

The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham

Rector: Rev. S. W. GISSING, Th. L.

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Rd., Petersham, 2049—569-4735

JUNE 1978

A PRAYER FOR CITIES

Architect and builder of the heavenly city yet to come, look in judgement on the cities of men, where greed forces many to live in squalor and filth where indifference condemns many to live alone and unwanted where lust tempts many to use others callously, thoughtlessly, and heartlessly where hate drives many to crowd together for protection because their skin, their race, or their belief is unpopular or unwanted.

Look in mercy on those who suffer at the hands of their fellows, and teach men, that, in Christ, they can find the power to live generously, compassionately, and lovingly, that the cities of men may become true reflections of the city of God.

For Jesus' sake.

Michael Saward

SERVICE TIMES:—

8 a.m. — HOLY COMMUNION.

10 a.m. — 1st & 5th Sundays — MORNING PRAYER.

2nd & 4th Sundays — HOLY COMMUNION.

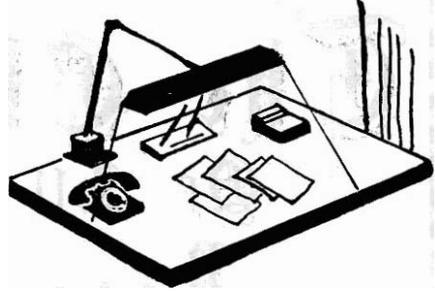
5 p.m. — EVENING PRAYER.

(3rd Sundays — Holy Communion).

10 a.m. — 3rd Sunday — FAMILY SERVICE.

(on other Sundays at 9.55 a.m. Sunday School).

From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

It's some time ago now since it happened. One day my door-bell rang. There was a man of middle to late years waiting when I opened the door. He said something like "Would you like a sentence sign for your notice board?" I must admit my reply was a puzzled "How do you mean?" He went on to tell me of a Church notice board bearing a sentence that had impressed him and suggested I might use it here at All Saints'. The message he'd read ran—

"IF GOD SEEMS FAR AWAY, GUESS WHO MOVED?"

It is good, isn't it? We so often tend to blame God for our own inadequacies and failures.

One of the most encouraging truths revealed to us in His Word is that He doesn't change. He's always reliable. "He is the same yesterday, today and forever" says Hebrews 13: 8. And James in his epistle tells us "He is the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." That's a very re-assuring word.

But we are fickle. We blow hot and cold. All manner of things can change our attitudes. One moment our feelings will be running buoyant, the next even the smallest disappointment at times can have us "plumbing the depths"! Then we throw a "Why didn't you do something, God?" against heaven! And we begin to wonder whether 'any-one is there' anyway.

Recently I had the responsibility of ministering in a situation which brought great sorrow to a family. In the midst of a conversation one of the family suggested that God had failed to prevent grief. I couldn't help asking when they had thought about Him before. I was very impressed by their honesty as they quietly admitted they couldn't recall.

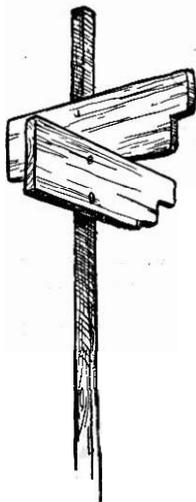
We do tend to be like that, don't we? God is the one Who is wrong. He is the one who deserts us. Or, at least, even if we haven't been all we should be, He should be ready to 'hop to it' when we bother to turn to Him.

The trouble is we find ourselves so far out of touch because of our casual ignoring of Him that at the point of need we can't 'find' Him. And that spells tragedy. The beginning of the answer lies in being quite honest with ourselves and being able to admit that we are the ones who've drifted. When we can do that we're able to re-locate Him. And it's true we'll find Him the same and never having "moved". As I said earlier that's a very re-assuring truth. It's one of the happy privileges of a minister's life to be with people who "find" Him again. That discovery is able to soften a very heavy heart-ache as I discovered

Your sincere friend and minister,

S. W. GISSING.

Fact & Opinion



Here are abstracts from interesting surveys and opinion polls reported in the Press during the past three months which may interest Chronicle readers.

Declining Belief in God

The author of a recently published book on the Catholic Church and community in Australia quoted opinion poll figures which showed that belief in God has declined from 95 percent in 1949 to 87 percent in 1969 and 76 percent in 1976. (Sydney Morning Herald 14/2/78).

Few Concerned About Gambling

63 percent of people are not concerned about the prevalence of gambling and betting, and 87 percent have taken part in some kind of gambling in the past three months. (Sydney Morning Herald 14/2/78).

Regular Exercise Uncommon

38 percent of respondents exercise at least one day a week and only 17 percent exercise daily. The 50 and over age group has the highest proportion of daily exercisers. The most common form of regular exercise was walking followed by physical exercise at home. (Bulletin 13/1/78).

"Rough Justice"

The report of the survey of 70 people by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence in Melbourne found only 19 percent of people struck off the dole and refused Social Security benefits knew about their right to appeal. The study found that the most common reasons among the 70 respondents for termination of unemployment benefits were failure to lodge income statements (15) failure to report to the CES office personally (11) and refusal of "suitable work" (21). (National Times 23-28/1/78).

Marriage and Divorce

52 percent of respondents believed that marriage is a life-time contract, against 25 percent who believed it is a contract which can be broken after a short time, and 21 percent who believed it can be broken only after a fairly long time and under extreme provocation. 55 percent thought that there should be more Family Court Judges appointed for divorce case hearings. (McNair Gallup Poll release 5/11/77).

Alcoholism

The most recent ABS survey found that 200,000 Australians are "heavy drinkers", ie, consume more than seven middies of beer (or the equivalent in wine or spirits) per day. (National Times 16-21/1/78).



SENIOR PARISHIONER'S CLUB

We have just celebrated our 21st Birthday and Mother's Day combined, with a record attendance of 41. There was a Mother's Day gift for all, and Mrs. Steed made and decorated a beautiful Birthday cake which was enjoyed by all. Thank you Alice. It was nice to receive. A Special 21st Birthday congratulation call from Mrs. Dot Shaw who you all know was the foundation Leader of this club.

Come and join us any Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. You don't really have to be a Senior Parishioner, age or creed do not matter. If you are lonely just come, we would love to see you. The company is bright and the afternoon tea delicious, all for 30c.

I'm sorry to report Mrs. Jess Meyer is in Lewisham Hospital after undergoing surgery. We hope you will soon be back with us Jess, and as good as new.

If there are any more of our members in hospital, please let me know.
—IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

WOMEN'S EVENING GROUP

The May meeting was very well attended with all members present, and we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Alice Humphries to our ranks.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6th June commencing at 1.30 p.m. for members and at 2 p.m. Mrs. Val Powers, wife of Doctor Ward Powers will be our guest speaker. We will be pleased to welcome anyone who is able to join us at 2 p.m.

On Tuesday, 4th July, the meeting will commence at 1.30 p.m. as usual for business, then at 2 p.m. Mrs. Messenger of Pan Public Relations will present Shop Spy 78. All are very welcome.

We hope you are all remembering our next Jumble Stall in July, we depend on the generosity of all our friends with there donations of second hand clothing and any goods saleable of any kind that you no longer want. We also hope to again have Miss Hunt with her jewelry and Mrs Champion with her knitted goods.

—IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

CHOIR

For some time now we haven't had the joy of the ministry of a choir at our services. Our organist and I were talking about it the other day. The idea came to bring it before readers of this magazine and invite any who are interested to contact either of us. We hope that with your help we might be able to strengthen our offerings of praise by adding this dimension to our church services. Thanks.

—S.W. GISSING, Rector.

WINTER APPEAL

Winter will be with us officially as the Chronicle comes off the presses and the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, The Most Rev. Sir Marcus Loane has announced the first grants from the 1978 Winter Appeal.

The first grants are to Parish Clergy for relief of people in need, the Home Mission Society through its Counselling Service and the Camperdown Family Centre which has helped 65 families in need since it opened in May 1977.

To date almost \$60,000 has been donated to the appeal. Donations are tax deductible.

STALLHOLDERS MEETING

Fete Chairman, Mr. Harry Spill advises that a meeting of stallholders for the 1978 Fete will be held on Saturday, June 10th, in All Saints hall at 1 p.m.

Planning is already underway and stallholders are invited to submit their requirements and brainwaves during the meeting. Enquiries, phone Mr. Spill on 787-1319.

FLOWER ROSTER

- June 18th — Anonymous Donation for the War Memorial
Mrs. Hiliary in memory of Miss Katie O'Neil.
- June 25th — Barbara and Stella in memory of Mr. & Mrs Baxter
sister Eva, and friends Dorrie and Sally.
Mrs. D. Reid in memory of her mother.
- July 9th — Misses Nisbet in memory of their parents.
- July 23rd — Jack, John and Lindsay in memory of Mrs. Joan Nance.

WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

A group of our members were able to visit Mrs. Bosward at Mortdale recently. It was a happy occasion for us all and an opportunity for us to express appreciation to Mrs. Bosward by presenting her with a gift of a transistor radio. We pray that the Lord will bless and use Mrs. Bosward as she shares her life with the folk around her.

Our next Guild meeting will be on Tuesday, 20th June. After a short business meeting commencing at 1.15 p.m. for members, we shall be very happy to welcome any friends who would be interested to hear and see something of the work of the Bush Church Aid Society. Rev. Theo Hayman will be our Special Guest—he will show a film on the work of B.C.A. and I'm sure will open our eyes to a work in which members of our Church are involved beyond the city environment.

Do come and share our friendship—and a cuppa (with all the calorie-filled accompaniments!) on Tuesday, the 20th. We'd love to have your company.

—BETTY GISSING, President.

Why Go To Church?

- To Worship God
- To Serve God
- To Serve Others
- To Gain Strength
- To Find Peace
- To Strengthen Purpose





I LOVE IDI AMIN

There is a new power today at work in the Christian church in Uganda. It is a power that can bear up under the unpredictable whims and the savage persecution of one of the most notorious dictators of our time, Idi Amin. It is a power that answers threats with reason, torture with endurance, execution with love. It is the power of the living God, released as it has been released perhaps nowhere else on the earth at the present time. Festo Kivengere, one of Uganda's eighteen Anglican bishops, documents the growth of this power, tracing the steadily increasing confrontation between the Christian church and the government of Idi Amin. He gives an eyewitness account of the climax of that confrontation—the assassination of Janani Luwum, the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, on February 19, 1977. He relates his own flight from the country two days later under cover of darkness. I LOVE IDI AMIN is the dramatic story of how God is using pain and suffering to build a new man and a new church for His Glory.

Available from the Church Bookstall.

KNOW YOUR GOD

The name of God,

God has a name. He has many titles of course, but He also has a name. And names in the Bible are not empty epithets, mere verbal tags for convenience in labeling. They mean something.

God's name in the Old Testament is Yahweh. At least that what we think it is. Because it is so Holy, the Hebrews paraphrased it by Adonai, literally 'my Lord', so in most English versions it appears as 'the Lord'. The vowels of Adonai with the consonants Y H W H produced the hybrid 'Jehovah'.

God's name has a meaning. It seems to be derived from the Hebrew verb 'to be', or at least from a close relative of it meaning 'to become'. In Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush this is explained.

Moses was doubtful. He didn't want to act the heroic deliverer, even after God's assurance. In any case, who was this God who was sending him to do the impossible? Perhaps he had a vague idea himself, but he knew the sceptical Israelites would not credit it.

He therefore asked, 'If they ask me, "What is his name?" What shall I say to them.'

God's answer seems, to us at least, to make matters ten times worse. He said to Moses, "I am who I am. (Exodus 3: 14, 15).

'I am', 'Yahweh', 'I am who I am': what does it all add up to? Is God then 'He who is', the static, impassive, absolute being around whom everything revolves?

If the Old Testament was in Greek, that might be the meaning, but it is Hebrew, and in Hebrew the verb 'to be' is dynamic.

'To be' in Hebrew means an active, dynamic presence and that is just what Moses needed. Not just the assurance that God existed, but that He was *there*, present, beside him, to carry out his purpose of deliverance. To Moses perhaps the answer meant far more than any English translation can mean to us; it contained reassurance enough for the doubt of Moses and the scepticism of his people. It meant the real presence of The Living God.

And this is our God. He has not changed.

R. T. FRANCE.

MAN IN MEDIA

Sunday, June 11th is Mass Media Sunday. Church people throughout Australia are being asked to think about the Mass Media's role and to pray for Church agencies which seek to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ by use of the Media. In particular they are being asked to think about themselves as consumers of what the Media offers.

Do the Media manipulate us or do they follow us?

The evidence is that Media habits actually **follow** rather than dictate community standards. For example:

- We receive 18,000 advertising impulses a day but reject almost all of them. We are therefore teaching ourselves to be selective. Does that sound like manipulation.
- We are better educated than ever before. There is no evidence that the current crop of Australian eighteen year-olds, the first whole generation wholly reared in the television age, are morons.
- There is no research evidence which proves that the Media changes basic behaviour patterns. Media changes brand choice, leisure activities, but not life-style.

Christian people should give priority therefore to appealing to people to upgrade what they desire rather than appealing to TV stations etc. to lift standards.



WALTERS & SON

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890 CANTERBURY ROAD, LAKEMBA—759-4044

You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.

People of all ages are accepted without medical examination.

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