

# PARISH MESSENGER

## AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO WORLD POVERTY - SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH !

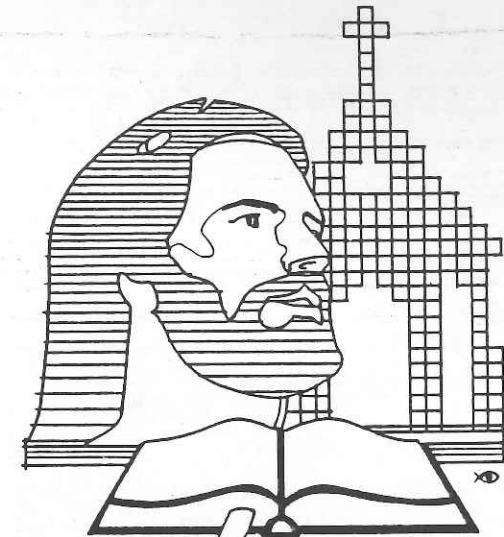
A joint statement of Australian Churches through the Australian Council of Churches, Baptist World Aid, Lutheran World Service, Adventist Development and Relief Service and Australian Catholic Relief, states that cuts to Australia's overseas aid have brought it to the lowest level in twenty years - just 0.39% of our Gross National Product. (The agreed UN target is 0.7% of GNP).

Aid has been savagely cut to drought-stricken African countries -

Ethiopia	by 10%
Kenya	by 64%
Tanzania	by 84%

Aid channelled by the Australia Government through Church agencies in developing countries has been cut by 18%.

If you feel that these cuts are unacceptable and that Australia is losing its international reputation as a country that cares for the 'underdog', please write to all Federal politicians, or to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bill Hayden, or sign the petition to the House of Representatives, on the noticeboard in the PARISH CENTRE.



CHRIST, HIS WORD  
GOD'S WORD  
OUR SURE FOUNDATION

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LAY READERS: MR. BRUCE PROVERBS  
MR. LLOYD BATH  
MRS. LANA WALL  
MR. TONY WALSH  
MR. GLENN CLARK  
OFFICE SECRETARY: MISS VALERIE MURGATROYD

From the Rector 

Dear Family of St. John's,

We live in an age where there is not only a great tendency to overstate, but also a great deal of actual deliberate overstatement of issues. Exaggeration, trivia taken out of context and high pressure information programmes are the order of the day. We are continually being subjected to pressure to accept information as being the be all and end all of the issue at stake.

The various media browbeat us with issues at high pressure and along with rather startling pictures and we find we start to get serious in considering issues which are either rubbish, irrelevant or to say the least, marginal for our real welfare.

It is important that we understand the magnitude of what God has provided for us if we are Christians; that is people who have consciously experienced the new birth Jesus said was essential. It is important that we know the facts about what has actually happened to us if we are truly Christians. The great statement found in the New Testament describing the role of the Christian, the life of a Christian and the gifts bestowed on Christians are mind boggling.

We are "new creatures", "Christ lives in me", "there is a new spirit within us", "God's spirit dwells in you", "we are partakers of the divine nature", are only some of the wonderful statements which describe our lives as Christians. Now, the real rule is whether our experience of Jesus lives up to these profound statements of the Bible. We have the problem of so many people who see themselves as Christians yet are ignorant of these truths about their relationship and nature.

If only professing Christians, members of the family of St. John's could realize their great potential, if only we could see ourselves as God sees us when we are truly Christians, there would be a new outburst of spiritual life in our congregation..

We under-rate, underestimate and understate ourselves as Christians so often and the real power of God seems absent from our daily lives. This is not self assertion, self promotion or self glorification, it is simply allowing God to first tell us what He has done and wants to do with us. Then it means living in practice as if we believe what He said and did is real.

I call you to study afresh the great statements of God in the New Testament. Start reading your Bible daily to find out, there is no short cut to knowledge, come regularly to worship where you will learn more as the scriptures are expounded and join a Faith and Fellowship group where the great truths are shared. There will be only one reason why we do not realize our potential for God in a world of overstatement and that will be that we are unwilling to discover and follow God's plans for our lives.

May you know the joy of realizing your full potential for Christ.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. BROOK.

#### MOTHERS' UNION:

The next meeting will be held in the Parish Centre on Wednesday, 15th July, at 2.00 p.m.

The Rector, Reverend John Brook will be a guest speaker.

Hostesses - Penny Carlyle, Pam Wyld.

July 24th- The bus travelling to Dairy Plains will leave from Elizabeth Street near Princes Square at noon.

#### KLOMP CLUB:

We need your help - the club will be running for the two weeks of the September school holidays and assistance is needed in the kitchen, making casseroles, morning teas, supervising with craft work etc., Please let Glenn Clark or the office know if you can assist in any area.

#### MEN'S TEA:

Tuesday, 14th July, at 6.00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - Mr. Ken Ferdinands, from Fusion.

Please put your name on the list in the Narthex, if you are attending. Cost - \$5.00

#### MEALS ON WHEELS:

Sunday, 12th July.

LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL - J. Moxon, V. Murgatroyd, S. Perkins, J. Frith, M. Jansson, A. Neal, M. Brain, L. Knowles,  
QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL - R. Cleary, B. Easter.