

This issue is to coincide with the celebration of Kensington and Norwood's 125th year. It is good to remember and honour such a special occasion.

God has been active in this city since its beginning — and still is today. Just as the early pioneers were called to faith in the Gospel, so too are present-day residents.

We believe it is important that everyone hears and responds to it. Our real needs do not change with time.

"Remember the days of old, Consider the years Of all generations"

The Old Testament
Deuteronomy Chapter 32 Verse 7

PIONEERS IN I

A look at a modern photograph of Kensington and Norwood reveals the presence of a number of imposing Church buildings dotted around the town. It is obvious over the past 125 years that Christians of different denominations have played a significant role in the development of the city.

For many of the pioneers their faith in God was both real and practical. Early life was not easy and often the grace before meals was a genuine request for the "daily

bread".

One Norwood Historian commented: -

"There seemed to be a deep seated need in the minds of the pioneers of (125) years ago to seek Divine guidance, in the old and familiar forms of worship, when launching forth on their new and unfamiliar enterprises. Within twenty years of the election of the first council of Kensington and Norwood no fewer than nine of the present places of worship had been established and held a permanent place in the life of the people." (1)

In the early days (1840's) it was common for the first services to be held in the shade of a large gum tree or tent. The exhortation of the preachers and the singing of the people mingled with the bushland sounds in the vicinity of the Second Creek settlement. A Communion Service for some believers centred around a campfire with damper and billy tea. This principle continued later with the holding of "Tea Meetings" where groups of Christians came together on Sunday evenings for a shared meal followed by a Church Service.

History is

History may be viewed from many perspectives. How we look at history can have a significant effect on how we understand what is happening today and how we face the future. The Bible affirms that history can only rightly be understood when approached from the perspective of the True and Living God.

Christianity upholds that God not only intervenes in special ways in human history, but that He creates it and is personally involved in the sustaining and progress. If this is true, there must be

The Old Testament is full of references where the people were encouraged to remember what God had done in their past. They erected memorials at significant places, celebrated great events and kept records of God's Words to them.

"Remember the days of old Consider the years of all generations Ask your Father and he will inform you Your elders and they will tell you."

Deuteronomy Ch. 32 v. 7.

Meetings for worship, teaching and prayer were held in private homes. When these house fellowships grew they constructed public places of worship. The first church to be built east of Adelaide (and also in Norwood) was erected in Chapel Street



An early church . . . Chapel St.

As the inhabitants prospered they generously donated for the work of the Church. Many of the buildings were opened debt free. There was also concern for education, health and social needs. Several church schools and hostels had begun by the 1860's.

A Protestant Refuge for unmarried mothers was developed on the corner of William Street and Sydenham Road in 1862. St. Joseph's Catholic Convent on Kensington Terrace was a pioneering example of care for the poor and helped establish many schools in the State.

His Story



Today we are called to the same attitude. It is sad if our modern generation forgets its past and fails to understand God's actions through history. It is good to remember the founding of a city. It is also good to remember the God who created the town and it's citizens. Let us be grateful for all He has done.

Mildred Blackburn's historical study (2) makes numerous references to the contribution of members of Norwood's congregations to the community. Among them are noteworthy scholars, explorers, public servants, clergy, civic officials, businessmen, politicians, builders and artists. The influence of these churches has also extended beyond their borders in missionary endeayours around the world.

The city has been blessed by those obedient to God's call. In response other places have been blessed with local Christians who have fulfilled their part in the Great commission given by Jesus Christ to his followers.

Footnotes

- (1) Mildred Blackburn "The History of Kensington and Norwood' Published by the City Counci. 1953. Page 86.
- (2) Ibid. pages 86-104.
- (3) New Testament. Matthew 28 v. 18-20.

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GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For he has blessed us, in our union with Christ, by giving us every spiritual gift in the heavenly world. Before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his in Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him. Because of his love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would bring us to himself as his sons — this was his pleasure and purpose. Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son!

For by the death of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such large measure! In all his wisdom and insight God did what he had purposed, and made known to us the secret plan he had already decided to complete by means of Christ. God's plan, which he will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.

All things are done according to God's plan and decision; and God chose us to be his own people in union with Christ because of his own purpose, based on what he had decided from the very beginning. Let us, then, who were the first to hope in Christ, praise God's glory!

(Ephesians Ch. I. v. 3-12 T.E.V.)



"No Vacancy" signs up all over the town. All the pubs and motels full to the doors.

No joke giving birth to your child in a smelly cowshed at the back of a pub. Most of the travellers in town had come a long way. It can be pretty tiring travelling all day. And when you're hot, tired and dusty, all that you feel like doing is relaxing with a grog.

And if you've queued up for that room, and finally got inside after travelling through heavy traffic all day, and flopped — exhausted, you're not likely to smile on some stupid queue-jumper,

even if his wife is pregnant.

Who do they think they are, anyway? Should have made better arrangements. We weren't just lucky to get in, we gave the thing a lot of thought, and got away early so that we'd make it on time. Silly fools for leaving it so late! Serve 'em right if they do have to sleep in the shed. There's worse places. At least they'll have the animals around them to keep them warm.

"And so Mary gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger. There was no room for them to stay in the inn." (Luke 2:7).



The dirty old stable, for most of us Australians, is offensive. If this bloke called Jesus was supposed to be the Messiah or a king (let alone God's Son), why should he come to earth in this way? Incidentally, most people missed him because they were looking for a great ruler, a military leader or even a superman. But God, on purpose, chose what the world considers nonsense, and the simple things, to show up the "wise" and the worthlessness of their plastic trash. Nobody can brag in God's face.



JESUS' BIRTH was very 'down to earth'

WHAT DO AUSTRALIANS THINK OF CHRISTMAS?

Most of us automatically think of parties, pageants, parcels and gifts, the Christmas Tree and all it's decorations and the big spending! Oh yeah . . . also the enormous feed and, of course, ya can't leave out the booze. A lot of us enjoy the holidays and having a bit of a get-together for the family. And some of us try to get in a quick church service too. Sadly for a lot of us, Christmas nowadays has become little more than a big commercialised rip-off, with hardly anything to do with Christ.

THE TRUE MEANING UF CHRISTMAS

That great day when God visited man has been marked on our calendar as December 25th. Human history without that day would be one of despair and moral disintegration. God's visit to earth was to provide man with a new way of life with hope and the forgiveness of sins.

The greatness of that day lies in two amazing revelations marked by the names given to the heavenly visitor. The first was in the greatness of the one who visited man: . . . "they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, 'GOD with us'" (Matt. 1:23). The second was in the greatness of His purpose marked in his earthly name, JESUS (Saviour): "You shall call his name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21).

Sin was the unresolved problem that plagued man over the centuries. The forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and eternal life are all included in the Biblical term SALVATION. The world desperately needed a SAVIOUR. Jesus Christ was the only answer; "And there is salvation in noone else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). To fulfill his purpose as Saviour, Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead.



God's judgement on man's sin was poured out on His Son, on that cross, and as a result is removed from all those who accept this. While much is wrong in today's world, man can be right in life's most important matter — his relationship to God.

WHY LEAVE JESUS OUT OF HIS BIRTHDAY?

Make this great day of history the greatest day of your life. By faith receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Your past will be forgiven by Christ's sacrificial death, and your future will be secure by His resurrection from the dead.

Wow! . . . Christmas really is a time to celebrate.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH CHRIST. COME HOME TO JESUS.

We encourage you to read the traditional account of the birth of Jesus which can be found in the Bible in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-21. The "Good News" Bible is easy reading. This story is treasured by millions of people who celebrate that joyous occasion on Christmas Day.

The Telling Grin

or HOW YOUR SMILE GIVES YOU AWAY

As we face the coming festive season, the demand of interacting with others intensifies. We seem trapped to live up to a Christmas or New Year image of being "nice" to everyone, even those who we can't stand. It is the respectable and expected thing to put on our smile or jolly laughter. The question is casually drawled "Ya havin' a good Christmas, mate?" "Yeah! Real bewdy. Great stuff." But deep down under that superficial grin we hide the pain of our loneliness and those scarred relationships.



How important are our facial expressions? We always feel uncomfortable if a person's face does not translate the same message as his verbal communication. We are so used to giving out signals about our emotions and attitudes, we do it quite unconsciously. Yet we rarely fail to pick up these signals, no matter what class, culture or background we may have come from.

Detailed studies by ethologists, has shown that people of different cultures will all give the same facial interpretations of emotions.

It seems that facial expression is a type of single world language. But how is it acquired? Is it hereditary, being passed from parent to child — or is it a skill to learn? Have you noticed that tiny babies will look you straight in the eye? In doing so, they are reading all our signals and often their faces are a reflection of ours. If the mother is depressed they will be miserable, if happy, they gurgle and reflect that feeling.





Through the years since we started reading facial signs, we have learned to be very uneasy if there seems to be a difference between the emotion expressed by words and by the look on the face.

We tend to trust more the person whose words and body say the same thing. The strange fact is, even though we have been reading signals since our first sight, we still can't quite work out why exactly we felt the way we did.

It's only been recently that the science of Kinesics (categorisation of facial and body signals and their meanings) has evolved. For instance, there are over nine distinct kinds of smiles that we use. They range from the warm, social "upper smile" that forms bonds of love and friendship; to the false smile, complete with wrinkles around the eyes and all. You've









probably seen that false smile thousands of times without being conscious of what made you feel uneasy.

But why do we cover our feelings? When you think of it, perhaps we wouldn't have many friends if we couldn't cover our real feelings. We live in a mixedup world of hypocrisy and two-facedness — our character often seems hollow because what we say and what we really feel are sometimes poles apart.



And so, in comparison, the life of Jesus becomes all the more incredible. He was the only person who was wholly consistent in what He said and what He did. It was Jesus who challenged the Jewish religious leaders who tried to prove Him guilty of sin. Of course, they couldn't. When the crowd were about to stone a woman caught in adultery, He stated that the first stone should be thrown by the person without sin. He was left standing alone with the woman. (John 8:3-11).

And this stirred them to crucify Him — His life of total integrity showed how great their hypocrisy was.

Are you afraid to know the truth? So often we try to suppress and hide our guilt, our fears and hurts by 'confident' words and 'play' smiles. But the Bible says that our sin will expose us in the end for what we really are.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

A Christian is a person who is forgiven by God and is free to be open and honest with others because there is nothing to hide. Let Jesus straighten out those inconsistencies.



The Freat Escape

Holidays at last! A time to get away from it all. A chance to forget the hassles with our neighbours, the frustrations at work and the things that need to be done about the house. Holidays often mean trying to escape — or the hope of it. For many Australians this takes place at the beach. Upon the vast stage of public beaches and campsites the same problems of home are acted out.

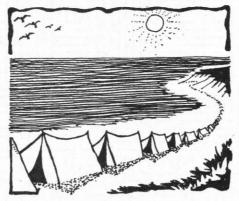
TEENAGERS THE BEACH IS A GREAT SCENE BUT IT CAN GET SO COMPETITIVE

Do you know the pressure of trying to impress someone of the opposite sex? Why is it that the other girl who gets carried screaming into the water leaves you with feelings of envy? It's so easy to get jealous of the other bloke who seems more popular in a sports car.



THE BEACH IS GREAT FUN EXCEPT FOR THE OTHER KIDS WHO MESS IT UP

Have you ever built a sandcastle only to have it smashed by someone else? Little sister gets spiteful when she is not allowed to jump off the jetty. Big brother gets angry when he finds someone has his snorkel when he wants it.



PARENTS THE BEACH IS A GREAT PLACE TO RELAX BUT IT CAN GET ON YOUR NERVES

Have you ever camped in that ideal spot only to have it invaded a little while later by others? Mum tries to maintain domestic order and food services but gets annoyed to find that the sand and the flies have other ideas.

Dad displays his skills in tent pitching, only to have his patience broken when some mad dog races through the canvas and brings it crashing about him.

GRANDPARENTS THE BEACH IS A GREAT RESORT BUT IT CAN GET VERY ANNOYING.

Have you paraded along the beach, only to be embarrassed by comments on your appearance? Grandma complains about the presence of the transistor owner in the tent next door.

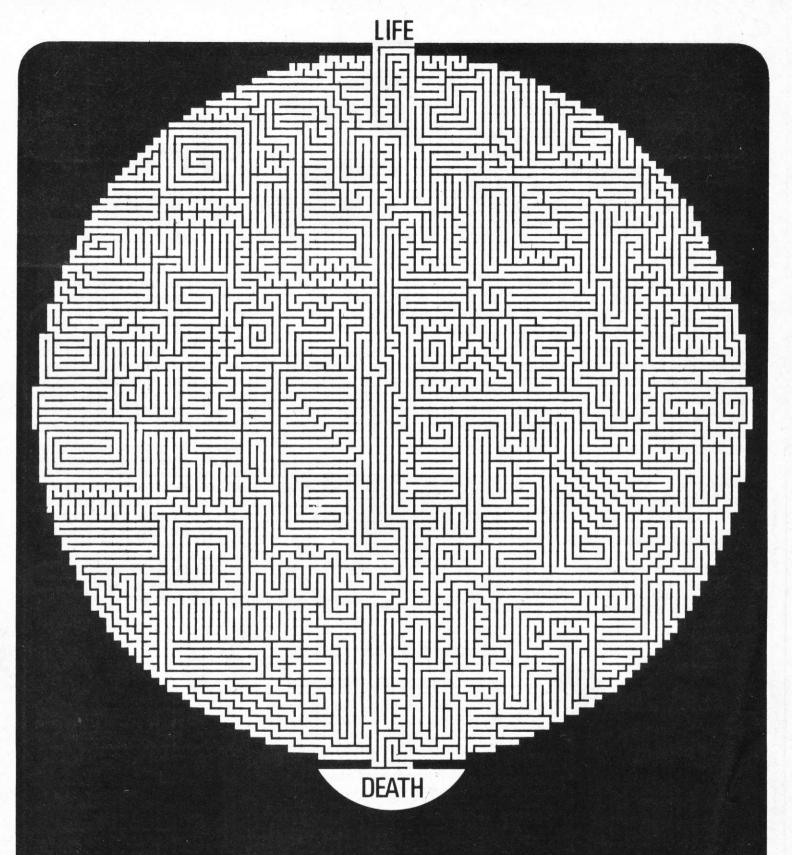
Grandpa airs his fury at those inconsiderate of his suffering from sunburn on his back.

YES — whatever our stage in life we can have our problems. Holidays are no escape from it — wherever you go.

God understands that. He is very aware of our human nature and all it's turmoil. Our struggle is between our selfish desires and what God says is correct. We cannot escape our human nature — except by receiving the Holy Spirit. When God fills us with His Holy Spirit every day can be lived as a holy-day. The Apostle Paul put it this way nearly 2,000 years ago: —

"Those who live as human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. To have your mind controlled by human nature results in death; to have your mind controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. And so a man becomes an enemy of God when his mind is controlled by human nature, for he does not obey God's Law, and in fact he cannot obey it. Those who obey their human nature cannot please God" (Romans 8: 5-8).



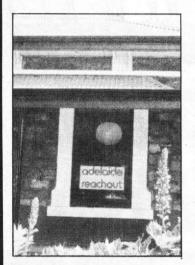


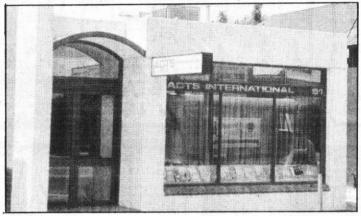
This is a real maze and there is only ONE path from death to life. Trace it and see for yourself. You may be surprised 'cause it's NOT man's way.

NORWOOD — A BASE TO CONTACT AUSTRALIA

Located at 51 The Parade, Norwood is a visionary group with their theme "Every Family in Australia Evangelism".

Directed by Rev. Richard Innes, the goal of ACTS (a Christian Teaching Service) is to reach out to every family in this nation with the Christian message through the post. Thousands of Australians have received their literature which includes a monthly magazine called "Encounter", published and printed at their headquarters.





"REACHOUT" ON THE PARADE

Billy Graham's associate, Leighton Ford, will be revisiting Adelaide next March for a Gospel Crusade.

For the last six months many local churches and Christian groups in the eastern suburbs have been active in preparing for this event. An office at 25 The Parade is the co-ordinating point for the "Adelaide Reachout" programme, which will culminate with a series of meetings (March 12th-18th) at the Wayville Showgrounds. Don't miss hearing Leighton Ford.



KENT TOWN CHRISTIAN HEADQUARTERS

An attractive old house at 69 King William St., Kent Town accommodates the offices of three Christian organizations with a wide range of ministries.

SCRIPTURE UNION

Perhaps you've already met up with a team of Christians involved in activities at camping grounds, beaches, and holiday resorts. If not, watch out this year — they could be part of a Scripture Union Mission.

Scripture Union is an interdenominational Christian organisation which presents the Good News of Jesus Christ to non-christians and encourages the growth of Christians. Besides running "beach" missions, Scripture Union also is involved with student activities in schools, camps, Bible reading aids, bookshops and Sunday School work.

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AUSTRALIAN FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS

A.F.E.S. is a national organisation of Christian tertiary students and graduates. There are groups operating at the State's two universities and seven colleges. Activities are conducted on campus to challenge students with the claims of Jesus and consider a Christian perspective on current issues of debate. Graduate groups encourage professionals in relating their faith to their work and vocation.

NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The N.C.F. endeavours to assist nurses to become prepared to minister to the whole person — physically, emotionally and spiritually — in health and illness. It also aims to help nurses find the reality of knowing God and growing in their life of service. Part of their work includes forming sharing groups in each of the major hospitals.

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WHO'S CRYING AND WHY?

Do you know that 90 p.c. of the world's resources are shared among only 20 p.c. of the people and we are among the 20 p.c.

TEAR FUND (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) was set up in Australia in 1971. It is a system by which Australians can give money to places around the world where Evangelical Missionaries and churches can assist people in

Christians in poorer nations often find themselves right on the scene of some of the world's more sensational and disastrous events. Tear Fund, which is an international body, has given aid to countries such as Bangladesh, Bolivia and Paraguay (S. America); Chad, Ethiopia and Nigeria (Africa); Guatemala and Honduras (Central America); Nepal, India, Philippines and others.

You may be interested in the following facts:

• Your gifts are distributed through the agency of professing Christians on the spot. Being right where the need is, they know how much, or how little is a responsible use of your money.

Tear Fund is controlled by the Evangelical Alliance — a consultative body with no corporative empire or ambition — no-one feels a major institutional commitment to the fund except as a conscience response to a real need.

• The Alliance has set overhead cost limits to ensure that never less than 92 p.c. of all actual receipts are actually spent where needed on direct relief.

Gifts may be sent to or more information acquired from: —
TEAR FUND, G.P.O. Box 1717, Adelaide, S.A.

Representative is Mr. Bruce Townsend.











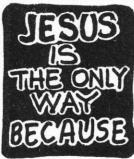
But God has News ... to make us New



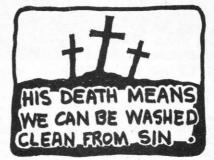


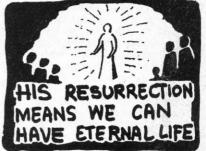












"When anyone is joined to Christ he is a new being: the old is gone, the new has come!"