



*The Chronicle
Of All Saints
Petersham*

The Friendly Church

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

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

MAY, 1979

Faith

Think not the faith by which
the just shall live
is a dead creed,
a map correct of heaven,
Far less a feeling fond
and fugitive,
A thoughtless gift,
withdrawn as soon as given;
it is an affirmation
and an act which makes eternal truth
be present fact.

—Hartley Coleridge

Service Arrangements at All Saints



MORNING WORSHIP is 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 & KINDERGARTEN is at 9.55 a.m.

EVENING WORSHIP is at 7 p.m.

(this changes to 5 p.m. during the winter months May to September)

Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

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

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.

From your Minister's Desk



My dear Friends,

No matter what else one feels about the Billy Graham Sydney Crusade we must admit that it has again brought to the surface a great deal of discussion about religion and God. There are those who would push upon Mr. Graham a greater responsibility than we rightly should. I have heard some people saying in effect "Now if I can get so-and-so to go and hear Billy Graham he/she will get converted". I must admit to a sneaking feeling that such people are using Mr. Graham as a way out of facing their own responsibility of presenting the claims of God in Christ in their own life in such a way as to be winsome to their friends and relatives.

When someone knows the peace, strength and joy that Jesus Christ brings when He enters a personality, it is hard to understand why that person isn't vigorous in sharing their secret with all whom they meet at any level deeper than casual contact. I often ask myself "Why?". Perhaps one of the reasons is in a point we discussed at last weeks Sharing and Caring Group. We talked about "knowing God". Have you ever heard someone say something like "I'd give everything I have to be dead sure of God"? Of course some people may not be sincere in saying that, but in these days when the Crusade brings to the surface the deeper longings of people I believe that many are most sincere in that search. In fact I'm sure it is one of the best motivations behind the thousands who make their way to the Randwick Racecourse. They feel that to be sure of God would be worth the loss of all else. For they can see that those who have this assurance have found the pearl of great price. To know God in this way is to be liberated from every bondage that can enslave our spirits. It is to be confident that nothing in this world can overwhelm us. It is to enter into a new world where in a deep sense we become competent for life. When confronted with the impossible we learn to say "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

I suppose to many these will seem extravagant claims—but the experience of such liberated men and women all down the centuries justifies that confidence. Yet so many miss that grand assurance. God, to them, is very remote—very unreal.

He will remain so until He breaks through upon our lives at some point of real need. That burden that presses so heavily—that anxiety which gnaws at our peace—that temptation that so often defeats you—can be that point where the reality of God can most easily burst upon you. Acknowledging our own incompetence is the step to laying the whole matter at the feet of Christ.

Ask Him to take control—not of the problem alone—but of your whole life. Tell Him you will trust Him to see you through. He will. And when He does, like Thomas, you will emerge out of your doubt and uncertainty in amazed wonder saying “My Lord and my God”.

Now Mr. Graham can only help and encourage us to make that discovery for ourselves. That is what he endeavours to do—and really all he endeavours to do. But ultimately the dealing has to be between you and Christ. To neglect the chance of hearing the preaching at the Crusade meetings is to rob yourself of an encouraging opportunity. I hope you don't do that to yourself. But however I pray that you'll 'deal with Jesus' in such a sincere way that you'll enter into that assurance of the amazing love that God has for you.

In the week commencing 28th May, we'll be starting what we'll call “Nurture Groups” at differing times of the day and week. The purpose of these Sharing Groups will be to encourage any who are making a new start in fellowship with God—or are interested to do so. Please Contact me (569-4735) for details of meetings that will suit you. The groups will 'run' for a definite limited number of weeks so it will be most helpful to be “in at the beginning”.

Your friend and minister in the wonderful Name of Jesus,

S. W. GISSING

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COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

How would our lives change if we were suddenly transformed into citizens of the not-so-well-off Third World.

FIRST, take out the furniture; leave just a few old blankets, a kitchen table and one chair (the car went long ago remember?).

SECOND, throw out the clothes, each one keeping the oldest suit or dress, a shirt or blouse. Father has the only pair of shoes.

THIRD, no kitchen appliances. Keep a box of matches, some flour, sugar and salt, a handful of onions, a few dried beans. Keep those old potatoes—they're tonight's meal.

FOURTH, forget the bathroom, turn off the water, and switch off the electricity.

FIFTH, move out of the house and into the toolshed.

SIXTH, cancel all newspapers and magazines. Throw out all books—you are illiterate. There is one radio for the street.

SEVENTH, no postman, fireman, government services. School is three miles away, but only half the kids go anyway. ,

EIGHT, no hospital or doctor. There's a clinic 10 miles away, run by a midwife. Get there by bus, or by bicycle if you have one.

NINTH, forget bankbooks, pensions, social security, insurance. You have just \$5.00.

TENTH, go and cultivate your three acres. Try hard to raise \$300 for your crops, because the landlord wants a third and the local money lender wants his 10 per cent.

ELEVENTH, find a way for your children to bring in a little extra cash so you have something to eat most days. It still will not be enough, so lop off 25 to 30 years life expectancy.

From "The Great Ascent" by R. Heilbroner.



NEW INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LAUNCHED

The New International version of the Bible which was published in London on February 26, was launched in Australia on April 22.

The Rev'd John Stott Rector Emeritus of All Souls, Langham Place, London, travelled to Australia to preach at special launching services in Adelaide and Melbourne.

Special launchings were also held in Sydney and Brisbane Anglican Cathedrals.

The NIV is an all-new translation which has been "road tested" in consultation with potential ordinary readers.

One of the scholars involved in the translation work was Dr. Leon Morris of Melbourne.

Copies have been placed on the Parish Bookstall.

As well as this a number of members of the congregation who have been meeting for Bible Study have been using the new version which is expected to replace the RSV in popular use.

PARISH BARBECUE

On Sunday, May 20, 1979 there will be a Parish barbecue following the Morning Service.

The barbecue will provide the opportunity to say farewell to John and Sue Martin who transfer to England from early June.

John is to take up a newly-created Communications post within the Anglican Consultative Council based in London.

May 20 is also the final day for the Sydney Billy Graham Crusade and Parishioners will have the opportunity after the barbecue to travel to Randwick together to hear Dr. Graham.

Tickets are available from the Rector or members of the Parish Council.



WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

Women-in-Friendship is the name of the newly formed women's organisation in our parish here at Petersham.

The members of the Guild and the Afternoon Group have merged to form this new organisation, and have been very happy to welcome other women who were not previously members of either group. The inaugural meeting was held on 3rd April, 1979, when it was decided to hold at least one meeting each month on the afternoon of the first Tuesday.

On Tuesday, 5th June at 1.30 p.m. any women of the parish would be most welcome to come and share. We'll have a guest—Mrs. Gwen Williams—who'll demonstrate the making of artificial flowers.

BETTY GISSING—Chairman

SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

April was our Birthday Month. Our Club is now 22 years old. We are all quite proud of this fact and hope to add many more years to this figure.

We meet in the Parish Hall every Thursday and are always ready to welcome a new face. 40 cents is all you pay for a Happy Social afternoon and a lovely afternoon-tea. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come and Join us. Ladies or gents.

IDA BARRETT—Hon. Secretary

FLORAL MEMORIALS

The following memorials have been given in the form of Floral Decorations in our church.

May 6th — Mr. and Mrs. C. Norden in memory of Mrs. Linda Barron, late of Petersham.

May 13th — Misses Nisbet in memory of their mother and father, late of North Street, Marrickville.

June 17—An anonymous gift as a remembrance on the War Memorial

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY PLANNED

Plans are underway to develop a Library for the Sunday School. The purpose of having a Sunday School Library is two fold.

1. Providing a reference section which includes Bibles, concordances, Bible Atlases, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries and so forth would assist scholars in researching projects and developing knowledge of the Christian faith. This would also be of value to teachers in preparation of lessons.
2. Providing a lending section which stocks good reading material for a range of ages and interests.

Shortly the Sunday School will circulate a list of suggested titles. Members of the Parish are invited to consider donating a book.

THE LION HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

A more expensive addition to the Parish Bookstall, but a beautifully illustrated and well-written reference book which you will be proud to have on your shelf.

Explains the unfolding of Christian history in easy to read English. Cost \$19.95. A beautiful gift.

FROM THE PARISH BOOKSTALL
ALIAS JUNGLE DOCTOR

Dr. Paul White was born and raised in Bowral. He was destined to become one of Australia's foremost missionaries and certainly its best known.

His autobiography "Alias Jungle Doctor" reflects what for its author really matters.

When he was accepted into Sydney University Paul White wanted to achieve four things.

He wanted to become a doctor. He wanted to top his year. He wanted to set an athletics record. And he wanted to gain a coveted University blue.

He was singularly successful. He became a doctor, topping his fifth year. He set two athletic records and for this earned a University blue.

A born story teller, he has been a prolific writer. His autobiography makes pleasant reading. Available from the Parish Bookstall—cost \$4.95.

GIVING

Here are five levels of giving to God.

Which is yours?

1. The **TIP** level—My small change for God.
2. The **ENTERTAINMENT** level—I pay when I go.
3. The **EMOTIONAL** level—I give when I feel like it.
4. The **GOOD INTENTION** level—I'll give more when I have more to spare, provided it doesn't interfere with anything else.
5. The **CHRISTIAN** level—I give willingly to God—systematically, sacrificially, gladly.

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.

James and James 188 Liverpool Road, Ashfield—798-8325