

THE CHRONICLE OF

All Saint's Church of England, Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station

Rector Rev. S. W. Gissing, Th.L. — Phone: 569-4735

SEPTEMBER, 1980

A PSALM OF PRAISE.

Thank You God
that You see
armies march
a sparrow fall
hear
atom's blast
a baby's cry
smell
volcano's flow
a man's sweat
feel
contour of mountains
a little lump
taste
ocean's salt
my tears.

—from "PSALMS OF MY LIFE"

by Joseph Bayly

From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

This is a great time of year. As I look around I find all manner of newness breaking out — blooms, fresh green of new leaves, a brisk freshness in the early morning air and a brightness in the gleam of reflected light — and I guess you could add your own! Spring is so filled with the reminder that what has been need not be that which binds us. It's an annual acted parable stating in the natural world the abiding promise of Christian faith. There is in the unseen real world of the spirit the divine forces that offer new beginnings and new hope for a better tomorrow. That we greet spring usually with the windy season also, reinforces the spiritual message. The strong Spirit of God comes to blow away the smog of disillusionment, cynicism and self-disgust. All we need to do is open ourselves to Him and let Him do His thing in our lives.

This is a message needed in the public area of life as much as in our private lives. The tragic news that has confronted us in more than one incident is evidence of that need.

So we are reminded that there is much for which we should thank God. And not only these more obvious things. There are many things that we accept as part of the norm — not least health and strength and other gifts that it's our privilege to enjoy. I read of one person who visited a mental hospital. One of the inmates came up to him and asked, "Good morning! Have you thanked God today?" The man was a little bewildered and replied "Thanked Him! what for?" Haven't you thanked Him for sanity?" responded the poor resident with strange intuition! The visitor, later recounting the incident, reckoned it the finest sermon he'd ever heard — and from a lunatic! The inspired songwriter of the Old Testament said "O that men would praise Him for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men."

Such a response will be the result if we would only cultivate the habit of looking for the positive and good and, as the old

chorus puts it, "Counting your blessings—naming them one by one". An attempt to count our mercies is sure to lead to the same result as in the case of the little girl who tried to count the stars. We are soon ready to acknowledge that we didn't know there were so many!

The incense of praise has been ascending to God in all ages and over all the earth from those who have delighted in His goodness. They have acknowledged the abundance of His mercies and their continuity, impartiality and undeservedness. And they've seen that the temporal mercies are given with a spiritual intent—designed to bring spiritual blessings. If they are withheld it is for our good. Our trials are also "mercies", for at the heart of them there is love. In our blindness and weakness we may question and wonder. But faith that truly knows God rises above such blindness to heights that make of all life an experience sublime.

If we long to know that experience we can do no better than starting off at the point of looking for and counting the good things about us—and praising God in life and worship.

Maybe some of you who read these words would like to come and help us at All Saints to do this together. Sharing and fellowship are something we're learning to value. They can so much strengthen and assist us in our resolves and the realising of our longings. We would very much value your coming and "building each other up" in our worship time. A sincere welcome in that spirit awaits you.

Your friend in Christ Jesus,

S. W. GISSING.

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FROM HERE AND THERE—

The following paragraphs were reported in the July issue of "Crusade" Magazine:

WOMEN'S LIB MEANS MORE DIVORCES—PSYCHIATRIST

The emnacipation of women is partly to blame for the present high divorce rates, says a recent survey.

With one marriage in five ending in divorce, the survey attributes the failure to a number of significant changes in society—the emancipation of women, the availability of birth control and the desire for more personal fulfilment within marriage.

The survey, by Dr. Jack Dominian, senior psychiatrist at the Central Middlesex Hospital, say that marriage expectations are too high and the combined change of sex roles with the growing desire for personal fulfilment, create stress in relationships. How-

ever, Dr. Dominican sees hope for matrimony in some current trends including fewer enforced marriages due to premarital pregnancy and the fact that the age at which people marry is going up.

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"TV SPREADS UNREASON" — DAY

Robin Day, the BBC interviewer and bete noir of politicians, believes that television has contributed to the spread of violence and unreason.

During an interview with Bernard Levin on BBC 2, Mr. Day said he was very pessimistic about a nation which he saw "sliding towards an ugly and bitter and divided society". Television could help to redress the balance by presenting news in a more civilised manner. Too often it presents a kaleidoscope of images instead of explaining issues, he said.

From the August 25 issue of "Australian Church Record":

—oOo—

RIFLES FOR KORANS

Keston College has been informed that military personnel from the first Soviet division to invade Afghanistan eagerly exchanged their firearms and other military hardware for copies of the Koran. The information was supplied by Sayed Ahmad Gailani, the spiritual leader of 55 million Sufis (of whom 7½ million are in Afghanistan), and the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

The first Soviet units to enter Afghanistan were drawn from the Central Asian republics of the USSR, and a significant number of soldiers defected to the ranks of the freedom fighters. This applies particularly to the Tadzhiks, who are the same ethnic stock as the Afghans. These Central Asian divisions were subsequently withdrawn, to be replaced by units from the European republic, which have no ethnic, cultural or religious affinities with the Afghans.

—K.N.S.

WALTERS & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

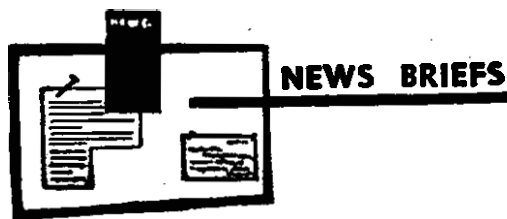
Offices and Chapels:

433-35 NEW CANTERBURY ROAD, DULWICH HILL—560-9999

890 CANTERBURY ROAD, LAKEMBA—759-4044

You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.

People of all ages are accepted without medical examination.



SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

We are still waiting to welcome you to our Club any Thursday afternoon — 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cards and Housie and a lovely afternoon tea to chat over with the many friends you will soon make, all for 50c.

We have two sad losses to report this month. Mrs. Gill, who has been a member of our Club for many years, and Mrs. Lemaire, who was one of our callers for the Housie. Both will be very sadly missed, and we extend our sympathy to the families of both these ladies.

IDA BARRETT,
Hon. Secretary.

—O.—

WOMEN IN FRIENDSHIP

On our next meeting day, Tuesday, 23rd September, we are meeting at Petersham Railway Station at 10.30 a.m., taking our lunch with us and visiting "The Rocks" area, including the Fabric Factory. Any lady who would care to join us would be very welcome.

We have set our next Second Hand Clothing and Jumble Stall for Friday, 19th September, and will hold our September meetng that day at lunch time.

Please send in anything you have saved for us for this stall before Wednesday, 17th September, to the Rectory or 59 John Street Petersham.

There are to be two more Tupperware Parties. The first one at Mrs. Ruble's on Tuesday, September 9th, at 12.30 p.m. The second at the Rectory on Friday, 10th October, at 7.45 p.m. All welcome to both.

IDA BARRETT,
Hon. Secretary.

LISTENING TO GOD

What is the hardest thing God asks us to do?

Perhaps the easiest things are to speak for Him, or to work for Him. The most difficult task is to listen to Him.

So often when we think we are listening to God we are hearing only the echoes of our own restless, disturbed and anxious thinking. We have to be very still before we can hear God. All the noises around us, all the worry and fear of our hearts have to be left behind before we are even ready to hear the still small voice.

We know that God listens to us. So much of our prayer, therefore, is incessant talking to God. We chatter out our needs and wishes and hopes so rapidly and breathlessly that we could scarcely hear God if He did speak. Our prayers are a constant "Give me." The prayers which really touch the deeps of our lives have as their refrain, "Make me." To know what God wants to make of our lives is the supreme knowledge. It comes not by might of knowledge or subtlety of self-analysis, but by listening to the divine voice.

God can make of any life an epic so wonderful that no human mind could ever dream of it, much less attain it. What is God's plan for me? No one can tell me but God. I must learn to listen, and be prepared to pay any price that will give me the listening heart.

"Be still and Know".

— G. T. RAE, M.A., B.D.



FORUM CHALLENGE COURT

A public forum sponsored by a coalition of churches has written to Sir Charles Court, Premier of Western Australia, and Senator Chaney, Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, supporting the stand of Aborigines of Noonkanbah against the Western Australia Government.

More than 150 people present unanimously declared their support of the principle of Aboriginal self-determination and the struggle of the Noonkahbah people to protect their land and sacred sites against the political actions of the Government of Western Australia in protecting the commercial interests of powerful transnational corporations whose purpose is to extract maximum profits from the exploitation of Australia's natural resources.

—A.C.C.

EVANGELICAL NAMIBIAN BISHOP ON DEATH-LIST

Number one on a "death-list" of a "death-squad" trained in South Africa is the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokovango Church, Cleopas Dumeni.

Thus reports the Windhoek Observer, an English-language newspaper in Namibia. The names of other prominent Ovambos are on the list; five pastors, four members of the government of the northern district of Namibia and 17 prominent business men. These rumours are causing unrest at the moment in Namibia.

First notice of these facts appeared in the Ovambokovango Church newspaper. Already last year there were reports of the "death-squad" made up of 40 whites and 50 blacks, which operates under the code name of "One Way".

Its reported aim is to remove all the leading blacks in the north of the country before any internationally-supervised elections take place. Some blacks are already reported as having been murdered.

RECITAL BY MISS I. DUPRE

Our Organist has kindly offered to provide a Recital with a view of assisting the progress of the Bus Fund. The date of the Recital has been set down for Friday, 24th October in the church. Miss Dupre will be singing a range of works, including some Folk Songs and pieces from Musical Comedy. She will have an Associate Artist, who will provide instrumental items.

We are grateful for her help and ask you to reserve the date with the intention of attending.

We are happy to inform you that God has blessed us so far with gifts totalling \$1,650.00 toward our goal. PRAISE HIM.

FLORAL TRIBUTES

We are most grateful to all who help beautify our church on Sundays by contributing towards flowers as a way of remembering loved ones.

September 7—Miss Glanville in memory of her parents, William and Mary Glanville.

14—Mrs. E. Wiley in memory of her mother, Mrs. George Bearpark.

21—John and Lindsay in memory of their father, Greville Jack Nance.

28—Mrs. Willis in memory of Mrs. Sheriff.

Friends who would appreciate the opportunity of making remembrance of folk by placing floral decorations in All Saints are asked to contact the Rector as early as possible—say by six weeks prior to the selected date. This will help in organising the details and recording the Memorial in the Chronicle.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The sealing of the area next to the Hall has been completed and was favourably commented on. Also it was noted that progress on the completion of the garden beside the church was satisfactory. Some little further work was to be done before it was completed. A report was received that the urgent repairs to the organ had been attended to.

The Secretary reported that a letter of appreciation had been forwarded to Mrs. Rich of Station Street. Mrs. Rich has for many years until recently given much valued help by taking Scripture at Petersham Primary and Infants Schools.

The Rector reported that he had been approached by the Marrickville Ministers' Fraternal with a view to holding this year's Carols Service at All Saints on Sunday, 14th December. The Council expressed its pleasure at the suggestion and agreed to the request.

Mr. Hearn suggested that the Parish Council should take the opportunity of expressing concern to the State Government about the reported inadequate provision that had been made by way of compensation for two policemen who had, in recent times, suffered grievous hurt in the pursuit of their public duties—one at the Hilton Hotel Bombing and the other at the Granville Rail Disaster. The Council agreed that we pass a motion of concern and that it be conveyed to the Premier and the Police Minister and the local Member.

WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL SAINTS



MORNINGS at 9.30 a.m.:—

Holy Communion on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Morning Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Family Service is the 3rd Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 9.30 a.m.

KINDERGARTEN is at 9.55 a.m.

EVENINGS at 5 p.m.:—

(This changes to 7 p.m. during summer months.)

Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Evening Prayer on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.
