difficult when people start going back to old habits. When I see myself doing stuff I had hoped I had given up, I realise that it is boredom. Somehow I'm not getting all God wants to give me. When I ask Him about it, sometimes He tells me what should be happening, and sometimes He doesn't. When He doesn't, I get frustrated and eventually grab my Bible angrily and start reading. Sure enough, the answers to my problem start to pop out one by one. I have found that reading the Bible and having fellowship are almost impossible to get along without, if you still want to have that peace that comes with knowing God. But then God really does love us, and He's not gonna let ol' Satan get us if at all possible.

Well, I guess I better go. I really think it's wonderful that things are going well in your part of the world. The only thing I would request prayer for would be the U.S. in general. I really feel sorry for our leaders who are getting all the blame laid on them. It really isn't their fault; Satan must have his day.

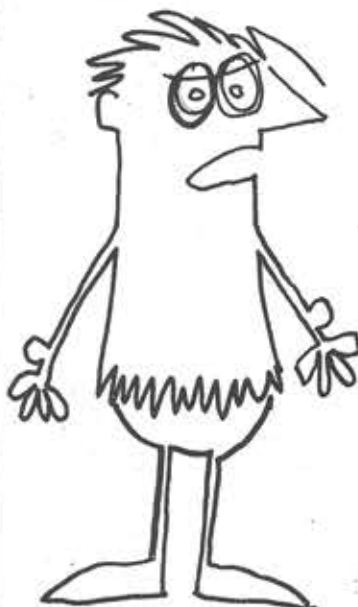
Well, whatever, I ask God to bless you, sister, and keep you trucking for the Lord.

If you want to exchange some letters that would be cool.

Your sister,  
Mary.

Love in our Lord,

Edit. This letter was sent from the U.S. to one of our Jesus People and we felt it had some real warnings to the movement in Australia. I feel a great deep feeling of love and togetherness with the worldwide family. Let's pray for our brothers and sisters in dying America. And if you are hassled by Children of God (who we recognize genuinely love the Lord but are into their own thing here in Australia too — do contact us at the House).



OH, STOP TALKING  
ABOUT CHRIST....



I ONLY LIKE  
THE NICE THINGS  
ABOUT CHRISTIANITY



LIKE SANTA CLAUS  
AND THE  
EASTER BUNNY!



Dear Editor,

I'm writing just to tell you a little about our Christian group at School, Merton Hall, as we're hoping that you were invited after our requests. Until the end of last year there was no Christian group at all. As a matter of fact I wasn't a Christian then.

A friend of mine invited me to a camp and I had gone along very critical of God etc. It made me think that maybe there was such a thing as God. Surely there was something that made all these different people get along together and the great love there was something I had never seen or experienced before.

When we came back from camp there was a great lot of organising to get a prayer meeting started. Finally with one sixth year and four fifth's we began having meetings in a small boarders chapel.

It was not long until school finished and two of the group were leaving school. It did seem quite dim for next year. Towards the end of the holidays I invited Janet to come down to Lakes Entrance with my family and another family who were down there that we had met the year before. They are a great Christian family. Anyway we had plenty of time to speak to the Granswicks, especially Anne who had been head girl at her school a few years earlier. She had told us how she had given the whole year to the Lord and tremendous things have happened. She had also told us about her older sister who had been in a motor bike accident and hurt her leg very badly. I suppose this has helped me a little as my brother was just hurt in a shooting accident and has almost the same sort of injuries only not as bad and it makes me realise how lucky he was and also that Jill having the Lord is happier than my brother who is without the Lord.

Getting back to the story... I decided that this year would be devoted to the Lord (I think Janet did too). When we got back to school things started to happen. We met two new girls who were Christians, one who needed fellowship. Also found two or three girls who were interested to join us. They were all sixth form and last Monday were all busy or away and we only had the two of us at the prayer meeting at lunchtime. Then after lunch we found two fifth form girls who were interested to meet Monday. We hope and pray that there will be nine or ten at our meeting.

Our biggest problem is letting those who are sincere and want fellowship know that we have the prayer meeting and prevent people coming along just for a stir and ruining it for others.

Unfortunately there is little communication between the senior school and the middle school and even between the sixths and the fourth and fifth forms. When we have assemblies with the fourth and fifth's we have no chance to participate in the service and only occasionally are they modernised and interesting.

We are hoping that we can talk to the sixths in our special chapel service and maybe a few will think. That won't be until after Easter at the soonest.

Yours in Christ,

Anne Forrester.

**Edit.** Stick with it Ann. We believe the hate revolution is shifting from Uni to high school and the Jesus Revolution is a 'must' there too. 1973 will be a grouse year for matric Jesus Freaks.

33 McIntosh Ave.,  
Pinnaroo, 5304

Dear Brother in Christ,

It's been really great at school, not half as bad as I expected. The kids accepted the fact that Jesus was my wonderful saviour, but they still kept their distance. They couldn't believe it when I told them I'd screwed the cigarettes up and thrown them in the rubbish tin. They were constantly asking me if I wanted one, but I could say no without any regrets. My only Christian girlfriend was almost crying with happiness when I told her.

You told me to remind you that neither Debra nor myself had a modern version of the Bible. Also, Grey Pearce (our Christian English teacher) will be able to get a cassette recorder from one of his friends, so we can play cassettes.

Thanks for helping me on Sunday,  
Yours in Christ,  
Rosalie Wilson

P.S. My only girlfriend wants to add something over the page.

Dear John and Jesus Squad,

How are you all I want to find out more about the dear Lord Jesus. He has come into my heart and I intend to find him somewhere in my heart. John, how do you say sorry to God if you hate someone. I have been a very selfish girl it is because no-one really likes me. Since left Kaniva I really found out something new about the Lord Jesus. I love you all, God bless you.

Love,

Mary.

## ARE YOU THERE SOPHIE?

Dear brothers and sisters all over Australia.

I plead for the printers of this magazine to publish this letter. People and Christians I have something which I have to share with you all and perhaps most of the elder Christians will know the answer, for I'm not so sure yet. It is a long story — please understand it's hurting me a great deal to write it.

It doesn't go back too far; 1971. I was once a rough, tough girl, who learnt to smoke in grade 3, swore like anything and in grade 6 I was top bully of the school. I went to high school, and again continued my routine. It had grown stronger for I was exaggerated in smoking. I made friends galore and was a real boy chaser. I wore really thick makeup for a form 1'er and swore ever so much.

Then I came across with a girl. She was my closest friend, her name I must mention, Sophie Duyovski. Sophie and I were really great friends and then later on in the year I accepted Jesus Christ. Believe me it wasn't easy. It was a University student (Bev Hicks), the leader of our I.S.C.F. meeting at school (Paul Hayes), a sister real heavy in Christ of the Teos Sun (committee) (Marg Hopkins) and finally the sister which I owe everything to (Kerren Thomason), that helped me.

I attended every I.S.C.F. meeting there and made many kids come. Then after a few months Sophie came. She gave it an OK and said she'd come every week. Sophie kept on coming to the meetings without really accepting Christ until one day Paul Hayes had a tremendous lecture which left three or four kids crying. One of the kids was Alla Poliakow another ex-friend. That day Sophie, Alla and a faithful brother in Christ Shaun accepted Him. Their lives with Christ had been going really great for many, many months. It had been about three or four weeks till I would have to leave school to go to South America. One day, Sophie and I had an argument which was later fixed but she went along with another girl.

When I left, I cried like anything but I felt Sophie somehow wanted to get rid of me. I gave her my new bible and I do think she doesn't have it any more. I wanted her to be one, a leader, because she is a very popular girl. It hurts me to see this change in her, Lord knows it does! I had really believed she had turned into a devoted Christian.

Brothers and sisters, there's more to say, but as I write this letter I feel all funny and shrivelled up inside, I'm crying with tears of love running down my face. I'm so very upset, having lost just a very good friend! I always thought she was true. What really tears me apart is that she has completely closed and locked the door on Him and thrown the key away. As Christ said, "The sorrow is so great in my heart that it almost crushes me", and that's how I feel. When I saw the change in Sophie's action I felt the acute pain in my heart and that night God knows how troubled and upset I was. She's not the same Sophie, I once used to know, 4 months ago.

My throat is hurting, trying to swallow what I doubt will ever come true. My last and only words are directed to my ex-friend "Sophie — if by any chance you read this fact, don't turn away. Think about it twice, consider what I'm trying to express, and maybe someday, someplace, sometime, along the way of your life, I'll willingly help you to find the key which you tossed out. When we find it, I know you'll open the door to true life. Although Sophie, you hate me, I know you have never known the real meaning of "LOVE".

Please brothers and sisters everywhere, it's the only thing I ask of you all, to pray your hearts out for our sister. Thank you for letting me share my lament on your super paper.

Christian friends unite in the Love of God.

Lots of peace, love and happiness from your faithful sister in Christ knowing that He cares.

Smile God loves you,

Sister Rosa Izzo.

"Flee from your youthful lust"

**Edit:** Dear Rosa, The really sensitive people in our world rarely laugh. Without Jesus and eternal purpose much of life with it's broken dreams and shattered relationships is a bad trip. Jesus' greatest miracle is the one of making hearts full of love in this plastic world.

A great writer once wrote "Love's strength lies in love's sacrifice. And he who suffers most has most to give."

Jesus said "Come unto me all ye... that... are heavy laden".

We will pray for you and your friend.

KINGSWOOD. S.A. 5062.

Dear Sirs,

I received my copy of "Truth & Liberation" from the Nurses Christian Fellowship (Melbourne) and would like to become a Subscriber, because your paper says a thousand things that I can share with others.

Yours Sincerely,  
(Miss) N. Robbins.

## THERE ARE NO SENILE JESUS PEOPLE

Dear John,

Enclosed please find... being for Truth & Liberation plus a little extra for the "tank". Although belonging to the "near-senile" age group that wishes you would provide with every issue of T & L — a translation of the popular "IN" phrases, I support your work wholeheartedly and hope to "pop-in" and see you at the Jesus Light & Power House soon.

I have heard, first hand, from a teen-ager who saw and heard you in action at Belgrave Heights, how effective your ministry is to youth, so keep up the good work and remember I may be a square but I'm a square with a cross at my centre.

Your brother in Christ,  
Eric Durrant.

**Edit:**

Praise the Lord for every older brother in Christ. You appear far from senile. "The pathway of the just is as a shining light which shines more and more unto the perfect day", says the Scripture.

Sorry about the "in" phrases I BELIEVE THE OLD AND THE NEW Jesus People ought to swap phrase dictionaries. Both seem to have difficulty with one-another's jargon.

Thank God Jesus love speaks all languages.

Psalm 118:24

Dear Robin,

We are American Immigrants (been here one year). I work 2nd shift at International Harvester Proving Ground. Consequently we can't get to any mid-week meetings, so we've started Jesus Meetings in our home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. It's a small group that fluctuates from 2 (the wife and I) to about 10. It's strictly non-denominational with chorus singing, bible reading, prayer, sharing and whatever the spirit leads. Any age group from teens up. We can't help the paper financially now but our prayers are going up.

May God Bless You,

Sonny and Sherri Hassenzuhl,  
47 Willis Street (Princess Highway)  
WINCHELSEA VIC. 3240  
Phone Winchelsea 81

(1st house on Geelong side of town. On Princess Highway)

**Edit:** In respect to our needs from the family — Prayer is our greatest need, love from Jesus People is second — bread is a strong third.

Dear John and other friends in Christ,

It just so happened that a copy of "Truth and Liberation" fell into my hands, and I am very pleased it did.

Now I want to make sure that all future copies come my way, so would you please put my name on your mailing list.

Thanking the Lord Jesus for what He is doing through you by His Holy Spirit,  
Your friend in Christ,

Tony Conway.

P.O. Box 711,  
LEETON. 2705.  
Ph. 53-2322 (24 hrs a day!)

Dear Robert,

Praise God, I have just read your ad in "Truth & Lib." which requested information on where to find Jesus People. Well there is a small group of us right here in Leeton, see diagram enclosed. The Holy Spirit has been moving very definitely amongst the young people from the various churches here. Future plans are being made for a Witnessing point in the main street on Saturday mornings, so that we can reach some of the kids who just stand around all morning watching the shoppers. Jesus really loves those kids and we want to tell them about Him.

What has really struck me recently is how we as a group are growing closer and closer together and as this has happened our love for the kids on the street has grown a hundred-fold.

Anyway, I trust the information preceding is of use to you and I pray that God will richly bless your ministry.

Your brother in Jesus,  
Geoff Baxter.

**Edit.** You're right Geoff. When Jesus People show His kind of love for one another, then love for the world at large really happens.

Dear John,

Thanks for all you did for Rosalie and Debra on Sunday. The change in them is really terrific, but then Christ can do anything.

I was really thrilled when I heard what had happened. At first I could hardly believe it. Anyway, thanks for everything.

Yours in Christ,  
Jerry Pitman.



# The Parable of the Parsley and the Acapulco Gold



What could you use to compare life here on earth to the Kingdom of Heaven?

Well, have you ever smoked dope?  
Yeah?

Have you ever gotten ahold of some bad weed? I mean stuff that's been cut with parsley, or maybe it's so full of stems that your eyes water if you get any smoke in them, and you burn your throat and cough with every hit.

I'm sure you know where I'm coming from. Let's say you just put out fifteen bucks for a lid. You head for the nearest park, sit down and roll yourself a number. Lighting it up, you cough right on the first hit. Man, it's harsh. Just burns your throat.

What's more, two joints later, you still ain't very high, and you're getting pretty bummed out.

What a burn! Fifteen bucks, too!

Right about now, I come up to you with a sack of Gold. I mean Acapulco Gold and it's stuffed into one of those great big green garbage bags.

You can tell right off that I'm pretty blown away. I'm singing, "Think about a reeler five feet long, a little hot, but not too strong..." with a big grin on my face and that sack thrown over my shoulder and bouncing on my back.

And I ask, "Hey, man, are ya high?"

"Naw, I just got ripped off."

"Well, I got this whole sack of Gold, man."

It's all flowers and tops, just oozing with hash." (You can even smell it from where you're standing.)

"Tell you what," I continue, "If you'll throw that raunchy lid away, you can have this whole sack of Gold. It's bought and paid for, and you can have it free. But you can't have it and that lid both. You gotta choose one or the other."

What would you do?

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Well, Jesus is offering you the same kind of deal. He's walking right up to you with a big grin and His eyes crinkling at the corners. And He's saying, "Hey, man, is your life just one big rip-off? Do you get burned every time you try to love someone? Can't get off on it?"

"Tell you what, I'll give you the power to genuinely love people, because I've got a real world that's gonna be run on love and joy. It's gonna be a real life, for eternity. No bummers. No rip-offs. Just a life of love in a world where everyone else is digging it, too."

"It's all been bought and paid for. But, if you want to have my life, you'll have to give up your life. You can't have both. But then if you're in the place I think you are, you wouldn't really be giving anything up; it'd be more like getting a load off your back. What do you say?"

Man, you gotta be crazy to keep smoking parsley when you can have Acapulco Gold.

## are you following the REAL Jesus

If you have been thinking of taking a religious trip with Jesus because of the high promised by the Jesus Movement, forget it. It costs little initially but the ultimate price is eternally costly.

What is cheap Christianity? It comes in a number of forms but most often it is offered by people who forget to mention the cost of being a true follower of Christ. The subject of sin is not thoroughly dealt with and discipline in discipleship is hardly mentioned. You cannot afford this type of "conversion". Require a Biblical presentation of Christ before you make a commitment to a new type of Brother who promises "peace."

Today's sellers of Christ do you no favor when they offer buttons, posters, marches and rock concerts without any mention of Christ's demands of a life. They are dealing with Almighty God Himself and yet they are content to pitch Jesus as the grooviest of fads to come along.

You can enjoy the fun for awhile but don't count on it as an eternal safety precaution. An emotional high will be satisfying only as long as you or a brother can sustain it. When the fad wears off and the t-shirts wear out, then where are you?

Proponents of pop Christianity with its watches and t-shirts are not flattering God when they hawk Jesus as just a panacea for a bad trip. They are not taking God seriously and dealing with sin, the reason Jesus Christ came to earth in the first place. God nowhere in Scripture asks for clever campaigns to get everyone on the block to give the One Way sign. In the Old Testament He says, "I am the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." Serving is a heavy duty and it falls in line with the word discipleship. In Matt. 28:19 Jesus said, "Go and make disciples..." Those disciples are the disciplined followers He's looking for today, not the faddists who see a good thing and jump on.

A commitment to Jesus Christ involves not only having Him to rap with about problems, but first sensing a deep-set sin problem that you can do nothing about. Confess those sins to God the Forgiving Father through Jesus our Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

When "movement" leaders gloss over the fact that sin must be confessed and forgiven, they mislead you and ignore the Scriptures. If they suggest that there is little else to following Jesus than receiving forgiveness, they do you grave injustice. After confessing sins, and forgiveness is given by the Father, the heaviest part is yet to come. "If anyone wishes to be a follower of mine, he must leave self behind; day after day he must take up his cross and come with me" (Luke 9:23). That requirement of picking up a cross refers to anyone who would follow. Discipleship is no easy trip. It is a life or death venture with willing obedience to Christ as a requisite. The lukewarm "believer", or fad follower, or poster worshipper, will get the same judgment given the Laodiceans in Rev. 3:16: "... because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."

The true follower of Jesus also knows that Brother Jesus is not the only message to bring to the waiting world. He is our access to the Father (Eph. 3:12). The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is receiving almost as much publicity as Jesus these days, but the Father, God the Creator, the Judge, is left without mention. Is this because God is too heavy to deal with in our culture? Is Jesus Christ Superstar more easily made palatable to the public?

The genuine believer in the genuine Christ will soon find that real tests of faith will come. God allows these trials to come into a life to bring strength. If Jesus' teachers do not preach about the chastening

love of God, if they only bring words from Brother Jesus who is all loving kindness with no words of rebuke, they tread on dangerous ground. Hebrews 12:6 says, "For the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, he lays the rod on every son whom he acknowledges." Fad Christianity does not preach chastening because it takes the golden "glow" off the beautiful picture of peace. Its teachers forget that it is the truly wise and loving father who disciplines his child.

If you are an observer of these things, or you personally aspire to be one of His, do not let it be said of you, "they have bartered away the true God for a false one" (Rom. 1:25) because you worship the creation rather than the creator. The "things" themselves may not be bad. The posters of a handsome Jesus on a dorm wall, the bumper stickers saying "Honk if you love Jesus," the extended index finger pointing to heaven may be "in" but they are no guarantee of heaven and a "well-done thou good and faithful servant" when this day of fads is over. Wearing a Jesus watch with the arms of a ghost pointing to the time seems to be \$14.95 worth of materialism if the life of the wearer does not point to Jesus. And if the life does, who needs the watch? Paul's letter to the Ephesians enjoins them to be "no longer children" (Eph. 4:14). They were to be made new in mind and spirit (Eph. 4:24). If this is to be true of the new believers finding their way into the free press, the secular magazines and the TV specials, let them make certain they are following Jesus of Nazareth, God Incarnate, and not Jesus Christ Superstar who has no life-giving resurrection power.

Being part of a "movement" will never take the place of true fellowship with God the Son, through His Spirit. A "movement" can never satisfy its members' spiritual hunger if they are there because it's "in" to be "into Jesus, our soul brother, the anti-establishment hero." Leaders fail and personalities become sickening or stale without the life-giving Spirit of Jesus. Don't be fooled by a very pleasant Jesus who demands little of his followers. Follow Him to death, to the cross and beyond, or don't bother.

A cheap Christ is no God, and no one less than God Himself is worth following.



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