

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

FEBRUARY, 1981

HARVEST THANKSGIVING



Sunday, 15th February, 1981



**A DAY OF AWARENESS OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE
AND KINDNESS**



**Eph. 5:20 — "sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord;
and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ give thanks . . . for
everything to our God and Father."**

From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

"THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ME".

Have you ever found yourself saying — or maybe just thinking — that? During the past month my wife and I have been granted to enjoy a break away. We spent some time with members of our families in Queensland. The weather was great holiday weather — warm to hot and sunny! This was just wonderful, as most of the fortnight (apart from travelling) was spent at a beach just north of Brisbane.

Of course not all our time was spent in the water or on the sand. A majority of it was spent in "renewing connection" — either with relatives (some close, some not so close) or with friends we haven't seen for a while. And in that "renewing" we had the stimulation of sharing something of our varying spiritual experiences over recent time.

It was exciting to learn of some of the striking demonstrations of God's power in other human lives. And I must admit that once or twice I was tempted to say to myself, "Oh, well, I guess, that could never happen to me"!!

But then I asked myself, "Why Not?"

Many people imagine that they are different — different even from all others! Some peculiarity of temperament or character, which is supposed to make them "people apart". Now as long as that illusion persists it will cripple initiative, and impose quite unnecessary restrictions on the development of latent powers of that self. This scepticism may present a definite barrier to the discovery of the fulness of life in God.

As every normal person, despite distinctions, can fall in love, so every normal person can find the full and rich experience of God.

Our need of God is more fundamental than our differences of temperament. Many of us are kept from discovering a vital faith simply by our unbelief. Let us get rid of our illusions, and

realise that God is willing and ready to pour into our lives the full wealth of His abundant grace.

What has happened in the life of another person may happen to any of us. The deciding factor is not our temperament, but our willingness to be disciplined for power! The word of Jesus is quite decisive—

“Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

“Whosoever” includes you — and me! “According to your faith, so be it unto you” is the other relevant word of Jesus!!

Your sincere friend in the name of Jesus,

S. W. GISSING.

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.

February 8: Mrs. M. Willis in memory of Mrs. Sheriff.

15: Mrs. A. Hall and the Lowe family in memory of Bessie Clarke.

22: Mrs. E. Wiley in memory of her mother, Mrs. George Bearpark.

March 18: Stone of Remembrance (Anonymous).

Friends who would appreciate the opportunity of making remembrance of folk, or of expressing thanksgiving for some blessing, by placing floral decoration 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.

M.A.F. FIELD DAY

(Missionary Aviation Fellowship)

SATURDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 1981

Joy Flights from 10 a.m. until dusk

2.30 p.m.: RALLY, with speaker Mr. John Johnston

FILMS — AIR MUSEUM — REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

AT CAMDEN AIRPORT

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School and Kindergarten commenced classes for 1981 on Sunday, 1st February.

On Sunday, 15th February, the Annual Prizegiving will be held during the Family Service. All parents are invited to this Service.

Harvest Festival is also to be held on the 15th February at the 9.30 a.m. Service.

Superintendent.

NOEL CRAGG,

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HARVEST THANKSGIVING

While we are not a rural community here at Petersham, it nevertheless is a good thing to be reminded of the dependence of all of us on the sustaining provision of God. It is thus a salutary thing to have an ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE — and what better time to hold such than at Harvest Time.

The theme on Sunday, 15th February, will be THANKSGIVING at our Services. To give visible expression to our gratitude we ask people to contribute items of produce with which to decorate the Church. Fresh Vegetables and Fruits, etc. — or tinned — would be most welcome. If these can be brought on the Saturday, 14th February, good — but if not please bring along on the Sunday and add to the display in Church.

The gifts will be donated to Braeside C. of E. Nursing Home, Stanmore, and other Anglican Hospitals in the area on Monday, 16th February.

ANGLICAN YOUTH DEPARTMENT

1981 EUREKA MUSTERS

featuring

JOHN SMITH (founder of "God Squad") and
PETER TAYLOR (Chaplain, Macquarie University)

with

HERITAGE • CATHY KLEMKE • GREG DIMMOCK

7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 27th FEBRUARY,
at SCOTS' CHURCH, MARGARET STREET

WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The first function of the year for our group will be a Stanhome Party in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 10th February, at 10.30 a.m. Please come and join us if you are interested in Stanhome (or "Happy Home" as is it now called) Products or if you would like to know something about them — our members strongly recommend them; Stanhome has some excellent products.

Our Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, 24th February, at 12.30 p.m. Following this, Mrs. June Hadley will tell us something of her work as a Training Teacher of "Home Tutors". A "Tutor" goes into the home of a "new" Australian — usually once a week — and helps the migrant to learn to speak the English language. This is a wonderful contribution we, as "old" Australians, can make towards helping the newcomer to feel at home in our society. There is a desperate need for Home Tutors here in the Petersham area. Perhaps as you read this, you may feel this is an avenue in which you can make a contribution in our community — so please take this as an invitation to join us (about 1.45 p.m.) on Tuesday, 24th. We'll make you feel very welcome!

The date for our Annual Luncheon this year will be Tuesday, 28th April, so please mark the date in your diary now. Watch next month's Chronicle for details!

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

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 7.00 p.m.:—

(This changes to 5.00 p.m. during winter 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.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

By the time we read this our Thursday Afternoon Club will have recommenced on Thursday, 29th January.

The Annual Meeting will be the second Thursday in February. We hope to have a good roll up of members for that meeting.

Our doors are always open to new members, Ladies or Gents. No qualifications needed. We are non-denominational and age does not matter. If you would like to spend a happy afternoon playing "cards" or "housie", we would love to have you join us — 50 cents covers everything — Door Prizes, Game Prizes and a lovely cup of tea to chat over. Time, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Thursday in the Parish Hall.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

**GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS!**

2/3 Wreford Road,
Blackburn South,
3130, Victoria.

January, 1981

Isn't it exciting when you're reading the Scriptures and the verses seem to be so applicable to you that it was as if the writer had put your name and address at the top! I was reading this Psalm 121 on New Year's Day and God really encouraged me from it. What joy it gave me to realise that as God's child there are four promises in the Psalm for me.

1. God is my help, kepeer, Protector and Guard.
2. This care for me is constant and faithful.
3. Because God guards over me so constantly I can be confident that all that happens to me has been divinely planned or allowed (even calamity).
4. These promises are forever.

How humbling is it to realise the extent of God's love and care toward those who know Him.

As I was thinking through the things I wanted to write to you this month, how encouraging it was to realise that it has now been two full years since we began working with Student Life. Annette Mary and I are full of thanks to God for all that has happened in this period, and we are especially humbled and appreciative of the provision He has made toward us; of a strong marriage, our son, the tremendous ministry opportunities, our training in the Philippines, many good friends, many who have come to know, love and serve Him and for the financial

and prayer support that we have received. Thank you for being part of our team through whom God has made this possible. How we boast of God's faithfulness!

I'm sure you may have been wondering what we have been up to over the past few weeks. As I mentioned briefly in our Christmas card, Student Life is sponsoring our first ever National Student Conference in Cooma, January 26-31. We are trusting God for 250 registrants for which a packed five days have been planned. I have had to prepare five lectures and five seminars, of which I will deliver one of the lectures and teach all five seminars. As you can imagine, I have also been helping out with promotions and transport from the Melbourne end. I have also been especially enjoying spending time with our student leaders from Monash and Swinburne, meeting for Bible study together, doing some creative witnessing and have some quality personal times together. Our creative witnessing time each Saturday morning has taken us to shopping centres, car parks and a hospital handing out Christian literature, showing others that we care and seeking opportunities to talk to people about Jesus. My heart was really thrilled one Saturday as I watched Merran,

TWO SPECIAL BIBLE SOCIETY EVENTS

N.S.W. BIBLE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, 12th FEBRUARY — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

3rd Floor, BIBLE HOUSE, BATHURST STREET, SYDNEY

Light Luncheon Provided

R.S.V.P. 9th February. 267-6862

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**BIBLE SOCIETY BIRTHDAY SERVICE AT THE
GARDEN ISLAND NAVAL CHAPEL**

SUNDAY, 8th MARCH, 1981, AT 3 p.m.

**The Speaker will be the Reverend J. R. PAYNE, General Secretary
of the Bible Society in Australia**

★ Music will be provided by the Australian Naval Band

**Following the Service there will be an opportunity to inspect an
Australian Naval Vessel**

**Approach Garden Island Gate via Cowper Wharf Roadway,
or Wylde Street**

AMPLE PARKING

David, Richard, Robyn and Peter let the love of God flow through their lives as they talked, listened and sat with the patients at Bellbird Hospital.

We still have five weeks before Uni begins, which will see us in Cooma (1 week), Sydney (2 weeks attending a staff conference and visiting some of you) and then 2 weeks here preparing for Orientation Week at Uni, plus getting organised for the year ahead.

Annette-Mary and I are excited about the coming year as we seek to accomplish God's will for our lives here in Melbourne. Of course, to do this we would appreciate your continued prayer or financial support. On the financial side, our support has picked up a bit over the past couple of months (thank you for praying or giving as the case may be). However, as we project forward for the rest of the year we will need to see our monthly income increased by 20 units (\$200 a month). This is due primarily to the fact that our monthly income has decreased quite a bit. Could you prayerfully consider either beginning to financially support us or increasing your existing commitment. For those who may not realise it, Annette-Mary and I depend solely on the financial gifts of our support team, so that we are able to serve God and represent you and Student Life as Christian workers at Monash University and Swinburne Institute of Technology. Our greatest need is for regular giving monthly, quarterly or as is convenient) and for our accounting purposes we appreciate an estimate of the commitment. Support is usually given in units of \$10 per month and there is a choice of how many units per month one may like to contribute. Our existing financial supporters range from commitments of $\frac{1}{2}$ a unit per month up to 8 units per month.

If God is impressing you to invest in our ministry, could I ask you to drop us a note expressing your interest and we will send you details of how to invest. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY . . .

Well, I have run out of space, but let me just finish by asking you to join us in praying to God for the conference next week, our financial needs, our walk with God and service for Him at Monash and Swinburne this year. Thank you.

A thought that challenged me this week: "All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Trusting you are well and rejoicing in Him, yours in Christ.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

RICH, ANNETTE and JOEL.