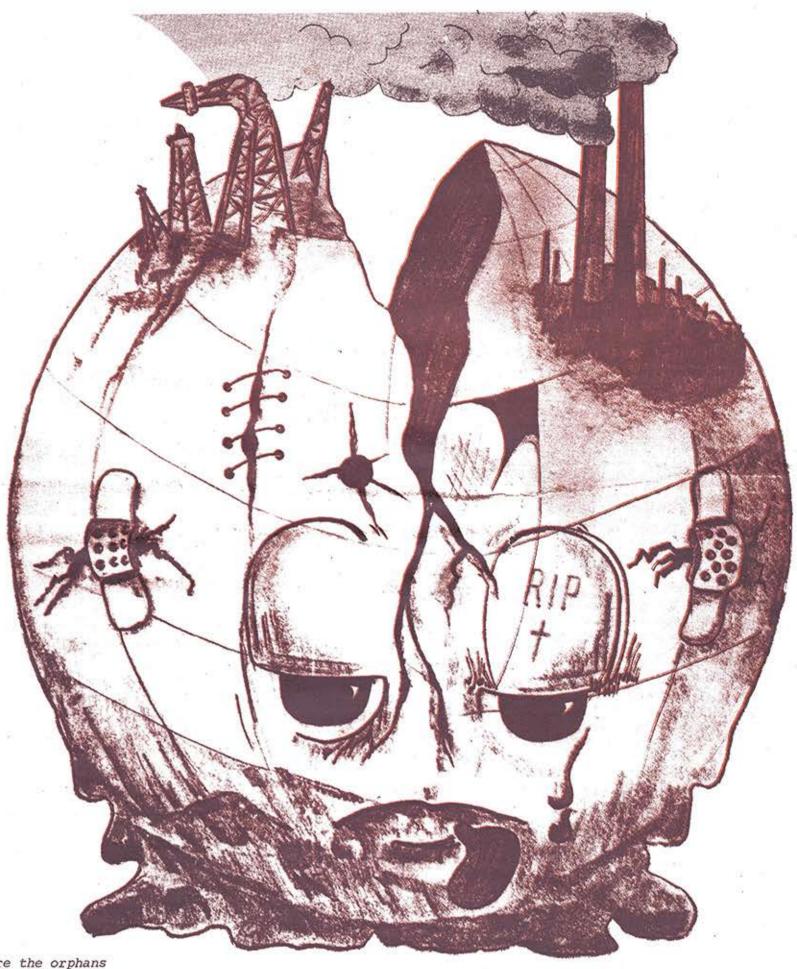
TRUTH AND LIBERATION

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



"You are the orphans In an age of no tomorrows." (Joan Baez)

> "Nature has let us down, God seems to have left the receiver off the hook, And time is running out" (Arthur Koestler)

"Today, Even the survival of humanity Is a utopian hope." (Norman O. Brown)

"...the whole creation groaneth and trevaileth in pain together until now."
"...shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption,
into the glorious liberty of the children of God."
(Paul Romans 8, v. 22,21)

should address themselves urgently and concisely to issues of public importance.

My understanding is that the invasion of the world by Jesus, so long ago, was a statement by God that humanity is of infinite value to Him. Since this community seeks to follow in the steps of Christ, we sense an urgent need to protest against dehumanization and disregard for man, the highest

of all God's creation.

It seems ironic, that at the time we remember His coming to this earth in the form of a compassionate servant, living not in splendour but as a peasant, the Western world should celebrate it by want and waste and indifference to their fellow man. The city fathers of the city of Melbourne saw fit this year, to erect a \$10,000 Christmas tree in the City Square — and this in the face of well publicized

world-wide famine, poverty and resource crisis.
Would to God that the same city fathers would the many shattered and needy people in the same

But of course, their humble celebration of Jesus' birth will be epitomized by incredible waste, drunkenness, meaningless parties, and rationalization of resultant dehumanizing debauchery. Never, in the history of man, has celebration of worth been more prostituted, more manipulated, more blatantly distorted. To you who live for yourselves and seek to add Jesus in some the coming of the suffering servant.

immoral and monstrous way to the perpetuation of John Smith, on behalf of the Truth and immoral and monstrous way to the perpetuation of your consumer society anti-ethics, we can only wish Liberation Concern.

Because this is a special holiday edition, I shall you hopefully a miserable Christmas. If only the not be pursuing in this editorial the follow-on bitterness of your champagne could awaken you to promised in the previous editorial. Editorials, I the bitterness of the under-privileged world. If only understand, are meant to be controversial pithy the humble nature of the real facts of Jesus coming statements in line with the policy of the paper. They could dawn upon you, you would see the folley of your scramble from a materialism and status.

The shameful thing that Christmas has become, has led us to such a point of moral protest, that we have refrained this year from making any other comment about the so-called festive season. We are fast becoming Christians who feel like disassociating from the Christmas of the Western world, because of the simple fact that we do associate with the Christ. = It is our firm conviction that Christ would not only decline an invitation to His own party, but would probably perform at the business Christmas party in a similar fashion to the way He acted in the cleansing - turning over the cash registers and dispersing the clever manipulative sales man.

But to those of you who love the humble saviour, hear the word of the last chapter of the Old Testament in prophecy and from one of the first chapters of the New Testament:

But unto you who fear my Name shall the Son of throw one measely dollar towards our ministry to righteousness arise with healing in His wings'. Mal.

> Through the tender mercies of our God, whereby the Days spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78, 79

> Indeed, to you who really love Jesus, have a sober, thoughtful, compassionate, rememberance of

Dear Laureen, Thanks for your letter. It's been bugging me for some time to sit down and write to you but I've ignored my conscience.

It seems very true that it is in the little things we disappoint Christ; such as in writing letters, neglecting to say hello to someone we see; basic consideration around the home — especially in how we speak to our parents, brothers and sisters.

Laureen, it is probably in this area more than in any other, I have found it most difficult. It's hard to control emotions and pray for Christ to take away resentment or anger. At times, even before I realize or can stop myself, an argument begins. Often the fault is hers (my sister's), but unfortunately, just as often, it is my fault.

However, there are times when an argument seems to be looming or has begun that God has me realize what I must do, so I pray for self control and ask that He will change my ill feelings to love.

God continually forces me to realize that although I may try in my own strength to love her, there will eventually be an argument. Only God can change my internal feelings.

God shows from time to time, that I must not try to take the speck out of my brother's eye before I have taken the plank out of my own. It's difficult to be honest and admit that you are at fault. The truth really hurts!

But, Laureen, Christ has really come into my life. Although He is always with me He seems even closer at times and joy fills my heart and I pray He'll

always stay and never leave!

He's changed my life. He's stopped me P.S. I know I've a long, long way to go but I'm on the - I couldn't eat, I'd take loads of dispirin to calm my nerves and prevent headaches; take sleeping tablets. I could never sleep when exams came — I'd toss and turn all night and cry most of the night. I'd have to lie down before an exam and drink brandy to settle my stomach.

But during these exams, I've never slept so well. I haven't had to take tablets or brandy. I've never felt so confident and capable. I went in calmly — Me! Calm! It's tremendous. I'd talk to people before exams - something I could never do before.

Also, as signs of having stopped worrying, I've stopped biting my nails. I'd bitten my nails for years — way down to the half moons. But I prayed that God would help me and He has! I didn't have to try! I haven't bitten them in two months or more.

Also, I've stopped chewing gum. I used to chew as a release of tension, anxiety, nervousness. I'd sometimes chew very hard and sometimes into the inside of my cheek - drawing blood.

Lately, God has helped me to stop over-eating caused by tension. It's a wonder I never put on weight — I guess I worried too much. Also, I don't run everywhere in a mad rush.

At the moment, I'm trying to put myself in God's hands to get me through each day - one at a time. To be concerned only with the present, He is with me right now. That is all I need. He has never once let me down.

Thanks for the book on Guidance. I'm taking it to the Bible Study group meeting which we have on Wednesdays. Thank you, Laureen, for helping me at = Mt. Evelyn.

Love, Mary.

road.

ED. This is a letter written to one of the workers at the Jesus Light & Power House by a sister who has truly been liberated by Jesus Christ. (Luke 4:18).

editor in chief John smith. photography

editor graphics blite head.

The Letter The Street Christians

Dear children, you who belong to God have already won the struggle over these ideas because the one who is in your life is stronger than the world system and its teachers. They come directly from the world system and belong to it. They teach according to its standards and of course the people tied into that system listen to them and follow what they say. On the other hand, we are God's children and teachers of what He has to say. People who have met Jesus and are beginning to understand Him, listen to us. Those who don't know Jesus reject what we say. The reason is that God's children know His voice

Brothers and sisters, let's love one another, 'cause love

and they get bad vibes from anything else.

is from God, and everyone who truly loves is a child of God and is getting to know God better. Anyone who cops out on his brother doesn't know God because God is love. It's important for us to show love to each other because God showed His love by sending His Son Jesus to die so that we could live through His death. Dig it! This is real love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to die the death we had coming to us. Brothers and sisters, if God loves us that much, it's really copping out not to love each other. And besides, nobody has ever seen God in person so the only way people have of knowing or seeing Him is this: His love for people showing and growing in us. As for us, God has given us His Spirit to teach us of our vital, abiding relationship with Him. Just like branches have a living link with the tree, we who know Jesus and tell other people that He is God's Son, sent to be the Liberator of all people, have a living link with God. And we know how much He loves us because we feel His love and we believe Him when He tells us that He loves us dearly. It's really true that God is love and those who have real love have the vital link with God. Through this living relationship, His perfect love grows in us so that there's no hassle when Jesus comes back for us because we're living His perfect love in the world now. You see, there's no fear in love because perfect love, God's love, tosses fear out. When you're afraid, you're expecting a bust and that's the way it is for people who haven't accepted all of God's perfect love. The only reason we love at all is that He planted His love in us when we accepted the living link with Him. So if anyone says, "I love God," and still hates his brother

Everyone who receives Jesus the Messiah is a child of God and a member of His forever family; if we love Him, we love the rest of His children. Looking at it the other way around, we know that we love our brothers and sisters when we see ourselves loving God and doing what He wants. You see, really loving God is doing what He wants and that's not hard at all because when we become children of God, we've broken with the world system by our trust in Jesus. Our trust in Jesus as the Son of God not only breaks us from the world system but frees us from its influence. He did this by being born in a human body, remaining God's Son, and dying for us in that human body; not just by being born but being born and dying in our place. And the Father laid on us His Holy Spirit to make this truth clear to every child in his forever family, and His Spirit always tells the truth. So there are three witnesses to the coming of the Son of God; 1). The Holy Spirit in the lives of His children; 2) Jesus' birth; 3) The killing of Jesus for us. If we dig what people set down for us, we should be more willing to accept what God says, and this is what He has said about His Son. Those of us who have received Jesus have the Spirit telling us about the Son of God. People who don't receive Him are really calling God a liar beause they are shining on the evidence God has given them about His Son. The evidence is that God has given people eternal life and this life is found in His Son. When we receive Jesus, we are given this life,

or sister, he is a liar! If you can't love people you can

see and touch, how can you love God when you can't

even see Him? God tells us that we should not only love

Him but our brothers and sisters, too.

but people who haven't received Him, don't have it. We've written these things to you who believe on Jesus the Messiah so that you'll keep on believing that you have eternal life. As you do keep on believing, you'll realize that you can trust Him so completely as to know that whenever you ask for anything that's part of His plan, He will listen to you.

Jesus Light & Power House, Conterbury road,

PULL YOUR HEAD OUT I

From the day we are born we are firmly programmed to a morbid acceptance of the almost universal failure of our acquaintances to live up to their promises, and the deliberate deception of the entire socio-economic system.

We blandly tolerate planned obsolescence in manufacturing, the dumping of unserviced products on an unsuspecting public and a turbid flow of dishonest sales propaganda assuring the confused over-stuffed public of unprecedented integrity and tender care for the customer.

Some eighteen months ago I took delivery of a Kawasaki 900 motorcycle, assured by the sales sharks that spare parts would be in good supply. But the oil filter, to be exchanged under guarantee within the first 1,000 miles, was never supplied. It took four months to locate one. Three months to obtain a set of points! No sign of a replacement of the fast wearing front sprocket according to Sydney Kawasaki City! Two screws to hold the head light assembly together? You've got to be kidding. And so the endless assembly line of deception, indifference, vain, insincere promises of non-arriving consignments goes on.

The inevitable result of consumer manipulation is in general, a dull acceptance of a world of illusion and unreality. A few political activists hit their heads against a wall of sinister or inept political op-portunism. Accusation and counter-accusation engulfs Government bureaucracy — with the smoke of diversion and false indignation through which the public can never see the real ethical issues. Most of us are well programmed to accept one of

several unreal positions. The world's really OK anyway. Mankind is come of age (optimistic humanism). One cannot but visualize this sector of humanity as a huge pathetic ostrich with its head buried in academic verbage.

 Scientific programming is on the verge of so engaging human society that Utopia will yet dawn in the test tube (scientific rationalism) surely a more

pretentious but no less beheaded ostrich.

3. "Any 'ow, 'av a Winfield" — the great
Australian inane "She'll be roit mate!" (a quaint Australian abberation of fatalism - without even the grace of philosophical rationalization). Not content to bury its head, the ostrich is totally buried.



4. Total withdrawal - we'll live in a world of our own — sometimes withdrawal physically — retreating from the needs of the rest of the blind inhabitants in town and city, to establish the selfish separation of the 'back to nature' and away from the

problem. (Counter-culture escapism).

5. Sometimes the drifting seeker grasps the flotsam of gnostic cults, little fat gurus, meditational therapies - quite blind to its 'no exit' basis as evidenced in the 'eastern' countries, where unreal understanding of the physical world has bred social indifference amidst starvation, privation and overpopulation. (At least the ostrich has a worshipful smile on its face and its beguiling meditational mantras make the unreality more palatable.)



6. The end is nigh! There is no hope! Man's evolutionary development has brought him to a moral waterloo (pessimistic humanism). It's the nearest to ground level the ostrich has risen — but he's only got one eye open!



No wonder the world finds Christ's challenge to be unreal. Against the measuring rod of our social conditioning reality could never be assessed.

Can I trust a Christ who:

combines a moral code of sheer truth with an

ethical spirit of undiscriminating compassion offers a total life style in detail with the spiritual rebirth to make it liveable;

• calls us to spiritual ecstasy and almost mystical devotion — yet challenges activist response to physical-social oppression?

· calls us to be realistic enough to recognise the sinister selfishness of our nature — yet bids us be transformed by the renewing of our minds (re: programming) in a super-natural life style expressing

as sacrificial serving love?

How unattainable, how incredible seem the vastpromises of a new society in Christ. Their value is not in dollars but in people, not in status, but in love, compassionate brotherliness and humanity.
Our contention is that the time has come to

view the world from a new vantage point. It is time to assess it through the eyes of Christ.

I dare not trust in man "Cursed be the man who trusteth in man who maketh the flesh his arm" Scripture says.

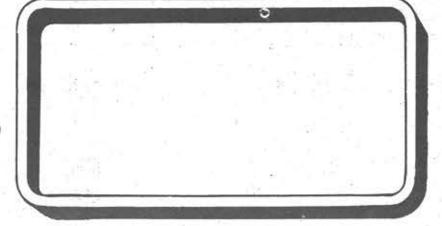
In Him I can trust. He began his ministry by a promise to care for a constituency of the imprisoned, the poor, the bondage, the alienated. Unlike the politician of our day, he never forsook that constituency. He promised he would win the victory in death and burial. He died and was buried.

He promised he would rise again. His disciples with worldly minds conditioned to unbelief couldn't believe it. He rose on the third day. He promised to provide power by the Spirit for vibrant LASTING powerful loving life styles. "When the day of Pentecost was fully come . . . they were all filled with the Holy Spirit . . . there was no poverty . . . you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

He is doing it yet! Mankind is unreal. I am no longer indifferent, escapist, determinist. Through Him I am reprogrammed.

Scattered around this big land of ours there are scores of Jesus people who will this summer be in the streets, on the beaches, putting on Rock concerts, operating coffee houses all telling the good news of Jesus in different ways. Drop by and look them up. They'll listen to your point of view.





This paper was handed to you by

ON THE QUESTION OF INTOGERANCE

One of the most frequent accusations aimed at Christians today is that of being bigoted and intolerant.

Admittedly history records many small-minded, ignorant, and unthinking people with claims to Christian background who have given atheists, agnostics, sceptics and antagonists alike full justification for such attacks.

Today, when religions are being invented at an ever increasing rate, Eastern philosophies are being modified to suit Western tastes, and liberal theologians are wallowing in the mud of compromise, the need for clearly defined spiritual truth is desperate.

As the flood of gurus, mahatmas, yogis and perfect masters continues to sweep across the West

the intensity of this need becomes greater.

And it is in this spiritual climate that Christianity stands alone in its blatant claim to be the only faith which embodies the full revelation of man's path back to God. In his book "Dust of Death", Os Guiness says: "If treated fairly on its own premises, Christianity excludes the full truth and final validity of other rengions."

Opposed to this exclusive attitude the Eastern religions appear to demonstrate an admirable measure of tolerance toward Christianity with comments like: "It does not matter by what method you attain unity with God. If Jesus is your way, good. If you're not satisfied try what we have to offer."

If you're not satisfied, try what we have to offer."

Most of the Eastern religions place Jesus Christ on their list of great teachers, perfect masters, or prophets. At the most they say he was one of the incarnations of God, and at the least they say he was a man who attained a greater degree of God consciousness than most.

As well as acknowledging Jesus Christ as a great figure of history most of these groups openly use quotes from the Bible in order to show the similarity between the teaching of Jesus Christ, Krishna, Buddha and contemporary gurus.

Against this Christianity stands out glaringly in

Against this Christianity stands out glaringly in the uncompromising proclamation that Jesus Christ is Lord, the unique Son of God, and the only way for man to be reconciled and united with God.

man to be reconciled and united with God.

It dismisses the use of Biblical quotes by the Eastern groups because almost invariably these quotes have been lifted out of context and used in a dishonest manner, denying or ignoring the overall teaching of the Bible.

Christianity is boldly uncompromising and intolerant. But it is an intolerance of principle, not an intolerance against the people with alternate views. The appearance of tolerance and intolerance, East versus Christianity, disappear when the person of integrity dismisses surface issues and appearances and begins to delve into the central teaching of the two camps.

When this is done it is seen that appearances truly can be deceiving, for, beneath the attractive packaging the honest searcher discovers that all

Discussing the subject of tolerance, Os Guiness chooses as an example the Hindu versus Christianity dilemma. (A majority of the Eastern cults spreading in the West have their roots firmly planted in Hindu

He says: "Even though on the surface it appears that Hinduism is more tolerant, both finally demand an ultimate choice. Many Indians admit this. Some speak of the subtlety of Hindu toleration as "the kiss of death". Radakrishnan has described it as "being strangled by the fraternal embrace." The initial tolerance disguises an encroaching framework of truth which finally overpowers all other presuppositions."

Again speaking of the ultimate intolerance of the East as against the initial and obvious intolerance of Christianity, he says this: "Christianity stands across a man's path like a soldier with a drawn sword saying, 'choose or refuse,' 'life or death,' 'yes or no'; the choice and consequences are extremely obvious".



"The subtlety of the Eastern religion is that it enters like an odorless poison gas, seeping under the door, through the keyhole, through the open window, so that the man in the room is overcome without his ever realising there was any danger at all."

Love often means hurting those who are near and dear, for love stands for honesty and the truth often hurts. It can be likened to the surgeons knife which, while initially inflicting a wound has its motivation in healing.

Christianity claims its foundation in a God who is love and in a Lord and Saviour who said "I am the Truth." Integrity is therefore demanded of the disciple of Jesus Christ. This integrity cannot be mated with compromise and this contributes to the accusation of intolerance.

What then are the differences between the Eastern religions and Christianity? Are the differences so great as to make the alternatives irreconcilable?

To discuss these differences in detail is impossible. It would take books, not just a few hundred words. Generalisation becomes necessary and this exposes the writer to many criticisms on specific points — a risk which must be taken.

(In the following comparison C - Christianity

and E - Eastern religion.)

C The nature of God. There is one eternal God, creator and Lord of the universe, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who governs all things according to the purpose of His will. He is a personal, intelligent God

who knows each individual as a unique work of His

E God is an impersonal force of which we are all a part. Instead of one we can call Father he becomes an 'it' — cosmic energy, life force, vibration of life, primordial force.

C Jesus Christ The unique Son of God, Saviour of the world, who died in the place of man. Through him and him alone can man be reconciled to God. Only he was perfect and therefore met the holy demand of God for a sacrifice which would redeem the world.

E He was one of many incarnations of God. He was a perfect master, a great teacher but not the unique Son of God. He was a man who attained a high standard of God-consciousness

high standard of God-consciousness.

C Salvation. Through faith in Jesus Christ and the sacrifice he paid on the cross we are saved. By the grace of God and not by works are we saved. Through Jesus we are freed from sin and born into a new life in communion with God.

Through Jesus we are freed from sin and born into a new life in communion with God.

E No such concept. Salvation is purely the realisation that we are divine, we are God. Through various methods (meditation, asceticism, reincarnation) we are finally released from the flesh and are united with (that is become) God. No such thing as sin, just Karma which will prolong our walk in attaining to the Godhead.

attaining to the Godhead.

C Nature of Man. Man was created "in the image of God". He is not God nor can he become God. Man, through Jesus Christ is given the right and ability to live in fellowship and communion with God as His children. Man was created body, soul and spirit with the spirit as the guiding and controlling factor. Through disobedience to God's perfect will man has allowed the body (senses) and soul (emotions, will and intellect) to over-ride the guidance of the spirit and therefore lives by the flesh.

E Man is divine. He is God. He has fallen into bondage to the world of scientific phenomena (maya) which is really illusion, ignorance and shadow, a world where individuality and diversity are thought to be real but are not

are thought to be real but are not.

C Death. "It is given for man to die but once and then the judgement." Heb. 9:27. Unless a man accepts Jesus Christ as Lord (and no other) when confronted with His message he faces judgement and punishment when Jesus Christ returns. There are no second chances.

E No such thing as death in the sense we understand it; we are reincarnated over and over again until we attain perfection. This perfection has its final consummation in our becoming absorbed into the Godhead. There is no divine punishment, only prolonged number of reincarnations if we continue to ignore the spiritual laws of the universe.

C Morality. There are moral absolutes. While there are questions today which are not dealt with specifically in the Bible (e.g. abortion, contraception) the Bible still provides clear guide lines and principles in making decisions "of right and wrong"

God is not beyond good and evil, nor does he contain both. "The immutability of His holy character is itself the Absolute and the final court of morality. When God says He is good, this is resolutely and implaccably opposed to being non-good; the call for distinct moral categories and dynamic social commitment is an imperative for all who know Him in this flaming reality." (Guiness.)

who know Him in this flaming reality." (Guiness.)

E Good and evil are only distinct because of maya (illusion). There are no moral absolutes; moral values are only relatively true or sociologically useful. God and Satan are the best of friends for within the framework of Monism, God contains both good and evil and is beyond good and evil.

So the list could be contained. Each of those categories and summaries listed are generalisations but they are enough to show a radical difference between Christianity and the Eastern path.

With such glaring differences staring him in the eye the religious voyeur must conclude that Christianity stands alone in its claims and foundation. Its basic premises demand a choice. Treated honestly and with integrity it leaves no room for compromise or syncretism.

cont. page 8



You are a unique and important individual. No other person is exactly like you. You have a special place to fill in this world. But you'll only fulfil this role when you become really yourself . . . when you are a fulfilled person.

Most of us recognise a fulfilled person when we meet him. That's why all men of all nations in all ages have honored Christ — even if they don't follow him. They see in him the kind of person they would like to become: a man at peace with himself and God, and filled with real love.

Thousands of people walked miles to see him and hear him speak. Children flocked to him. The rejects of society - drunks, whores, thieves - came to him without feeling any condemnation. They knew that he knew the secret of a fulfilled life.

What was his secret? We try to be like him — to be "Christ-like." But we don't make it — we don't achieve the fulfilment in our lives that we're aiming for. We're always looking for something that will fulfil us - some religion, some drug, some book, some love affair, some group, some new kind of therapy - what trips have you been through? Where did they leave you?

Christ wants us to be like him. He came so that we could see what a fulfilled person is like - and be one. He said "I have come so you might have life and life to its fullest." He showed us how to "be filled with a joy so glorious that it can't be described." He came so we could see the love of God for us - and be filled with all the fullness of God." The Bible says that "in his body lives the fullness of God, and when you are relating to him you too find your own

How can we become fulfilled people? By letting the Spirit of Christ live in and through us, Jesus promised that he would not leave us alone in this world — he would send his Spirit to live in our spirits. One of his followers, Paul, wrote: "It is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me.'

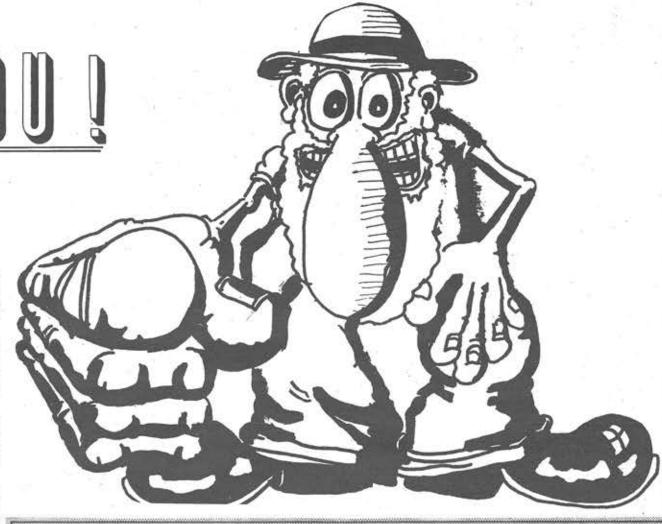
What do we do? First, we have to ask Christ to come and live in our innermost being. Then, we have to give up directing our own lives and let Christ live his life through us. When we do this we become like "mirrors that reflect the brightness of the Lord, and the glorious power of his Spirit living in us transforms us and makes us more like Him.

When Christ is living in us and through us he is able to do far more than we could ever dare to ask or even dream of — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. "No mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who loved

Why not begin a new life now? Beginning a new life is as simple as giving up control over your life and handing it over to Christ. It's as simple as saying "Jesus, come into my life and live through me."

Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Listen and come to me. Hear, that your soul may live." Adapted from C.W.L.F. Berkeley.

If in a hassle of any kind which requires genuine friendshipRING 729 6555(And..... keep ringing until you get help!) Or better still ... come personally to the Jesus Light & Power House 265 Canterbury Road NORTH BAYSWATER, VIC. 3153 Incidentally, we're not the only ones...





Although I came from a religious background my commitment to Christ was only a Sunday effort and full of hypocrisy. I received a good education that eventually led me to university where I began a career in physical education. My phys.ed. future was cut short by a severe motor-cycle accident in 1970. At this stage of my life motor-cycles were the passion. However, the phys.ed. and church going were only part of the game I played in retaining a respectable image in some places while fulfilling the bikie code in others.

Losing my phys.ed. career was compensated for by my deeper involvement in the bike scene. I soon became a member of the Huns Motor-cycle Club (an outlaw club) and all of my time outside working hours was filled with excessive drinking, dangerous riding, acting heavy, occasional fighting, hassling police, and getting on to chicks. I guess I did everything that the con artists claim lead to hap-

For a while I did enjoy myself but after living this style for four years I began to look at myself and see what I'd become. I never was a really bad guy. I just did many of these anti-social actions as a means of gaining acceptance and attention - I was on one great ego strip. In 1973 I began to see clearly where my life was heading. I had acquired quite a taste for beer; sometimes it cost me \$40 a week. I smoked heavily and probably the worst disease of all, I treated girls as objects - not people. If I wanted to really help people I found I was helpless. I was too selfish to give myself completely; I was very empty

lonely and bitter. The only time I felt happy was when I was drunk.

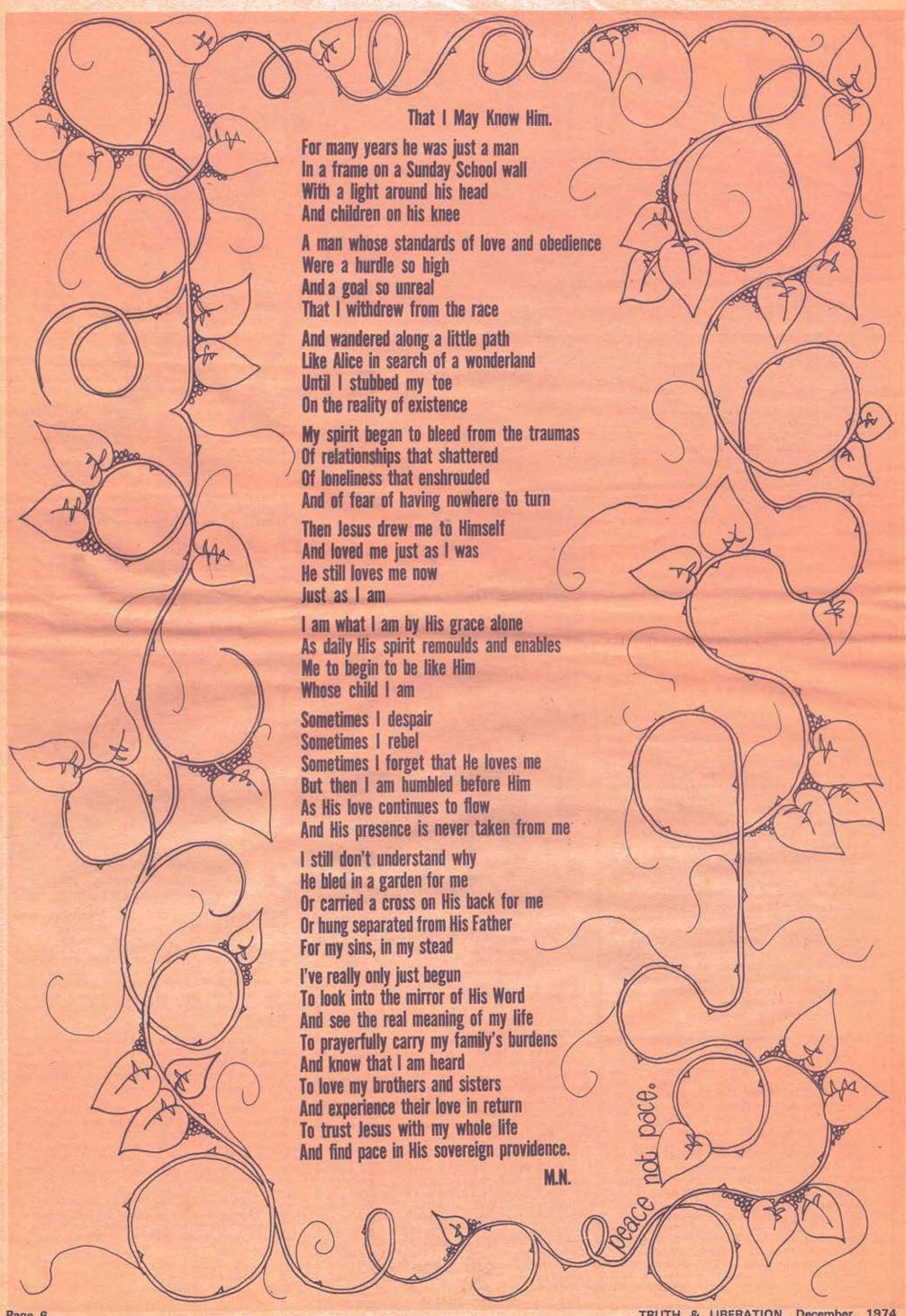
I met some God's Squad guys and Howard, a member of the Squad (and an ex-Hun) who was now a Christian. I laughed at these guys when they first began, but after a while I saw that these guys were real. They had peace and love, they cared, and they were prepared to talk about God and Jesus without

I always believed in God somewhere, but with these guys I was confronted by a living God. I was confronted by Jesus - I was under deep conviction. I came to a cross-road in my life - the choice was either for Him or against Him.

In June 1973, I chose for Him and God met me dramatically because for the first time in my life I was really prepared to do God's will no matter what the cost. God answered my sincerity. He took away my desire for drinking or cigarettes. He gave me a new mind when considering girls. He gave me a peace and love for everyone.

My life begain in June 1973. To follow Jesus and to be called one of His is, to me, the highest honor. To do His work is the highest calling. I'm no longer empty but filled with God's Spirit. My life now has real meaning.

I look forward to meeting Jesus. Peter "Quince" O'Neill.



Have You Seen Jesus My Lord

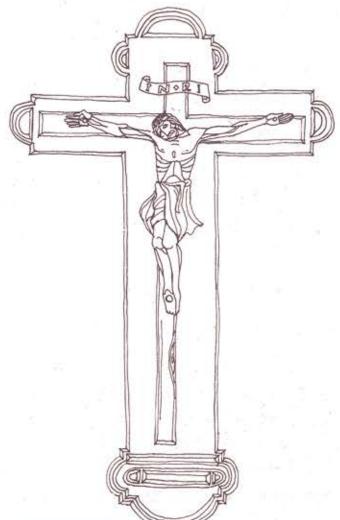
I guess a lot of people would ask on what basis we say "Jesus my Lord." That's right to ask, because you really need to know why. The leadership you follow is vital to your life.

When Jesus first began to talk publicly, He said, "Repent, for the kingdom of God has arrived." That was a startling statement and it hadn't been made by anyone else in the history of humanity. Still, there's a background for it, and Jesus' right to say it is what gives Him the title, "Lord." Looking at the statement He was making, you can clearly see what He claimed. A kingdom is, after all, a form of government and He was telling people to turn from their

ment and He was telling people to turn from their own government to God's. Though the claims of Jesus were unique, the concept of God's ruling His people had a long history. It is the outstanding message of the Old

Testament. Repeated over and over again is the theme, "God will rule." Right alongside from beginning to end is the prediction of the One who will come to initiate God's government. Jesus

proved to be that One. All through the time He spent with His followers He kept talking about the kingdom of God. Those famous parables of His gave more information and were intended to move people to action with respect to that kingdom. They describe the value of the kingdom, the importance of deciding to be in it, and what it's like. You should



Jesus once made a haunting statement that we have to pay attention to: "Unless you're born spiritually, you can't enter the kingdom of God." He went on to explain that what was required was believing in Him as the unique Son of God and putting our lives in His hands, trusting Him to lead us and care for us forever.

So when we talk about Jesus as "Lord," we mean "ruler" in a sense that no human being has ever been or ever could be. Human rulers have always tended to run things for their own benefit rather than the people's. And even their best intentions can be mistaken. Jesus as Lord can be trusted to take care of us perfectly and lead us on to forever-perfection.

But it's not just something far off in the future, but now as well. And we're not intended to be all alone, just "God and me." He wants us put together in groups, true communities, committed and submitted to Him and to each other. He promised to send His Spirit to guide and to teach and to lead

those who turned to Him. And He has.

That puts a challenge to you. You know what
He wants from you and what He offers. It's up to you
to accept Jesus as Lord, accept His Spirit, and join with a community of His followers. I sure hope you do, because His Kingdom should not be lightly rejected. Those who do are in for His judgment.

By the end of the holidays I will prove that there is no greater loneliness than the loneliness of being

unfulfilled in a crowd. My surf board is a good companion on the waves, but a poor lover of a man's soul or personality. My bike is a great highway companion but when the great loneliness hits the pit of my stomach it is a mute reminder that 'things' never fully satisfy people.

Sexual opportunity and freedom amidst quiet sand dunes is a temporary release. Alcohol and dope deaden the pain.

Crowds divert the heart, but still the question of

loneliness dogs my pathway.

I hear that a great German thinker-preacher described the loneliness of the prodigal son as homesickness. I've been away from home for a long time. So long I only have a lingering dream like memory of the home I was born for. I know, that nagging, aching loneliness which tugs disturbingly when the party is over. I have everything going for me—chicks, status, security, a bike—a surf-board—a guitar. Why the emptiness? Why the self-doubt? Why the gnawing uncertainty?

I guess that deep, in my heart there is a memory planted by the Spirit. Often it has no form. Sometimes it is like the dream I know I had last night but the details are like the instantly vanishing vapour of the kettle spout. But I have a memory. I've been told it is the memory of a day when the human family walked with Him in 'The Garden'. It was a day when God and man were friends.

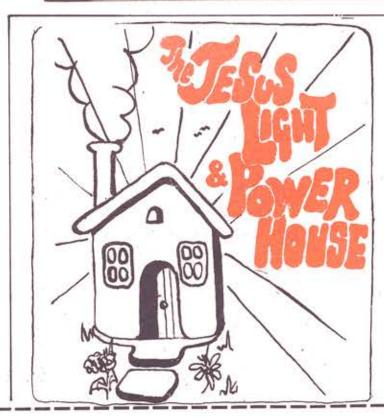
All of that is changed now. No other friendships have ever approached that one. There is no other home. Hopefully some day the prodigal will return, when my life-long vacation from truth and real love ends; when the realization that all substitutes for God are a pigsty; when the memory of the Father's love increases the desperate loneliness and I repent of our apart-ness and return to the One who loves me. He has not been inactive this artificial holiday season. To give meaning to my faded memory I am confronted by some living reminders. A friend who shared my holiday drift last season has just shared with me a change. I cannot dismiss it as religious crap. I see in her this year a quality of life - a quality of love. Her concern has no reason but love. My loneliness, she says, is the desolation of a man running from God - or maybe returning to Him. A God's Squad bikie, a Theos worker, a Jesus muso, a Jesus paper. It is getting to be more than a coincidence. Some One is surely pursuing me. He pursued me before, I am told. He invaded history. He divided history. He pursues me yet.

"Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy

laden and I will give you rest" - Jesus.

Homesickness is the call to repentance. Back to Jesus and Home!





OFFICE HOURS 10 AM - 5 PM. STAFF WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE BETWEEN II AM - 5PM ... except for emergencies. PLEASE NOTE: TUESDAY - staff day off.

265 Counterbury road Nth Bousworler. 3153. VIJORIA! phone 7296555.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

We blindly grasp and search for a way "What can the answer be?" we say And amid all the confusion I pray. A still small voice comes to me Let not your heart be troubled For I am the Way.

"What is truth?" I hear people cry
Why do people hate and cheat, living a lie?
There is no justice, why oh why?
A still small voice comes to me
Let not your heart be troubled
For I am the Truth.

What is the reason for this life?
Should we make merry and ignore the strife?
Or is there something else we should do?
A still small voice comes to me
Let not your heart be troubled
For I am the Life.

Yes He says "come to me I will not cast you out For I am the Way For I am the Truth For I am the Life."



This is the first song I wrote. My writing has not been prolific but I have completed 42 songs and a few poems.

Most have been centred around personal experiences, joys and sorrows, but always on the hope that I find in knowing Jesus as my friend and Saviour.

Song writing must be objective as well as descriptive however, and any would-be writers must keep this in mind. There will be some reading this who are far better writers than I and some that have just begun. It doesn't matter which group you belong to or whether you are simply a listener (listeners are important. Singing to walls may grab some people but not me), above all else a song must convey Truth, unless it is obviously a fantasy. Integrity is vital.

But enough of writing style. To anyone with even a

But enough of writing style. To anyone with even a small amount of biblical knowledge the content of this song is predictable from the beginning.

Amid all the hassles and seeming futility of life there is One we can listen to who WILL reveal to us the absolute truth, One who holds the future of the universe in His hands, and who has an eternal plan for

us all.

Yet in the main we ignore His message, searching the world for an answer and by-passing the One who has the answers to all our questions. I'm not starting an argument by saying that. I have found from my own experience that God of the Bible, personified in Jesus Christ, and who sent us His Spirit is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, and I see no hope for

mankind in any other religion or philosophy.

I was confused, could not find truth anywhere and was blindly grasping for a satisfying life-style UNTIL I met Jesus face to face and listened to His quiet, reassuring voice which said that in Him I would find the

Truth for which I had been looking.

That's it. Simple but the Truth. I hope to regularly submit a song and a few words. May the song in your heart be a song of praise.

Your brother in Christ, Bob Clarke.

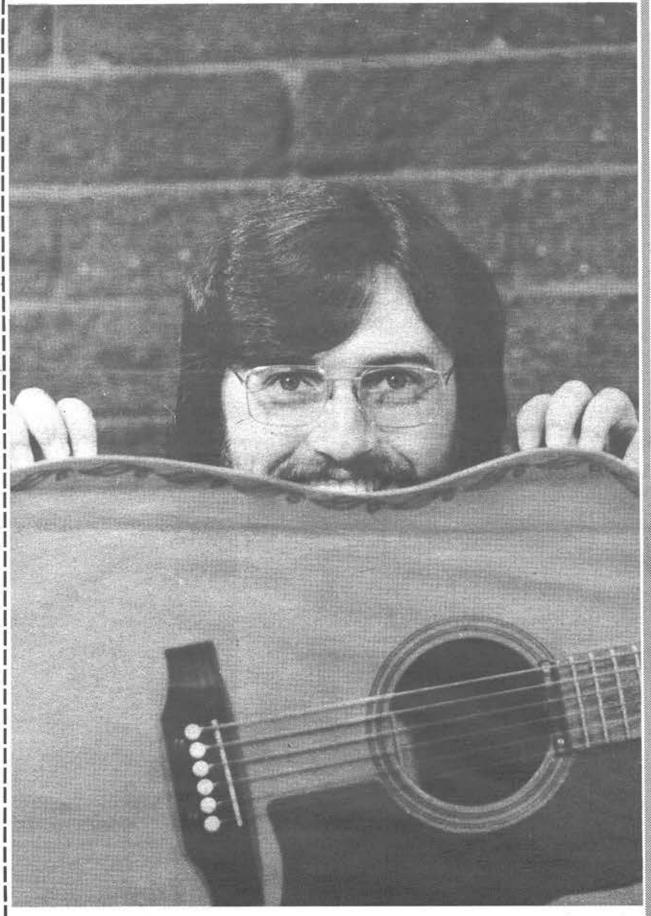
NOTE: If after meeting Bob via our pages or perhaps in person, you want any of the music to his songs, write to him care of the paper and we'll make sure he does his best to help you out.

Also write to him if you would like advice on songwriting. Bob may be getting a group together next year to discuss song-writing in general.



POSTSCRIPT CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

THE BABY WHOM EVERYONE HELPS TO ADORE WILL GROW UP TO BE THE MAN EVERYONE HELPS TO CRUCIFY.



cont. from page 4

Dialogue is a responsibility of the Christian. There must never develop an intolerance or contempt for men and women involved in alternative "ways" but neither can the disciple of Jesus Christ surrender truth for the sake of acceptance.

John Stott said at the Lausanne World Congress on Evangelism: "It is precisely this emphasis on the uniqueness and finality of Christ which tends to be muted by those who are calling the church to dialogue. The evangelism gives way to syncretism and the proclamation of truth is replaced by a common search for truth."

So the Christian stands trapped by truth. The acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as Lord demands an adherence to His teaching. That teaching leaves no room for crowd-pleasing compromise. The same teaching compels the disciple through love to speak the truth in love even if it creates an appearance of intolerance and initially causes hurt to those who are blindly walking to eternal destruction.

blindly walking to eternal destruction.

In reality the "intolerance" of Christianity represents Truth; the "tolerance" of the East, deception.

The two are not compatible. Christianity will not accept the deception of the East, and, when really pressed, nor will the East accept the basic premises of Christianity. Were it not for the fact that the West is a civilisation built upon Christian principles the exponents of the East would not even bother to mention the name of Jesus Christ. He is not even important let alone essential to their beliefs.

Alan Watts, leading American spokesman for the East, attempted a synthesis between the Eastern and Christian concepts. At the end of his unsuccessful attempt he said: "Any attempt to marry the Vedanta (Hindu philosophy) to Christianity must take full account of the fact that Christianity is a contentious faith which requires an ALL OR NOTHING COMMITMENT (emphasis ours) . . . My previous discussions did not take proper account of the whole aspect of Christianity which is uncompromising, ornery, militant, rigorous, imperious, and invincibly self-righteous."

M.L.

ED A ~~records

Dave Diprose.

COME WALK WITH ME

Debbie Kerner

Debbie is a strong but sweet voiced folk singer from Los Angeles who writes all her own songs. Her music carries a traditional folk style but she also

retains a unique sound of her own.

Many of her songs are of a sing-a-long style with sparsely arranged backings which allow Debbie's flowing acoustic guitar to carry the sound with a beautiful simplicity. Occasional lead guitar with a gentle bass and drum backdrop accompany the songs with one or two orchestrated pieces.

The most unusual song on the album is "The Horsemen" based on the book of Revelation. It speaks of the end times and features war sound effects (cannon etc.) leading up to the second

coming and a Hallelujah chorus.
"My Will" is a beautiful song expressing the fact that her will is to live in the will of the Lord.

"Behold I stand at the Door and knock" is one of the better songs on the album. It is a ballad which Debbie sings very gently and with considerable

There is not a great deal of instrumental variation on this record but then, this is not Debbie's main aim. Many of the songs seem similar in style and are sung in a minor key. The lyrics at times sound "traddy" but they are definitely a true expression of the singer's relationship with her Lord.

This is a nice, easy listening album.

THE WAY

'The Way' is another group from the same stable as Love Song and Debbie Kerner, At times their sound approaches that of "America" with similar harmony and guitar style. The group's members write all their own songs. Their instrumental line-up includes two excellent guitarists.

Most of the songs feature acoustic guitar with very pleasant lead over the top.

Closer to God" is one of the feature songs of the album and expresses the writer's desire to live in closer fellowship with God.

"Son Come Out" begins the album with music and harmonies very much in "America" style.
"He's the Reason to Go On" is an excellent song

with good steel guitar work. "Harvest Time" is a bright and lively song proclaiming "we will reap what we sow." It includes some very fine piano

playing backing the guitar solos.

The music of "The Way" is lively and full of feeling. The record itself is well produced and exploits the beautiful texture of acoustic guitar to the

One of the best Christian records I've heard.

FINAL TOUCH

Love Song

This is the final record by Love Song who have since broken up. Their's is a mixture of country rock and gentle folk — their line up is the typical rock combination of guitars, keyboard, bass and drums.

The album gets off to a good start with a song called "Since I Opened Up the Door," a lively, uptempo number with some good electric guitar and

steel playing.
"Think About What Jesus Said" is a good acoustic number with highlighting harmonies. Similar in sound is "Jesus Puts the Song in Our Hearts", incorporating an excellent string arrangement.

Side two starts with "Living Water," perhaps the most unusual on the album. It has good acoustic guitar with flute and oboe adding a good variety.
Other good numbers on the album are "Sunday
Afternoon" and "Joyous Lament".

One of the features of Love Songs music is their tight four part harmonies coupled with good guitar work. All the songs are written by members of the group and their style is quite original. Arrangements have been well thought out and offer good variation.

The recorded quality is good, well above the standard of most Christian records today. This is a good album with a wide range of songs from Rock 'n Roll to folk ballads.

It's a pity we won't be hearing them again.

tool living wat

Last November "Flock" went down to Armstrong Studios in South Melbourne to record their first L.P., called 'Cool Living Water', to be sponsored by Melchizedek records. Flock, with the help of pianist friend, Garry Shepherd, and drummer Ray Dick of Salt, had been rehearsing for some weeks and were endeavouring to present a wide range of musical styles and instrumentation within their scope.

They spent dawn to dusk that Tuesday, putting down the basic backing tracks, which turned out very pleasing.

A few overduds and vocals were added later and then mixed.

One of the highlights of the session was Kay singing, "Help me to get back on my feet again", with beautiful blues harp and piano by Garry.

"We can make it with Jesus", also turned out one of the feature tracks with a simple 12 string guitar sound, and the unusual sound of Dave's electric guitar through an organ speaker box in the background.



A high standard was maintained throughout the record.

The cover has been designed by leather craftsman Phil Marshall to look like one of his Bible covers.

Armstrong Studios, being one of the best recording studios in Australia have kept the quality of this album at a very high level.

We are grateful for the financial and practical backing of Chris Knight, manager-producer of the Proclaimers. The album will be available hopefully by end of January at the Jesus Light & Power House and the usual record

The Western world stands in awe as it reads of advances being made in the field of heart transplant surgery by Dr Barnard and other prominent

And a certain degree of wonder is justified, for man has surely reached an amazing level of skill in repairing broken and run-down bodies.

But sadly we of the "advanced" nations have allowed our wonder in man's achievements to blind us to a heart disease suffered by nearly all the human race (in one form or another).

While we gaze at medical strides which affect only a small number of people we fail to examine ourselves for the only heart disease with eternal consequences.

Because of indoctrination throughout our school days in the thought processes of scientific objectivism the word "heart" retains a predominantly physical meaning.

Blinded by material concepts we fail to look beyond the obvious. If we did the epidemic would become clear. We would see that heart disease is the problem of everyone. Around the world the symptoms are clear:

 Horrifying apathy amongst the comfortably off minority toward the millions starving to death.

· Nauseating greed in the populations of the advanced countries which has led to crippling inflation.

 Callous, indiscriminate and predominantly futile terrorism by groups like the IRA and PLF. Their actions, under the guise of a search for political and social justice, are often little more than men and women taking advantage of a situation to vent their selfish anger and frustration.

· A sexual code which, in the Western countries, is rapidly approaching that of the animal

A rash of attractively packaged Eastern cults being devoured by spiritually starving masses.

· A Christian church which has failed to feed those starving masses.

· An epidemic of fear as man contemplates the harsh fact that he has enough nuclear warheads stockpiled to destroy himself several times over.

Obviously the term "heart" has another meaning to the Western mind. It denotes the mainspring of man's being. It speaks of the mind, emotions and will of man — the centre of his whole sense of being.

It is here that the world's tensions are grounded. It is here that we lust, hate, feel jealousy, cultivate greed, and fight fear (unsuccessfully).

God has made it quite clear what He sees when He looks within the heart of man. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah He said: "The heart (of man) is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked . . (Jer 17:9). Speaking about those things which destroy man's right to stand confidently before God, Jesus Christ His son said: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness and blasphemies . .

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR HEART CONDITION LATELY?

If not you are probably part of the world's biggest problem. Your heart is as corrupt and weak as everyone else's.

God promised to give his people a "heart to know Him." Jesus preised to "heal the broken-hearted" and restore people to the relationship with

God they had for so long rejected.

One of the great champions of the Christian faith in the first century, Peter, said that God "purified the hearts" of those men who believed in His son Jesus Christ. Until you allow God to place a new heart within you, cleansed and purified by faith in Jesus Christ, you'll just have to remain on the sick bed with the rest of the world as it tries all the medicines it knows (more comforts, bigger houses, cars, time saving devices, bigger police forces etc.), in an attempt to heal a world that is broken-hearted and has lost heart.

There is only one remedy for this international heart disease. Reach out to Jesus Christ and feed on and be strengthened by the Truth of His Word and you can become part of the healing force of Jesus Christ to a dying world.

"DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEART, LET GOD RENEW IT."

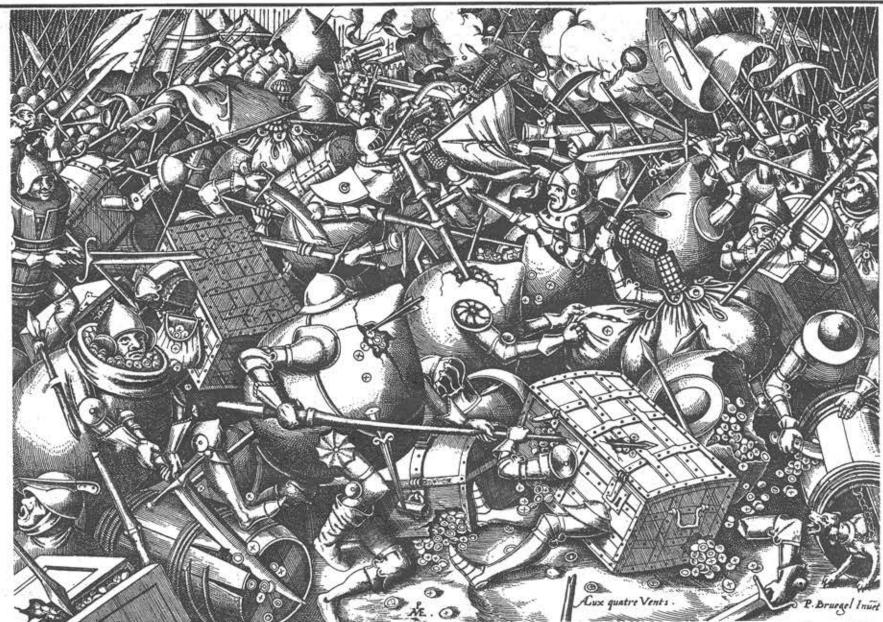


"We estimate the con-tribution of the tran-splanted heart to be be-tween 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the cardiac output of the patient."

Mrs Jeanette Schrickk-er, a colored (mixed race) woman whose daughter,

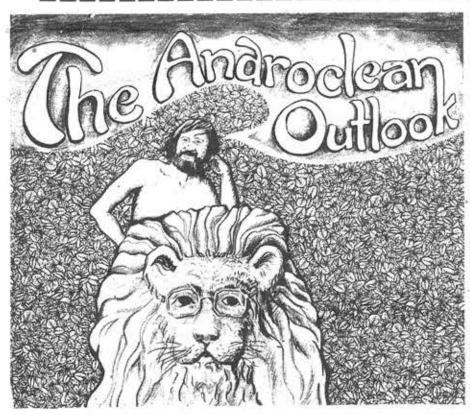
A hospital spokesman said Russell, who received a new heart on August 24, 1968, was in a serious





The value of your money is dropping fast, yet it will stand as evidence against you, and eat your flesh like fire. James 5:3

Both articles on this page with gratitude from Right On Magazine (C.W.L.F.)



The Three Who Are One

He asked me two questions: "What is God like?" and "Where is God?"

Now those are hard questions for me to answer in a formal way, so I was stumped for a moment or so about how to start. My own knowledge of God hasn't come from studying theological treatises, but from a personal relationship with Him and from reading what the Bible has to say about God's interaction with human beings. There's nowhere that the scriptures come out and make a formal outlined statement defining God. They just assume His existence and personality. As you read you catch glimpses of what He is like as human beings encounter Him.

So where do I start? Do I do like the theologians and try to synthesize into some kind of outline all the Bible says about God? Or do I relate my personal experience? What is a person looking for anyway when he says "What is God like?"

We don't have any certain way of knowing the extent to which all the men who wrote the Bible and whose experiences with God are recorded there understood what He is like. But the writings aren't speculative thought. Each writing, each psalm, each prophecy, represents some result of direct person-to-person interaction between God and man. Historically, the record shows that it isn't as if a progressively better idea of God is revealed as time goes on, but that each different kind of context shows an additional fact about Him.

So, even though there isn't any single place where it's all put together, the Bible

as a whole gives us, by glimpses and by development, a lot of information about God. There's a build-up over the many centuries during which the writings were made, and from it comes a more and more complete picture of what we need to know about God in order to have the fulfillment which only a person-to-person relationship with our creator will give us.

All of the biblical writers concentrate on the personal nature of God. That is, they considered it first priority to get across to us that God is not some blind, natural or supernatural force. They interacted with a person who is real and alive and individual in a way that humans only strive for. They are therefore eager to get across to us the fact that the all-powerful One of the Universe who has every right to ignore or to destroy us for our wickedness chooses instead to give us new life forever in relationship with Him.

From the very beginnings of the writings facts appear which reveal complexities in the nature of God which seem to be beyond human understanding. This supreme Being is one and yet three. That is, there is only one true God, but in the one there are three Persons, united in a perfect sense that is beyond our present ability to comprehend. When by their plan One of the Three intervened objectively and physically in human history by being born in a human body, people had a direct opportunity to see God in action. When you read the Gospels, you get to learn first hand about God, because Jesus is God, one of the Three who are One. Further, when Jesus, as the Son, spoke of His relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit, a clearer picture of the unity and diversity and perfection at the Source of the universe began to emerge. In the face of that, how do you deal with the tendency of the biblical writers and us to refer to God simply as "He"-that is, in masculine and singular terms? What that does, I believe, is to reflect our limitations and the constant need to emphasize the fact that there is only one God, not a bunch of diverse deities running around the universe competing. The Three are truly One in every respect. Obviously, this One who is Three is not subject to the physical limitations of our human bodies, so you'd say that God is Spirit. But a recognition of God as Spirit doesn't mean that in opposition to matter. The appearance of Jesus in a physical, material body shows God's willingness and ability to cross those lines. In addition the reference to God as spirit emphasizes the perfect and inexhaustible power of God's life, which gives all other life and is the source of forever life for humans who choose to know Him.

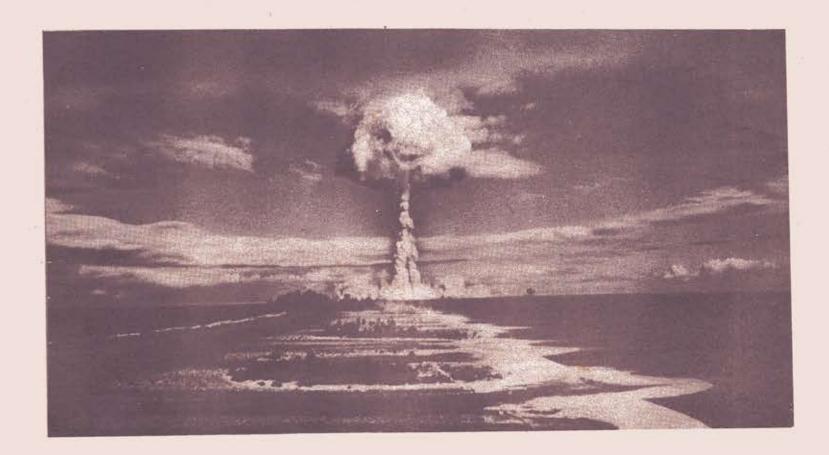
I could continue in a long string to add facts about God. God's love is perfect. The Bible tells me that and I've experienced it, too. The same is true of His purity, justice, and reliability. To that list has to be added absolute power, wisdom and knowledge, and the picture is still far from complete.

But, where is God? Everywhere. That does not mean that God is in everything or that everything is God or part of God. He is not contained in the creation. Rather, whatever happens, anywhere in the universe, God is aware, completely present and able to act. You are never out of the presence of God.

To really know what God is like, though, you have to know Him. When you've accepted the forgiveness provided by the Son and the new life offered by the Father, then the Holy Spirit comes to live with you—and there's a personal answer to the question "Where is God?"

ack Sparks

REVERSE CREATION



In the end man was destroying his heaven called earth. The earth was beautiful until man moved over it.

Man said, "Let there be darkness", and there was darkness. Man said the darkness was good and he called his darkness (faith in human knowledge and good will), security. And there was no evening and no morning on the seventh day before the end.

Then man said, "Let there be governments to divide and control us in our darkness so we may know our enemies", there was no morning on the sixth day before the end.

Then man said, "Let us create an army to control men's bodies and minds, and let us extend our darkness over all the earth. Let us create weapons to kill more efficiently at a distance for we must protect our security."

And there was no morning on the fifth day before the end.

And there was no morning on the fifth day before the end.

And then man said "Let us travel to the moon and planets for we must extend our security; while millions starve we will spend millions reaching for the stars". And there was no morning on the fourth day before the end.

Then man said, "Let us create escapes for ourselves. Let us have tranquillizers, barbiturates, alcohol, L.S.D. and other psychedelic drugs; let us retreat into the Eastern mystic cop-out for we are troubled by reality which disturbs our security". And there was no morning on the third day before the end.

And then man said, "Let us create God in our own image and according to our ideas lest some other God compete with us. Let us say God thinks as we think, hates as we hate, and kills as we kill". And there was no morning on the day before the end.

And on the last day there was a great noise on the face of the earth, and then there was silence. The blackened earth rested to worship the ONE TRUE GOD, and HE saw all that man had done, and it was bad. In silence over the smouldering remains He wept.

WE ARE NOT GOD'S PUPPETS. WE CHOOSE OUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS. WHY BLAME GOD FOR THE CONSEQUENCES?

(Adapted from Son Rise).