



22nd June, 1963

25th June, 1988

BRISBANE CHURCH CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

IN CELEBRATING the 25th anniversary of God's Church in Brisbane, it is appropriate to look back to the historic beginnings of the Church and view the growth that has taken place. As Mr Fahey points out (see article below), the spiritual, not the numerical growth is what is important. However, it is interesting to note in passing, that if the present trends in Church attendance were to continue, in another 25 years there would be 33,000 brethren in Queensland and Northern New South Wales with a total of 225 churches! As Mr. Tkack has said: "Let's not let down. There is much yet to do!"

The Family GROWS by Robert E. Fahey

If it's alive, it GROWS! In 1899 C. S. Minot observed that "retardation of growth is old age and its cessation is death." Or as the Encyclopedia Britannica states, "Growth continues from the time of conception to death." And in another place "Life is growth, constant renewal."

God's Church has been learning what it means to "discern the Body of Christ." That means in part that we recognize the Church is Christ's Body. And since the resurrection in 31 AD, it is ALIVE!

That LIFE is demonstrated by **growth**.

This era of God's Church began to add congregations after the WORLD TOMORROW radio broadcast and The PLAIN TRUTH started in 1934. The Church was only in the state of Oregon then, but **growth** was present. Each new congregation was given a number for reporting purposes. As the years passed and new churches started internationally, the same numbering system (though we have found one or two anomalies!) was maintained worldwide. These numbers are still used today on church reports. Eugene, Oregon, carries number 1. Portland, Oregon, is 2. Pasadena is church area 7. When I worked in New York City which started in November, 1959 my church reports carried number 31. Westchester, the church I helped start in 1983 is church 723.

The Sydney church started January 30, 1960, and was given number 32. Melbourne which started 15 July, 1961, is 43. Perth started on 30 July, 1966, and is number 522 (we are checking into that one!) Launceston, Tasmania, started on 21 June, 1969, and is number 216. Adelaide started in August, 1972, and is number 223.

What about Brisbane? The Brisbane church started on 22 June, 1963, and was given number 68. This congregation is the 68th "outpost" to become established since the humble beginnings in Eugene, Oregon, in the early 1930's. And Brisbane has grown too! Congregations have sprung up all over Queensland from the church God founded in Brisbane.

0068	Brisbane South	22.663
0218	Toowoomba	8.69
0338	Cairns/Malanda	7.73
0340	Mackay	7.73
0341	Rockhampton	7.73
0343	Townsville	7.73
0379	Gold Coast	23.274
0402	Bundaberg	6.974
0480	Brisbane North	12.75
0367*	Clermont	1.77
0699*	Gympie/M'borough	7.77
0517	Warwick	10.77
0542	Caboolture	2.79
0626	Ipswich	11.79

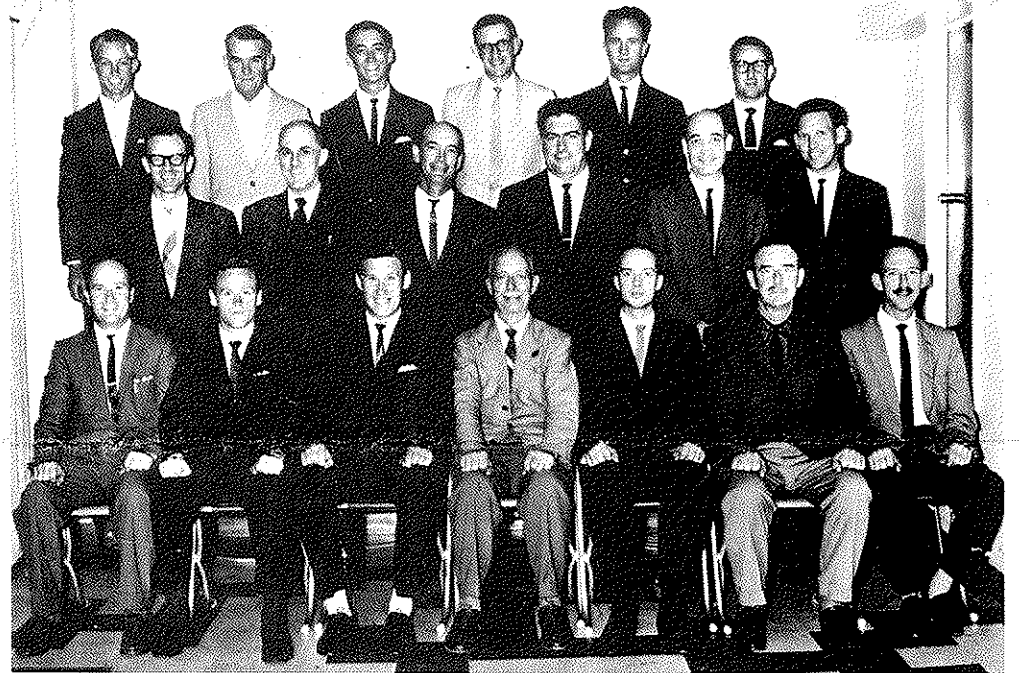
*(We are checking on these too!)

The Body of Christ is certainly growing!

But numerical growth is only one type, actually the least important type of growth. Isaiah wrote of Christ, "Of the **increase** of His government and **PEACE** there will be no end." Isa. 9:7. Where Christ rules, there is **peace**.

Isaiah also wrote, "The way of **peace** they know not." Isa. 59:8. This world, of which we were all once part, does not know the **way** that produces **peace**. We each have to learn it from the "Prince of Peace." And that learning process is spiritual growth. The converted mind matures as it grows. And learns how to live in peaceful harmony with every other mind it comes in contact with. Especially the other **converted minds**.

We are pleased with the growth God has given the Brisbane church during the 25 years it has been established. As we start our second quarter century, let's be sure that the **spiritual growth**, indicating spiritual life and demonstrated by the "**peaceable** fruit of righteousness" shows each of us is a growing part of the living Body of Christ.



First Brisbane Spokesman Club formed November 1964

Messages of Congratulation

Brisbane's 25th anniversary celebration was marked by the receipt of several messages of congratulations. Here are excerpts from some of those.

that open enthusiasm for God's work."

Rod and Vicki Dean

"Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of God's Church in Brisbane. How you have grown! In the early 60's, My wife, Shirley, and I were privileged to work for Mr. Waterhouse in the Sydney office and were able to get to know some of you at that time. Some of you might remember meeting with Mr. Clarence Huse and myself on one of the early baptizing tours to the Brisbane area . . .

I'd like at this time to just pass on my greetings to you, and to say congratulations on 25 years' anniversary of the Brisbane Church. It seems a very long time ago back in 1968 when I came down there to work with Mr. Bill Bradford in the Brisbane Church and, looking back now, the years certainly have passed very quickly . . .

Arthur Suckling

My personal feeling is that you have only begun . . .

". . . We'd like to congratulate you on reaching your 25th . . . and special congratulations too to those of you who've been a faithful part of the one family of God for the past 25 years.

Again, congratulations. You deserve it!"

Dexter and Shirley Faulkner

"Hello to all the brethren of the Brisbane Church.

As you celebrate your 25th Anniversary I hope that you will build on the positive lessons of the past and retain

Although we can't be there to celebrate . . . with you . . . we're going to decork a bottle . . . and proffer a toast to your . . . further spiritual growth . . ."

Rodney McQueen and family.

From Small Beginnings

The Church of God had a small beginning on the Day of Pentecost 31 AD. In the nearly 2,000 years since that original small beginning, there have been many more small beginnings.

It is from these small beginnings that the family grows.

The first small beginning for the Church and Work of the living God in Australia occurred in April, 1956, with the first broadcast of the World Tomorrow being aired on 8 radio stations for one half-hour per week.

It took just three and a half years for this first sowing of good seed to bear sufficient fruit to require a permanent Australian office, which was opened in North Sydney on 24th December, 1959.

On the 23rd of January, 1960, the first regular Sabbath service was held in Sydney at Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's home at Lane Cove.

In early 1960 Mr. Waterhouse conducted the first baptizing tour to Queensland, flying to Brisbane and Townsville.

In July that year, the Work produced the first Australian edition of the Plain Truth.

The Feast of Tabernacles was held probably for the first time in the history of Australia in Sydney from 6-13 October 1960, with an amazing first day's attendance of 103, 72 of whom were adults. As usual, a number were baptized during that festival.

By the end of 1960, the Australian PT mailing list had increased to over 15,000 names. The Work had grown 500 per cent in just eleven months. There were 67 baptized Australians and 8 baptized Americans in the Church in Australia.

On the 15th June 1961, Mr. Hammer conducted the first regular Church service in Melbourne with over 30 in attendance.

THE BIRTH OF A CHURCH

By this time another small beginning was taking shape in Brisbane.

From the seed already sown in Australia, fruit was appearing in Queensland, and at 2 p.m. Sunday 6th August 1961 the first Brisbane Bible Study was conducted by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in the boardroom of the Queensland Master Builders' Association. 21 adults and 7 children attended that first Bible Study.

Later that year, 20 Queenslanders attended the Feast of Tabernacles in the Community Hall at Blackheath. This was the first time the Feast was held in the Blue Mountains, and a total of 170 attended.

In December 1961, the first of a series of baptizing tours was undertaken by Mr. Clarence Huse and Mr. Dexter Faulkner.

Meetings were held in Brisbane and Rockhampton, and four of those attending the Brisbane Bible Studies were among the 16 baptized.

On Sunday 18th March 1962 six more people in the Brisbane area were baptized by Mr. Huse at a quiet river site north of the city.

In April 1962, the Passover and Days

of Unleavened Bread were observed in two major cities of Australia - Sydney and Melbourne. Queensland members attending the festival in Sydney included Mr. & Mrs. Don Clark and family, Mr. Kraft Klaus, Mrs. Dorothy McConnell, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Tinworth and family, and Mr. Ken Smith.

Mr. C. Wayne Cole and his ministerial assistants, Mr. Clarence Huse and Mr. Frank Simpkins, alternated in making the fortnightly flight to conduct the Brisbane Bible Study.

During the Feast of Tabernacles at Blackheath that year, 17 people from different parts of Australia were baptized in the near-freezing waters of the swimming pool of Parklands Hotel. Mr. Bill Winner officiated, assisted by Mr. Clarence Huse. The Church of God News November issue records "Those baptized included Mr. and Mrs. R. Couston, a young couple attending the Brisbane Bible Study."

On 13th of March 1963, Mr. Simpkins and Mr. Abraham left Sydney on a major baptizing tour up the east coast which included several stops in Queensland. Four baptisms in Brisbane and fifteen in North Queensland occurred during this two-week tour.

Other baptizing tours followed, producing many more baptisms, pushing the Brisbane Bible Study attendance into the high 70's.

Much seed by this time had been planted in the Brisbane area and it was time for another Church of God congregation to commence regular Sabbath services.

Saturday, June 22, 1963, to most Queenslanders was just another day, but to the handful of God's Elect present, it was a day long awaited. This day, exactly 25 years ago, marked the beginning of the Church of God in Brisbane . . . so far as is known, the first Sabbath service of God's true Church in the history of Queensland.

Although that Sabbath morning had dawned rather bleak, the atmosphere inside the hall in National House on Ann Street was one of warmth as 10.00 a.m. approached.



Miss Judy, Payne, who had accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Cole to Brisbane for the opening service, stepped to the piano and the service began with a rousing rendition of "Onward Christian Soldiers." Thus, the third Church of God in Australia (the 68th worldwide) began, with 98 people in attendance.

Of those 98 several have died, and some sadly, have left us. But many are still attending God's Church and several still attend at Brisbane

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS 1963 - 1968

With so many now attending each week, it was necessary that a full-time minister take up residence in Brisbane.

Following his graduation and his ordination, Mr. Royston Page, an Englishman, and his wife Sheila, an Irish girl, arrived in Sydney aboard the liner "Monterey" Monday evening July 13th 1964. Mr. Page was assigned to be Brisbane's first resident pastor.

At the tender age of 14 months, the Brisbane Church produced its first Ambassador College entrant, Miss Lynette Johnstone. Leonie Schultz and Bari Payne, both originally from Brisbane, were also accepted for college that year. However, Darrell Mucche from Brisbane and Garrick McDonnell from Burleigh Heads had previously left for Ambassador College in 1962 before there was a Church in Brisbane.

The first wedding in the Brisbane Church was that of Mr. Barry Kenavan and Miss Sue deMey.

A fortnight later the pastor of the Brisbane Church and his wife established a new page in their history with the birth of their first child, Jacqueline Loma, born 10.15 p.m. Wednesday, September 2, weighing 6lb 9oz.

In 1964 the Feast of Tabernacles was held for the first time on the Church's own property at Blackheath. The Tabernacle stage 1 had been completed largely by Church labour. 812 attended.

Immediately following the Feast it became necessary for the fledgling Brisbane Church to spread its wings just a little and find a better venue for services.

So it was that on Sabbath 10th October 1964 the Church met for the first time in the W.C.T.U. convention room, downstairs in Willard House, 82 Ann Street, with 131 in attendance. This was a much better location in every way, and had a seating capacity of 200 to allow for future growth.

The following Wednesday, the 14th, at 7.30 pm., 87 members attended the first regular weekly Bible Study.

The inception of the Brisbane Spokesman Club was in November of 1964. Original office bearers were: Mr. Frank Dawes, President; Mr. Russell Couston, Vice President; Mr. Reg Wright, Secretary; Mr. Len Williams, Treasurer; and Mr. Jim Nielsen, Sgt. at Arms.

In early 1965 bi-weekly Sunday morning soccer scratch matches were commenced - beginning a tradition of Sunday sport activities that has continued with few interruptions to the present.

After 6 months' operation, the Brisbane Spokesman Club held its first Ladies Night on Monday 26 April 1965. A change of office bearers saw the following new Club officers: Mr. Russell Couston, President; Mr. Tony Strudwick, Vice President; Mr. John Pitman, Secretary; Mr. Len Smith, Treasurer; and Mr. Ken Gee, Sgt. at Arms. A feature of the evening was the enthusiastic participation of the ladies during the table topics session.

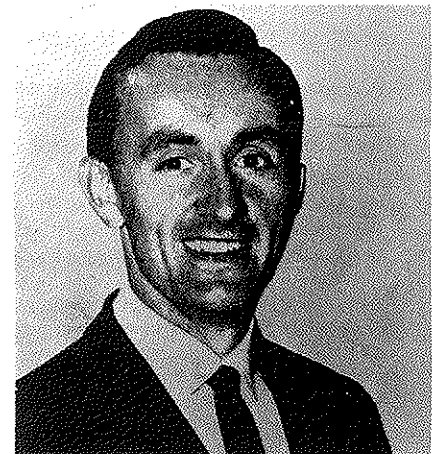
In April the Brisbane Church held its first picnic at Bundaleer National Park, Brookfield. A barbecued lunch was prepared by honorary chefs Messrs. Couston, Clark and Strudwick, attired in traditional caps and white aprons.

By mid-year, Mr. Couston's Club experience had prepared him for further service to the congregation. The Church of God News May-July issue reported that: "Mr. Russell Couston has now twice conducted the Brisbane congregation in song. One of the audience reports, Both WE and HE survived the experience . . . in fact, we did fine. Also, some of the ladies have been presenting group and solo singing." Thus special music had commenced in the Brisbane Church and it has been a source of much pleasure to the congregation ever since.

On the 13th of August several more Brisbane students left for College at Bricket Wood. They were: David Walton, Terry Browning, Bob McGuiness, Bruce Tyler, and John Larkin.

September 23rd 1965 marked a milestone for the Church in southeast Queensland with the commencement of Thursday night Bible Studies in Toowoomba. 24 attended the first meeting which was conducted by Mr. Page.

In October 1965, Mr. Russell Couston was ordained as Brisbane's first deacon.



**Mr. PAGE ORDAINED
PREACHING ELDER**

At the Bible Study in Sydney on Thursday evening February 10th 1966, Mr. Roy Page, who was attending a ministerial conference, was raised in rank from Local Elder to Preaching Elder by Mr. Cole and Mr. Waterhouse.

Later in the year, the Australian brethren were thrilled by a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong. The September issue of the Church of God News Reports: "One of the most outstanding events of the year thus far was the visit of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong . . . As a result of business conferences in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne, the foundation has been laid for large-scale advertising . . . It has been decided to use FULL PAGE ADS in the **Australian Women's Weekly** . . . Ads are also planned for Sunday editions of capital city newspapers.

In 1966 eleven Australian students were accepted for College, 3 of them Queenslanders: Margaret Larkin, Gaye Browning and Kerry McGuiness.

The Brisbane Church in 1968 was just five years old. Attendance at Sabbath services was about 400 (*note: no figures available for '68 but '69 was 445*), and the Church had become fully operational. Many fine traditions

THE FAMILY GROWS

had been established, with regular weekly Bible Studies and Sabbath services; Spokesman Club; sporting activities; picnics; dances, and other social activities; the Holy Days; and of course the annual pilgrimage to Blackheath for the Feast of Tabernacles.

1968 also saw the Brisbane Church bidding fond farewell to its first resident Pastor with the transfer of Mr. Page to Sydney.

GROWTH AND EXPANSION: THE SECOND FIVE YEARS 1969 - 1973

It was time now for a period of growth and expansion that over the next five years would see the establishment of many new churches and Bible Studies throughout Queensland.

The man God chose to pastor the Brisbane congregation during this period was an American, Mr. Bill Bradford, a direct descendant of one of the Pilgrim Fathers. Mr. Bradford, became leader of the pilgrims once they landed, and as well as serving as second governor of Plymouth Colony, he travelled to France, representing the U.S., and helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase.

Mr. Bradford, as pastor of the Brisbane Church, soon became affectionately and quite unofficially known as "the boss".

Steady growth in membership throughout Queensland led to the establishment of 6 new Churches.

In August 1969 the first sabbath service was held in Toowoomba. Church attendance in Toowoomba in 1969 was 101, growing to 122 by 1973.

Meanwhile, Church attendance in Brisbane grew from 445 to 491 during the same five year period, reaching a peak of 517 in 1972.

By January 1971, 31 people were attending Bible Studies at Mackay, and 21 at Townsville.

By December, 37 people were attending Bible Studies at Rockhampton and attendance at Mackay had grown to 47.

The 24th June 1972 saw the commencement of a Church at Grafton with an attendance of 61.

By September that year there were 557 baptized members in Queensland and 2326 in Australia.

July 1973 saw the establishment of no less than four new Churches in Queensland. These were Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

It was also during this five year period that the Brisbane Church suffered its greatest tragedy to date when over 60 members left in late '72 and early '73. This was a sobering yet unifying experience for the great majority who remained faithful. The church had suffered its first trial by fire.

Many memorable experiences occurred during this second five year period.

On 27th February 1971 the Brisbane Church witnessed a very joyous ceremony with the ordination of Mr. David Jackson as Deacon and Mrs. Couston as Deaconess.

The following May was a highlight for the Brisbane Church when it received a visit by Mr. Waterhouse.

Social activities included annual Church balls, picnics and campouts, talent shows, and a fancy dress ball at Corinda. The most memorable social activity of 1973 was a farewell ball for the Bradfords held at Chadwick Hall. Mr. Bradford's departure brought to a close the first ten years in the history of the Brisbane Church.

THE FAMILY GROWS 1974 TO 1988

Since that time God has used many other men to build on the foundation that had been laid. The following men have served as Pastors of the Brisbane churches during the fifteen years from 1974 to 1988: Mr. Mark Cardona, Mr. Rod McQueen, Mr. Bruce Tyler, Mr. Craig Bacheller, Mr. Colin Sutcliffe, Mr. John McLean, Mr. John Larkin, Mr. Rod Dean, Mr. Ross Beath, and Mr. Bill Sidney.

In addition, The Brisbane Church itself continued to grow and produced several sister Churches comprising members who up until this time had attended in Brisbane.

As we have already seen, the Toowoomba Church began in August 1969, and Grafton followed in June 1972. The next sister Church was the Gold Coast, which commenced on 23rd February 1974 with an attendance of 89. Bundaberg and Caboolture followed, then in January 1976 a major change occurred with the Brisbane South and Brisbane North Churches replacing the one Brisbane Church. Churches were established at Warwick and Gympie in 1977, and at Ipswich in 1979.

A number of other Churches such as Brisbane East and West, Dalby, Nambour, Wandoan, and others, had also been established between 1978 and 1980, but these were later cancelled or absorbed into other Church areas.

A number of ordinations within the local congregations were also to occur and on Pentecost 1974 Mr. Alex Scott was ordained as a Deacon. The same year on 1st October Mr. David Jackson and Mr. Tom Burchard were ordained as Local Church Elders. The next ordinations were to occur in 1979 with Mr. Jack Clune's ordination as a Local Church Elder on 12th April, and Mr. John Lehman's ordination as Deacon on 20th October. Then on 10th April 1982 Mr. Kevin Thomson was ordained a Local Church Elder.

A major development in this part of the history of the work in Australia was the relocation of the Church office from North Sydney to Burleigh Heads. Work commenced at the site in 1975 and the new office building was dedicated on 11 April 1976. Because of its proximity to the Gold Coast, the Brisbane Churches are privileged to hear many messages from ministers working at or visiting the Office.

In 1977 Y.O.U. got off the ground in South-East Queensland. The May school holidays of 1977 marked the first major activity of the recently formed Youth Opportunities United. One of Australia's most ambitious bike rides was jointly organized by the Brisbane Church and Y.O.U. Mr. Mark Cardona, Pastor of the Brisbane Church and organizer of the ride said, "It does not appear that a bike ride as large as this has been attempted in Australia before so it should draw a lot

of interest."

On Sunday May 1st, 40 Church teens and 10 adults, pedalled their bicycles from the Gold Coast on an 11-day bike ride to raise funds for various Queensland drug treatment and referral centres.

The 1100 km journey took the riders through Brisbane, Nambour, and the Darling Downs, to Lismore, and back to the Gold Coast via Tweed Heads. Averaging almost 100 km a day, the youths, aged between 11 and 36, completed the marathon at the Sundale Shopping Centre where the Mayor and civic officials accepted a cheque for \$2,000 for the Gold Coast Drug Referral and Information Centre. There was an additional cheque for \$1,000 for the Brisbane Drug Haven at Coorparoo.

Church teens and their families have enjoyed many Y.O.U. activities since the bike ride, though in the memories of those who participated, perhaps this was the most ambitious.

Y.O.U. Bible Studies are now held monthly following the Sabbath service.

Another tradition which has grown up in recent years are the Y.O.U. regional family weekends for South-East Queensland.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year for Y.O.U. members around Australia is the annual Summer Education Programme. The most recent S.E.P. camp at Lake Moogerah was doubly exciting for campers who were able to meet Mr. Tkach during his visit to Australia. Following his visit to the camp site, Mr. Tkach spoke to brethren on the Sabbath of 2nd January at the Sheraton Hotel in Brisbane.

The Y.O.U. programme has also sought to encourage excellence in the area of music, and the first annual National Talent Contest finals were held on 21st April 1985 at the Twelfth Night Theatre in Brisbane. The Fourth Annual National Talent Contest finals were also held in Brisbane at the Sleeman Theatre, Chandler on 9th August 1985.

"... you have only begun. Although significant strides have been made over the last 25 years, from those early baptizing tours of the 60's, ... be prepared to go on."

However, musical accomplishment has by no means been solely the domain of the Y.O.U. Special music has become a regular feature of Church Services in recent years with not only talented individuals contributing, but also duets, quartets, the Brisbane South Church Choir, and now the New Horizons.

The Youth Education Service, known as Y.E.S., has been in operation in Brisbane since 1983 when the first evaluation meetings were held. As well as the monthly Bible Lessons, Y.E.S. age children and their families have enjoyed a number of social and sporting activities since the programme began.

Both the Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. programmes are vital tools to prepare the young people God is calling to take their place in the family as it grows.

An important tool in developing leadership in the men of God's Church, is spokesman Club. The first Club began in 1964. The number of

Clubs have since increased and Graduate Clubs have been added. Between 1974 and 1983 various Women's Clubs have also been conducted, the final men's night of the Brisbane South Ladies Club being held at Petrie Mansions on the 14th August 1983.

The Singles form another important group in the congregation, with a number of activities each year being directed toward the singles. The National Singles camps are perhaps the highlight. Singles Bible Studies are also conducted monthly.

The quiet achievers have been the Seniors. From 1979 till August 1980 senior members of the North Church operated the Stanley Street Thrift Shop which injected over \$30,000 into the Work. The founders of the shop were Mr. & Mrs. Len Smith and Mrs. Jancy O'Kane. Their successful venture inspired brethren in Perth and New Zealand to open shops of their own. Since December 1982, the Smiths, together with a dedicated team of helpers, have run regular street stalls at Woolloongabba.

The seniors of the Brisbane South Church are no less dedicated, and run a regular monthly street stall at Mount Gravatt which provides the bulk of local church funds.

Birkdale Nursery, formerly owned by deacon Alex Scott, has also played an ongoing role in the Brisbane Church. In the 1970's Open Days were held at the Nursery with brethren operating a variety of stalls. Now that the nursery has changed hands, it still provides a source of Church funds in the form of regular working bees. Members give up the occasional Sunday morning to label azaleas and pull weeds. In looking back briefly over the history of the Brisbane Church we can recognise the extent to which God has blessed us. From its humble beginnings the Family in Brisbane has grown tremendously.

It is fitting, at this time, to honour the pioneers who did not enjoy the many programmes and activities available to us today, and to rededicate our lives to the Calling we share with them. As Mr. Dexter Faulkner said in his congratulatory message: "My personal feeling is that you have only begun. Although significant strides have been made over the last 25 years, from those early baptizing tours of the 60's . . . be prepared to go on. Ever keep your eye on the goal of God's Kingdom as you continue to fulfill your part in the great commission He has given us all."

That seems a fitting note on which to conclude, as we not only look back, but more importantly as we look ahead to an eternal future in the family of God. □

DIARY OF EVENTS

- 14 April 1956 - 1st World Tomorrow broadcast in Australia.
- Nov. 1959 - Daily broadcasting of World Tomorrow in Australia
- 24 Dec. 1959 - Aust. Church Office opens.
- Early 1960 - 1st Qld. Baptizing Tour.
- Jul. 1960 - 1st Australian edition of the Plain Truth.
- Oct. 1960 - 1st Feast of Tabernacles to be held in Australia.
- 6 Aug. 1961 - 1st Brisbane Bible Study.
- 22 Jun 1963 - BRISBANE CHURCH BEGINS !**
- 1963 - 1st Trumpets and Atonement ever observed in Qld.
- 1964 - 1st Passover and Unleavened Bread held in Brisbane.
- Nov. 1964 - 1st Brisbane Spokesman Club meeting was held.
- 1965 - 192 observe Feast of Pentecost in Brisbane.
- Oct. 1965 - Mr. Couston ordained first Deacon in Brisbane.
- 10 Feb. 1966 - Mr. Royston Page ordained as a Preaching Elder.
- Apr. 1966 - Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong Visit Australia.
- Aug. 1969 - Toowoomba Church begins.
- 27 Feb. 1971 - Ordinations: Mrs. Couston first Deaconess in Brisbane, Mr. David Jackson Deacon.
- 24 Jun. 1972 - Grafton Church begins.
- Jul. 1973 - Four new Churches in Qld. Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.
- 23 Feb. 1974 - Gold Coast Church begins.
- Pentecost '74 - Mr. Alex Scott and Mr. Jack Clune ordained a Deacons.
- 1 Oct. 1974 - Mr. David Jackson ordained a Local Church Elder.
- Oct. 1974 - Newstands approved in Qld.
- 1975 - 1st Brisbane Mini Olympics.
- Feb. 1975 - Bundaberg Church begins.
- Nov./Dec. 75 - Caboolture Church begins.
- Mar. 1976 - Brisbane North and Brisbane South Churches commence.
- 11 Apr. 1976 - Burleigh Office opens.
- Sep. 1976 - Telecast begins in Brisbane.
- 1977 - Y.O.U. begins in South-East Queensland.
- Jul. 1977 - Gympie Church begins.
- Oct. 1977 - Warwick Church begins.
- 12 Apr. 1979 - Mr. Jack Clune ordained a Local Church Elder.
- 20 Oct. 1979 - Mr. John Lehmann ordained a Deacon.
- Nov. 1979 - Ipswich Church begins.
- 10 Apr. 1982 - Mr. Kevin Thomson ordained a Local Church Elder.
- Jan. 1983 - 1st Y.E.S. Evaluation meetings in Brisbane.
- Jan. 1974 - Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's last visit to Australia.
- 21 Apr. 1985 - 1st Annual National Talent Contest final held in Brisbane.
- 2 Jan. 1988 - Mr. Tkach speaks in Brisbane.

Anecdotes From Members

Following are excerpts from anecdotes recently received from members:

THREE—YEAR WAIT FOR MINISTERIAL VISIT

"Looking back over the 25 years I have been a Church member, I am amazed at the growth of the Church here in Australia. I remember the early days in Blackheath, when we knew all the members attending and quite a few New Zealand members, who actually covered less distance to attend the Feast than we did from North Queensland.

I recall how when we were first called . . . not having contact with any other members, we had to wait three years before we could see a minister on a baptizing tour to North Queensland. When Mr. Cole and Mr. Abraham finally made it to Townsville, six of us were baptized."

Phil Regazzoli

MIRACULOUS HEALING

"In the early 1960's Len Smith was employed as a welder in a garage in Warwick. One day whilst in the pit working under a car, a spark from the welder ignited petrol fumes in the pit. In the ensuing explosion Len received third degree burns, mainly to his face and hands. Fortunately his welding goggles saved his eyesight.

The Church office in Sydney was contacted, and word went out for prayers on Len's behalf.

Nine months later he returned to work with his face totally free of scarring. The only evidence remaining of the accident are scarred wrists."

Mr. and Mrs. Len Smith.

"BLUE MOUNTAINS RESORT SELLS OUT OF LISTERINS"

"Those who have been in God's Church for over 20 years will recall the day that the Blackheath Festival area sold out of Listerine . . .

Mr. Bill Bradford gave a Sermonette early in the feast on the importance of quarantining those with contagious illness, as Blackheath was renowned for such afflictions as colds and flu . . .

He admonished the congregation in an obviously stirring delivery that prevention was much better than cure. He related how he had, over the years, found one oral antiseptic particularly helpful.

Within 24 hours every shop and chemist in the area had sold out of this product."

Graeme Cook

CAR ACCIDENT RETURNING FROM PASSOVER IN SYDNEY

"Coming home from Passover in Sydney, we were travelling in a Chevie ute with a canopie on the back. As I was tired and had no money to stay anywhere, I had to ask my 7 month pregnant wife to drive. She also dozed, then cried out: 'We're leaving the road!'

We both grabbed the wheel, hit a guide post, snapping it off at the ground, went over a six foot culvert, overturned, went through a railway fence, the canopy came off, and landed right side up with the children coming to rest on the blankets.

The only injuries were a sprained wrist (mine) and bruising on my wife's arm. There was no damage to the unborn child."

Don Clark

INCIDENT AT WILLOW TREE

"We were returning home to Brisbane from the Feast of Tabernacles at 'Blackheath' when it happened . . . I was following Mr. Couston into Willow Tree. On the town side of the railway line there was a dip in the road. As Mr. Couston's Hillman rode into the dip I was horrified to see the left hand rear wheel go over at a sickening angle. The left hand rear axle had snapped . . . Willow Tree is a 'one-horse' town, miles from anywhere . . . with only one small garage . . . Where would we obtain a left hand Hillman axle? God is a miracle working God! At the rear of the garage a Hillman of the same model as Mr. Couston's was being wrecked. And, guess what? Yes! It had a left hand rear axle still intact."

Mr. Reg Wright

WINDSCREEN BREAK ON WAY HOME FROM FEAST

"Returning home from the Feast at Port Macquarie, it was raining 'cats and dogs'. Near Tweed Heads we heard a report like a rifle shot and the windscreen on our Cortina shattered, making it almost impossible to see . . .

We were able to get to beyond Ben Boyd Bridge when hawk-eyed Heather saw a sign 'Windscreens renewed'. We found it closed but were given their phone number by the owner of a nearby house.

We raised the number only to be told the proprietor was not there, but they would contact him, and we were to go back to the workshop and wait.

Within half an hour he arrived and miraculously had a Cortina windscreen of laminated glass - just what was required."

Alec and Heather Cook.

HEALING AFTER ANNOINTING

"In 1967 Dorothy had been quite ill for weeks. She was anointed but her condition worsened . . . After three months totally bed ridden tests showed she had rheumatoid arthritis and her blood and her heart were badly affected . . . Mr. Page came to Toowoomba and Dorothy was anointed. On Sabbath Mr. Page asked the whole Church to pray for her. Tuesday she felt so well she got out of bed, returned to school the next Monday, and never looked back . . ."

Vivienne Schultz

Bits & Pieces

The following items are reprinted from the 'Bits & Pieces' section of the Church of God News:

* An inspiring letter comes from Mr. and Mrs. D. Clark in Ballandean about the miraculous healing that has taken place in young Stephen. Upon God's intervention his little body gained in strength and weight from 12lb 6oz to 16lb 10oz. in only one and a half months' time. He is now a very happy and contented baby.

(Church of God News March 1962)

* Several members had interesting experiences on the way down to the Festival - the Tinworth's laughingly recalled the first time running out of petrol ever was a blessing - it happened "right smack dab" in front of a service station!

(Church of God News May 1962)

* A very inspiring letter was recently received from Mr. Kraft Klause up in Cairns. He reports how he was healed after he incurred a very painful injury to his knee while clearing bush along a riverbank. A short time after sending a telegram requesting an anointed cloth the pain suddenly left him and the swelling went down. He didn't even have to miss work.

Mr. Klaus also related a very revealing account of a conversation with a Seventh Day Adventist acquaintance who has been receiving the PLAIN TRUTH for the past two

years. The man asked, "How come this Armstrong is on Radio Luxembourg as I can see in the Radio Log! WE - and all other sponsored religious programmes have been put off the air recently!"

(Church of God News July-Aug. 1962)

* Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Tinworth report that on Sabbath, November 17, hailstones as large as cricketballs struck Boonah with the greatest ferocity in 22 years. The ground was covered as if several inches of snow had fallen as far as you could see. Many had tanks punctured, roofs punctured or smashed, and gardens stripped! One neighbour commented 'I thought the end of the world had come.' The Tinworths are rejoicing that the storm appeared to have divided in half before hitting them and they suffered only very minor damage in comparison to great losses of others.

(Church of God News Dec. 1962.)

* Mr. and Mrs. Couston of Brisbane announce the birth of their fourth child . . . Gillies was born at 10.00 am. December 22nd, weighing 8lb. 14ozs.

(Church of God News Jan.-Feb. 1965) □