

22. 1982 THE NEW HALL

Even with all the improvements it became obvious that there was still a need for more space. With this in mind land on the southern side of the hall was purchased in 1984. Plans went ahead to build a new hall.

BUILDING THE NEW HALL

Looking at how the hall could be enlarged, it was decided that it would be uneconomical to extend the present building, and that a new hall should be built. A majority vote of members confirmed this decision, and the Committee set to work.

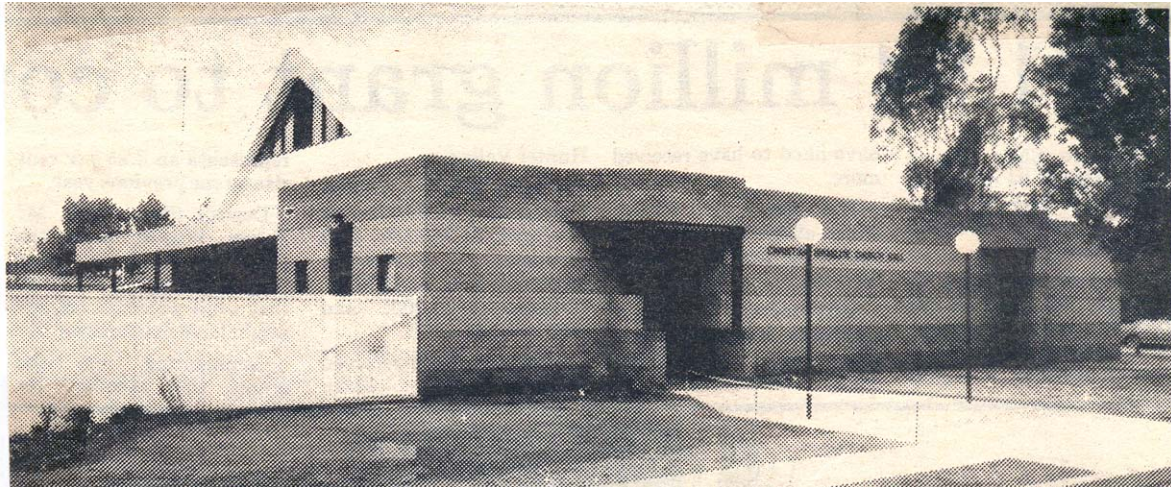
The new Hall would accommodate the growing membership in Singleton and the numerous functions held in the hall. So, at a general meeting a Building Committee consisting of Leonard Gould, Chairman, Stanley Gould, Allen Gould, Neil Fellowes, Reginald Gray and Heather Knight, was asked to look into ways of extending the hall.

After a list of the requirements of the hall was compiled, Architect, John Zaat was engaged, in October, 1984 to produce a design. This he did and the cost was estimated at \$320,000. By January, 1985, The Trustees had approved the plan. Two sets of tenders were called in August, the first for the removal and sale of the existing hall, and the removal of the old house on the newly purchased block in High St., and the second for the building of the new hall. Of the five builders who submitted tenders for the building of the hall, Perram and Toohey were selected and they and Leonard Gould, on behalf of the Building Committee, signed the contract. The hall was emptied early in 1986 and work began.



Above picture featured in the Argus 1986

The old hall and Burgmann's house (above right) in High St were demolished.



National trustee opens Christian Israelite's new church hall

The Christian Israelite Church's new hall was officially opened by the church's national trustee, Mr Bruce Gould.

The four church trustees have been holding their meetings here over the past week, and the opening of the hall was planned to coincide with their visit.

The new hall is situated at the corner of Goulburn and High Streets, and replaces a wooden structure which was demolished in January.

The brick building was designed by local architect, John Zaat, and built by Perram and Toohey.

These people were among the large audience which filled the hall on Saturday night for the concert and official opening.

Pastor Norman Gray gave some background information about the various buildings which had been used first as churches, and later as halls when larger churches were built.

He spoke of the work done by the building committee, Leonard Gould (chairman), Heather Knight, Allen Gould, Neil Fellowes, Reginald Gray and Stanley Gould.

This group had spent many hours meeting to

discuss various facets of the new building.

The architect, Mr Zaat was given the opportunity of pointing out to the audience some of the special features of the hall.

The Shire President, Cr Neil McNamara on behalf of the community of Singleton, spoke of the high esteem in which members of the Christian Israelite Church were held, and congratulated them on the new building.

Pastor David Knight in his talk, gave some of the facts about the Christian Israelite Church and how it began in England in 1822.

Once the speeches had finished, the smallest children began the concert part of the program by singing a number of songs.

Other groups to present vocal items included a ladies sextette, a youth group, and a vocal duet.

A woodwind trio, a piano and organ duet, and an item by the orchestra were also appreciated by the audience.

Since the Church's band had opened the program with a number of items, items by the church choir brought the program to a close.

Chairman for the proceedings had been Mr

Stanley Gould, a local church officer.

With many church members from other centres coming to Singleton for the opening of the hall, the opportunity was taken on Sunday to follow the morning service with morning tea and luncheon, when various members spoke about the church over the years.

Records and scrap books were on display.

A special book has been compiled by Beryl Ricardo to coincide with the opening of the hall, and deals with the history of the church in Singleton over the past 124 years.

The front of the hall is illustrated with its three toned brick arrangement, and the inside of the hall has a central section similar to that of the church. Entry to the building is through a porch and double glass doors into a foyer, and then into the hall. The main hall is designed to seat about 220 people and has a permanent stage at one end. The stage and the floor have parquetry flooring.

The Eastern end of the hall (below) is almost a glass wall with three sets of double doors and windows opening on to a wide ground-level verandah which runs almost the full width of the building. It can be extended at some future date without interfering with the existing facilities. From this area a pathway leads to the back of the church and out to the grounds where many of the established trees have been retained, and others have been planted.



The main hall has two walls of brick and above the bricks there are louvred windows to help with air circulation. Lighting in the hall is by six white glass globular lights with emergency lights in case of power failure. Twelve ceiling fans circulate the air while the walls and roof of the building are insulated. While most of the ceilings of the building are painted an off white, the ceiling in the main hall is a pastel apricot with the roof trusses painted a contrasting red brown. This colour is repeated on the door frames throughout the building, but the internal doors themselves are timber, stained to show the lovely natural grain. The external doors are painted to match the bricks.

The kitchen has cupboards of cream laminex with brown bench tops, and the floor is covered with vinyl sheeting. The large refrigerator, stove and pie warmer from the previous hall have been incorporated into the new kitchen, while four sinks replace the previous two, and a smaller sink is available for smaller functions. There is also a hand basin in the kitchen

Next to the kitchen is a store room to hold tressle tables and spare chairs, while a similar room on the other side of the stage is used to store band instruments as well as music for the band and choir.

Access to the stage is gained from both store rooms which are linked with a corridor which runs along behind the stage. Toilets for men and women can be entered from the music room as well as from the two cloak rooms which in turn open on to the foyer. A window in the women's cloak room looks onto the main hall and can be used as a "crying" room.

The picture below looks towards the stage. The picture right below shows the hall looking toward the kitchen. The kitchen is on the southern side of the main hall and has a servery window with two roller doors providing services to two areas.



On the western side of the hall, behind the stage there is practically no glass thus cutting out glare and heat of summer. On the northern side are the comfort rooms. The tiles are of a yellow colour and are matched by gold laminex on the vanity surrounds. Tiles on the floor are in autumn tones and a small hallway leads to a sickbay and disabled persons' bathroom which has a shower and a toilet.

As with previous projects at the church many members need to be thanked. They have given generously of time, joined working bees, have given financially, some have raised funds, particularly the young group, and helpers have cleaned and tidied the grounds, helped landscape, erect fences, construct paths, turf lawns, and generally fit the hall with necessary items of furniture. As well, tribute must be paid to the building committee and to Leonard, the main link with the builder, for their supervision of the work.



Now, in 2005 the hall has proved to be a wonderful venue for all kinds of productions, and concerts, and is a great asset to the church and its members.

23. WHITSUNTIDE

Whitsuntide is an important season in all Christian churches as it marks the beginning of the Christian church, and we celebrate it each year. The date for celebration of Whitsuntide is 7 weeks after Easter. From our earliest days we all remember the wonderful atmosphere of the Whitsuntide week end. The fellowship, the meeting friends and relations we see often only once a year, the aroma coming from the kitchen, and the happiness of the weekend exude a wonderful memory.

It is this week end which unifies the church members, as we follow the English custom and have a weekend of celebrations. The high point of the weekend is the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday.

In Singleton much planning goes into the preparations for the time. Here the celebration begins on Friday night, continuing on Saturday morning with a service, on Saturday afternoon with a series of prepared addresses, and on Saturday night comes what all the young ones look forward to most of all. A Committee produces an evening's entertainment. The theme for the weekend gives a message and this comes through in community singing, group items, and a play or some performance. There are often solo items and the Choir and Band perform. The practices and rehearsals provide great fellowship and fun for the youth of the church, and a great time is had by all. We invite the people of the town to join with us to celebrate the occasion and we usually have a full to overflowing hall to share and enjoy the fellowship. Truly this is the pouring out of the spirit on the whole group, and it is what we all enjoy about the season.

On Sunday we celebrate the time of Pentecost. This was the time for which the disciples were waiting after Jesus crucifixion, when He promised to send the Comforter. On this occasion the spirit manifested itself and came on the assembled group. This was really the beginning of the church and of Christianity as we know it today. We remember this at Whitsuntide.

A Feast is held to celebrate the time of Pentecost, also members, families and friends have a picnic lunch, a wonderful social gathering and walk, with lots of fun for the kids being together. Sunday night there is a communal feast, of which everyone partakes. As part of the evening entertainment the children present lessons and entertain the adults. After this they are rewarded with a special gift from the Sunday school.

Monday, a sports gathering caters for children of all ages, the youth and adults. There are foot races, three legged races, orange and sack races, and a game of softball or cricket. This is followed by lunch at the church, more sport or fellowship in the afternoon and a final meal on Monday night. After the meal there is a party mode with general entertainment including games and Bible Trivia. This evening programmes officially ends the weekend.

At Whitsuntide, an assessment is able to be made of the work of the church for the year and to give thanks to those regular workers who keep the organisation alive. Many people devote a lot of time to weekly chores, clerical work, printing and any matter which needs someone's attention. Particularly noted is the regular time which officers give to their roles, and members appreciate the mechanism which helps the church function.

This yearly function unifies the whole organisation, and no matter where members live an effort is made by them to attend some centre where this celebration is taking place. Just as at the time of the disciples the outpouring of the spirit sent them out to begin the spread of Christianity, so each year we look to this time as an individual assessment of our lives and a renewal of our relationship with our Master and Lord.

The celebration of Whitsuntide still takes place in England, where there is a holiday and sports take place for the occasion. It is a time for renewal of spiritual lives, and a looking to start again in the Christian life. We carry this message too, and often people are baptised, or others make a further commitment to the higher order of the church. Just as the spirit flowed on the Day of Pentecost, we are sure it flows to our hearts and our church on this week end.

24. THE SINGLETON CHURCH BRASS BAND

In the early 1920's Aaron Clarke had conducted a small group of players, seven Gould boys and Albert Hawkins. This Band was not known to have performed publicly. On April 8th, 1930 the present Band was formalised with Walter Gould, at the age of 70 years as Bandmaster, Hector Gould as Conductor, and Norman Gray as Secretary. Players were: Cornets, Norman Gray, Clarence and Hector Gould Baritone, Clarence Fellowes, Tenor Horn William Mason, Bass, Arthur Gould, Euphonium, Walter Gould Jnr. Tribute must be paid to the work of early musicians, especially Walter Gould Senior who was responsible for much of the music, some of which is still played today in the Hymns, Marches and Selections. Other music in these sets was obtained from the Melbourne Church Band, and some arranged by the Salvation Army.



Greta Bandstand or Rotunda was an early Outdoor service venue in the early 1900's

Tuesday night was Band night, and players were required to pay 1/- per calendar month to support the band. Two Bass instruments were purchased at the cost of about 10pounds each, (approx \$20). A recently acquired Bass instrument cost \$16,000-. Aaron Clarke gave a donation, and the Church granted 130 pounds. Hector Gould reports that the first service outdoors, held at Broke was disappointing as "they played to the birds." Regular successful services were held around Singleton, Branxton, Greta, and Cessnock.

Children of the church who were interested were taught to play. Girls were admitted to the Singleton band in 1979. Women players from the Melbourne band had visited prior to this date. Many players who leave town are always happy to return and play with the group. Long serving member in the band, Mervyn Gould has played for 65 years and Bruce Ricardo played for 15 yrs in Melbourne, and has played for 58 years in Singleton (73 years altogether). Reginald Gray became conductor of the Band after Hector in 1977. The band benefits from help given by Teresa Gray and Kerrie Melamad who have studied music at the Conservatorium of Music, and Peter Knight, bandmaster of the Singleton Town Band, of 25 players and a few visiting returning players.

Several players took their interest to the Central coast and with their families have formed Terrigal Band, which is conducted by Lois Ricardo who is also a graduate of the Conservatorium of Music. This band assists the Singleton Band and supports it. With 20 players on this roll, the combined bands have over 40 players.

The Band is a very popular source of entertainment for both participants and the audience, and is always in great demand. Functions during the year give an incentive for practices. Christmas, has been celebrated since 1953, with the Annual Carol Programme in the park. The Whitsuntide programme is held yearly. There are Variety and Band concerts, and performances for the nursing homes and retirement centres in town. Help is given in other church centres when requested. Kempsey, now replaced by Bonnie Hills, and Sydney, are popular venues for our performances. We thank the players, the organisers and all the people who research and prepare the music. This is its 75th year (2005), and special celebration is planned for October 22nd.

BAND MEMBERS LISTED TO PLAY WITH THE COMBINED BAND FOR THE 75TH BAND ANNIVERSARY

**Terrigal **Windsor ^Sydney #Bonnie Hills*

Cornets and Trumpets: Mervyn Gould, (longest playing member), Stanley Gould, Kenneth, Rebecca, Charlotte, Jonathan and Paul Gray, Bradley*, Michelle*, and Renee Garraway*, Linda*, Timothy* and Louise* Ricardo, Fiona Stoddard*, Lana Dwyer*. **Soprano Cornet:** Linda Ricardo* **Flugal Horn:** Teresa Gray, Jennie Ricardo* **Tenor Horn:** Cecil Fellowes, Reginald, Sarah and Timothy Gray, Kerrie Melamed, Jennie* and Angela* Ricardo. **Bass:** Leonard Gould, Neil Fellowes, Paul Ricardo* and Luke Garraway*. **Baritone:** Neville and Marc Gould, Anthony Gray Nadia Ricardo*, Bob Stoddard*. **Trombone players:** David Gray, Bruce Ricardo (oldest member), Singleton/Terrigal, Phillip Stoddard*, Darren Gray*. **Euphonium;** Peter Knight, Donald Gray, Benjamin Ricardo*, James Harrison**, and Lachlan Armstrong**. **Percussion - Piano - Librarian** Beryl Ricardo*. **Conductors:** Reginald Gray & Lois Ricardo*.

Other players who join the band on occasions: Linda Brotherton, Annette Dwyer*, Andrew Gould, John and Rodney Gray*. **Retired** Allen and Jeffrey Gould, Perry Shaddock. Heather Knight,. **Deceased:** Errol Mason, Peter Gould, Allyn Knight, & Harley Gray. **Players who have left the town** A. Delaney Eric, Victor, Colin, Noel, Ian, Lesley, Hilton, Alvin & Malcolm Gould, M Beardslee, Carolyn Armstrong, Colin Shilton, Bruce Fellowes, Paula Manning, Janet Villata, Julie Shearman, Sandra Pethick, Ross Gray and others.

JUNIOR BAND Directed by Beryl Ricardo: Angela and Linda Ricardo, Renee Garraway, Jessica and Jonathan Gray, Lana Dwyer. Lachlan Armstrong and Joel Gruber.

THE CHURCH CHOIR

The church choir has been operating since 1946. At a meeting in 1946 William Mason moved that Hector Gould be given the work of conducting the singing. A night was set aside for practice of singing of hymns. The practice was to last for a half an hour. The singing became popular and soon the young people decided they wanted to sing part songs other than hymns for special occasions. So, with Betty Gray as pianist the group established itself as the church choir. Hector Gould was asked to conduct, and he reported that of 15 members only one member of the choir was over 16 years of age, and that was Ralph Gray.

Members of the choir were: Betty, Gwen, Joan, Lesley, Victor & Mervyn Gould, Shirley, Harley, John & Ralph Gray, Elva & Cecil Fellowes. Soon after Audrey and Beryl Gray

From time to time the choir would render a number of items for about 15-20 minutes prior to the Sunday night service. It was not long before older members joined the group, and we began using the choir in our services.

The first milestone for the choir was its part in the first broadcast at a service live over radio. This was actually performed at the Radio station at 2CK Cessnock when the choir led the singing group for the occasion. Hector relates that the trip had a tense beginning as the bus which had been hired met with a hold up and when they left Singleton they were well behind time. Fortunately the driver made it in about 30 minutes which was excellent timing for those days. Anyone on the bus would well remember that ride! Thus began the regular broadcasting over local radio stations, and records were made to save the whole group having to be present for the broadcast.

The next choir highlight was an invitation to perform member David Knight's Oratorio, "The Praise of Zion" for the Salvation Army Group in Sydney, in Congress Hall. It was conducted by David and Reginald, and accompanied by Organ, Paul Ricardo and Piano Beryl Ricardo. This was a memorable occasion and was one which will long be remembered.

A great success was won in 1981 when musicians and choir, and children together under Lois Ricardo's Baton with help from her sister Julie Bevan, produced "The Music Machine", a musical for all ages. It was very popular and has since been produced by the next generation and very much enjoyed by all involved.

Reginald Gray became conductor in 1977 until this year (2005), when Heather Knight has taken the position. Accompanists have included, Betty Gray (Graham) the first, Joyce Bradley (Lines), Allyn Knight, Beryl Ricardo, and at present Dorothy Crouch (Gould). David Knight was available until he suffered a stroke, and Teresa, Rebecca and Charlotte Gray may also accompany if required.

The choir meets weekly and provides an interest for its members by singing all kinds of music. The repertoire provides music for all occasions.

PRESENT CHOIR MEMBERS

Most of the choir members have been members for many years. New members would be most welcome. If you feel inclined come and join in!

Sopranos: Thelma, Ann Gray, Kay and Myrl Gould, Catherine McPhee, Kerrie Melamed, Joyce Shilton, Jennie Ricardo*, Betty Graham^, Shirley Mercer^, Michelle Garraway* Carolyn Gray.

Altos: Ruth Gray, Beryl, Lois* and Nadia* Ricardo, Audrey Harrison, Dorothy Crouch, Janice Burchell, Teresa Gray, Muriel Gould#.

Tenors: Neil & Cecil Fellowes, Stanley Gould, Reginald Gray, Ben* and Tim* Ricardo.

Bass Jeffrey Gould, Paul Gray, Mervyn, Lesley# & Marc Gould, Paul Ricardo*, Phil Stoddardt * James Harrison ^

Occasional singers Debra and Belinda Gould.

*Terrigal ** Windsor ^ Sydney # Bonnie Hills



PART 5

The Argus 1953

26. SPECIAL SECTIONS

MUSIC COMPOSED BY MEMBERS

David Knight

- The Oratorio "*Praise of Zion*"
- A Cantata "*Thus Said the Lord*"
- An Arrangement of the *Lord's Prayer*, and Hymns including numbers 37,59,61,63, 120, and 128.
- Arrangements for tunes already played by the band, e.g. hymn 59 and his own Moment by Moment, March On.
- Choruses and songs

All Things are Possible
Believe in God
Bless the Lord O my Soul
Here we Are
I am Happy Today
I am the Resurrection
I want to be Like Jesus

It's a Good thing to Praise the Lord
I Want to Be Like Jesus
Moment By Moment
O Thou Adam, What has thou Done
Return O Lord Unto the Many
Thanks be to God
This is the Season to Prepare



*The Current organ
AHLBORN - Galanti*

Teresa Gray

Is Your Candle Lit
Sing unto the Lord
Band arrangement
Music for "Job"

Kerrie Melamed

Jubilee
A fanfare
Wedding Music "*Now we are one*"
Music for "Job"

Rebecca Gray

Folk music
Easter Song

MUSICALS

- 1981 The Music Machine
1989 The Race is On.
1990 Job. An original script written by A.Harrison & others
Music by Teresa Gray and Kerrie Gray (Melamed)
1991 Music Machine repeated.
1992 Beauty & the Feast, Sydney, Singleton, Terrigal by one cast, and at Windsor by a second cast.
1992 Wise Guys
1997 The Gift Goes On
2005 The Love That Changed the World (In preparation as this book is written)



THE ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra in the form it was in 1968 does not exist now. We have a number of instrumental players, and they come together when required. The occasions when it performs are at Whitsuntide, and often at church services, to accompany the congregation and occasionally give an item.

The greatest effort the orchestra made was for the performance of "The Music Machine" first of all in 1981 and in 1995. This was a wonderful effort on behalf of the musicians and the players in the musical.

We are fortunate to have players for most instruments, brass, flutes, clarinets, strings of all families, and guitars. Small groups will perform, and the youth group entertains with guitars and often solo instruments.

CONCERTS

The earliest musicale in 1956 began a tradition of a yearly Variety Concert which has lasted through to today. Lally Knight, mother of one of our greatest musicians, David, saw the need for children and people in the group to use their talents. She asked for volunteers to perform and soon had a concert together.

At first the programme consisted of a Biblical play in which adults as well as young people took part, and people who could play an instrument or perform in some way were invited to join the concert. It was a great value to people learning an instrument or the piano to perform before an audience, and gave them confidence to face examinations with a positive feeling. The choir and band were asked to present items, and the concert became a yearly presentation.

It was for this concert that the orchestra came into being. Some adults played but did not feel proficient enough to give solo items and were happy to join a group to perform. Time did not permit three practices a week, as most already belonged to both Band and Choir, so the orchestra took a back seat and it comes into life on different occasions, particularly at Whitsuntide, or for an item on occasions through the year for services.

At the time the variety concerts began there were already an Easter and a Band Concert, so over the years these have all been incorporated in the Variety Concert held towards the end of the year. The Whitsuntide concert is still held on Whitsaturday night. This concert is arranged around the theme for the Whitsuntide season.

The concerts have been a great way for our group to meet with many people in the town and share our great moments with them. There are regular guests who look forward to the yearly entertainment, which give the Brass Band, the Choir, artists and students a reason to practice and reach performing standard. One visitor expressed the sentiments of the audience when he said that this entertainment keeps music alive in Singleton.

RECORDINGS

Tapes or discs are available for those who are unable to read, and who wish to hear the reading of the communications. These were read by David Knight and are currently being read continuously through the Web Site. Public hymns, and Christmas carols, are recorded on tape or CD and these are available for purchase.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

In 1945 a tennis club was formed for members 21/7/45 and lasted until 1985.

In 1954 a formal social committee was set up, and this was revised in 1957, and from then on regular entertainment has been organised.

CONVENTIONS AND KIDS KAMPS

The first group meeting was held in 1947 at Silverwater with Nellie Fellowes as Camp Mum. The purpose of the camp was to promote fellowship, study and provide a good time for all. It was a great success and since then there have been many conventions and Kids Camps. These have been listed in the Time Line at the beginning of the history. At these gatherings, fellowship, study and lots of fun activities have been held. Music has played an important part in these meetings and anyone who plays an instrument is encouraged to play in a community group. From these functions we have encouraged some brass players and at present have a small Junior Band.

Places where camps have been held are in Victoria, at Healesville, and in New South Wales at Lake Macquarie, Narrabeen, Penrith, Galston Gorge, Naamaroo, Fitzroy Falls and others.

YOUTH GROUP

At present Jennie Ricardo and Alyce Garraway organise a Youth Group for children aged 10-15. Outings, party afternoons, sleep-overs and now practice for a Musical which they hope to produce early next year 2006, are part of their programme. Children from all N.S.W. centres attend when they are able.

27. OUTREACH OF THE CHURCH

THE INTERNET

The Christian Israelite Church web site gives a comprehensive coverage of the church doctrine and activities. It includes many articles, items of church literature and all issues of the church magazine "The Latter Rain". The site attracts a lot of interest from people researching the church, averaging around 800 visitors per month.

A separate webserver broadcasts to the internet 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Broadcasts are via a "Shoutcast" server and also via a public service, "Paltalk".

Instructions for logging on to the broadcasts can be found on the church website www.cichurch.asn.au.

The programmes include the reading of the Journal of John Wroe, the founder of the church. Also included are a number of services recorded live at the Sydney Church and various recordings of hymns sung by members of the church. The cycle takes about 3-5 days. Live services are broadcast from the Sydney Church every alternate Sunday.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Christian Israelite Church website. At the top, the title "Christian Israelite Church" is displayed. Below it is a logo with the letters "CI" inside a circle, with the text "First to Live" underneath. The main heading reads "Welcome to the Christian Israelite Church's web site." Below this is a quote: "Jesus said: 'If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death' John 8:51." Further down, another heading says "Welcome to the Web site of the Christian Israelite Church." followed by a paragraph: "Christian Israelites hold the hope of the life of the body, that is to be preserved alive by the power of God until Jesus Christ returns. This hope, we believe, will be the fulfilment of promises in scripture to a remnant of the descendants of Israel, namely the 144,000 spoken of in Revelations-Christian Israelites. We combine the teachings of both the Old and New Testaments, believing that Jesus Christ was the sacrifice for our sins, but also believing that to obtain immortal life of the body God's laws need to be kept." On the left side, there is a vertical menu with links to various sections: Home, Online Broadcasts, Statement of Belief, Vegetarian Recipes, Lifestyle, What's New Page, Locations & Service Time, Latter Rain, Coming Events..., CIC Feedback Form Page, Music, Literature, CIC History, Catechism, KJV Bible, Apocrypha, New Testament Names, Old Testament Names, The Ten Commandments, and CIC Table of Contents Page. At the bottom right, a box contains the text "Web Site reference is <http://www.cichurch.asn.au>".

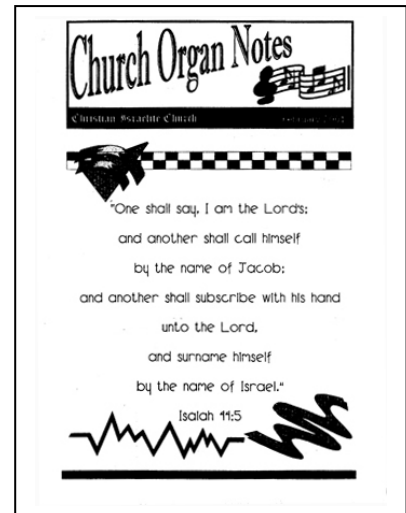
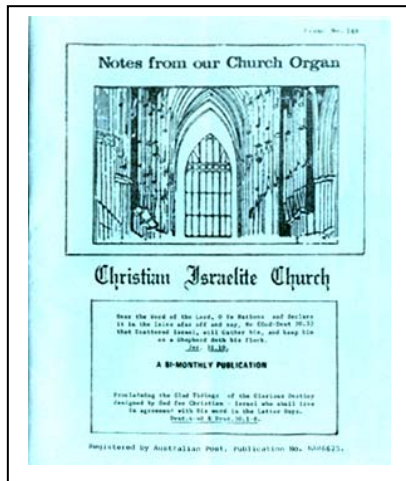
THE NEWSPAPER

The first regular magazine production was from Melbourne in 1945 known as “Our Church”. It was the work of a Progress Committee put out by Ralph and Marjorie Gray and Mervyn Eastes, intended as a weekly paper. Its purpose was to include items of interest from the various church bodies to help draw members more closely together and to create “a spirit of brotherly love” (Reuben Eastes). It included a number of items about Singleton, and a few instructional articles written by people, but it had only a short life. (see copy of the over)

In Singleton in 1948 Ralph Gray began a Bible Study Group, CIBSG. Lessons were sent to members and friends. John Knight continued this work which was the beginning of the Church Organ Series. By 1956 Ralph had 10 sections in this study course.

In 1964 David Knight, as Editor started a similar magazine which became known as “Notes from our church organ”.

It was produced every two months and provided reading for all age groups, and it reported church activities and matters relating to doctrine and Christian living. (see copy of the cover)



Since 1970 Paul Gray edited the paper and two sections were added, the first for “under Teens” Jean Chatterton, Heather Knight and then Sandra Pethic. A section for “Teenagers” was written by Janice Warfield (Burchell).

It took a new form in 1982 and became known as The “Church Organ Notes” and publication continues to be circulated bi-monthly.

At this stage it still included news and reading matter on various topics, until “The Latter Rain” came into being in 1992. It was amagazine and the Organ Notes remained a newsletter. It receives contributions from each of the church locations, and keeps everyone in touch with events which take place throughout the country. This is collated in Singleton by Nancy Gray, 2005. Stanley Gould and Nancy print it, often with volunteer helpers. The collation of the magazine has been a social event over the years. Nancy now sends a copy by email to those on the Internet

Christian Israelite Church	
CHURCH ORGAN NOTES	
NEWSLETTER	
FEBRUARY 2005	
WEB SITE: www.cichurch.asn.au	
EMAIL ADDRESS: cichurch@cichurch.asn.au	
Dates at a glance...for the year in advance!!!	
11:30 A.M.	SUN 8 MAR 05 WHITSUNDAY MEETING - SINGLETON
11:30 A.M.	SUN 20 MAR 05 PALM SUNDAY - SERVICE SYDNEY
9:30 A.M.	FRI 25 MAR 05 GOOD FRIDAY - SERVICE SYDNEY
2:00 A.M.	SUN 27 MAR 05 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS - WHEN IT IS 2:00 A.M., MOVE THE CLOCK BACKWARD SO IT BECOMES 1:00 A.M. (GAIN ONE HOUR).
	SUN 27 MAR 05 EASTER SUNDAY
	THUR 6 MAY 05 ASCENSION DAY
	SUN 08 MAY 05 MOTHER'S DAY
	FRI 13 MAY 05 WHIT FRIDAY
	SUN 15 MAY 05 WHIT SUNDAY
	SUN 17 JUL 05 LAST SUNDAY OF 70 DAYS
	SUN 24 JULY 05 FIRST SUNDAY BACK IN CHURCH
	SUN 04 SEP 05 FATHER'S DAY
7:30 P.M.	SAT 22 OCT 05 BRASS BAND 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (VARIETY CONCERT) - SINGLETON
2:00 A.M.	SUN 30 OCT 05 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS - WHEN IT IS 2:00 A.M., MOVE THE CLOCK FORWARD SO IT BECOMES 3:00 A.M. (LOSE ONE HOUR).
12:00 A.M.	WED 14 DEC 05 MIDNIGHT MEETING
7:30 P.M.	SUN 18 DEC 05 CAROLS IN THE PARK - SINGLETON
	SUN 26 DEC 05 CHRISTMAS DAY
	SUN 01 JAN 05 NEW YEAR'S DAY
	SUN 09 APR 05 PALM SUNDAY
	FRI 14 APR 05 GOOD FRIDAY
	SUN 16 APR 05 EASTER SUNDAY

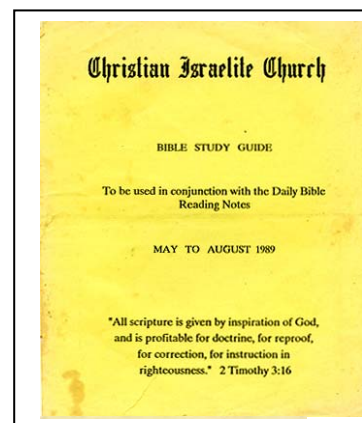
LATTER RAIN

“The Latter Rain” is a general magazine used as an outreach. The idea of latter rain comes from the fact that the moderate early rain comes in autumn. It is needed to prepare the ground for ploughing and planting the crops. It is symbolic of the first gift of the Holy Ghost, needed to establish the early church. Heavier rain in spring helps the crops mature and we like plants must grow spiritually in readiness to receive the latter rain to prepare us for Christ’s return.

It provides reading on scriptural and doctrinal articles to suit all ages of readers. As well as children’s stories the magazine seeks to include thoughts and interesting facts which may assist in bringing the reader to a greater understanding of God. It educates on Biblical History and deals with topics in which people are interested. doctrinal articles, health matters, cooking recipes and general topics. Lynne and Rodney Gray edit this and receive communications related to articles from many sources. It is produced quarterly and articles and contributions are welcome. The magazine is available on request.



There is a set of **DAILY BIBLE READINGS** with notes. These readings take the reader right through the Bible. These were prepared by Rodney Gray in 1971 and contain contributions from many helpers.



OTHER OUTREACH AREAS

- 1 Mission Trips held regularly, since 1950. For many years a yearly trip to Kempsey was a favourite. Funds were raised by Betty Smith, and the Bus Company did the rest to provide a happy social weekend for both Singletonians and Kempsey folk. Each year we have regular outings and recently our Kempsey trip has been replaced by a Bonnie Hills week end.
- 2 In 1948 radio Services were begun. The first services involved taking both choir and band to Cessnock to broadcast the service given by the Preacher. Other stations at Newcastle Kempsey and elsewhere were used, and before long we made records and tapes to save the whole group needing to attend. .
- 3 There are cassettes and discs with readings of the communications available for people who need assistance in reading. Several tapes of hymns have been recorded for congregational use, and tapes of the Band are available.
- 4 There is a Christmas Carol programme in Burdekin Park yearly. A Christmas carol recording was made and is available on disc or tape.
- 5 Sunday School Lesson Books are available for Primary school children and are available on request.
- 6 Church literature and a bi-monthly newsletter are available on request.
7. Regular public services are held, as advertised in most church centres, and concerts twice a year. Concerts entertain regularly and let the presence of the church be known. Most popular of these are the Whitsuntide concert, and the Variety concert. Each year we have Band and Choir Christmas concerts at the Nursing Homes and other centres in town.
8. Discussion groups are held at the church, and public services are conducted on a regular basis.

28. EVENTS OF INTEREST

THE FLOOD OF 1955.

By lunch time of Thursday 25th February, 1955 we knew that we were going to have a flood, the biggest one yet we were warned. The two main streets in Singleton, John and George Streets, all the streets interconnecting them, and all streets running from them were raging torrents of water. Most houses within the area became inundated with water. People moved their possessions to as high a level as they could in their homes, and moved out looking for a place without water so they could wait for the water to subside.

Our church is built in Goulburn Street which runs from George Street towards the river on the north east and believing that the hall was higher than other places around it about fifty people sought refuge there. Those living in the area moved out of their homes hoping to escape the water. The river which normally flows at about 30 ft was running at 51 feet at its highest and hardly a home escaped some damage. Fortunately our hall only had about two feet of water, and the church had about two foot six inches

Neil Fellowes with his brothers and sisters and parents lived two doors down from the church and they all moved into the hall. Neil tells this story of his experience there.

“My memories of the 1955 flood start when my brothers and I went out to help other people lift their furniture up high out of the reach of the water, not thinking of our own place in Bishopgate Street. When we headed for home we found the water lapping the floor boards and still rising fast.

After raising our own furniture up on tables and beds we went over to father’s workshop which was his joinery works next door to the house, (it is now the Singleton Enterprise workshop) and lifted what we would up on benches and anything we could find high enough to put machinery on, and by this time we were paddling round in ankle deep water inside the workshop.

Father decided to shift the family over to C.I.C Hall in Goulburn Street behind the church. There were 14 of our family, and 4 other families in the hall with us. Clive Nichols and his family, Ronald and Ann Aust, and their three month old baby, Brian Vitnell and old Mrs Smith and her 2 dogs, about 16 people plus a few children in all

We paddled around in about 20 inches (50 centimeters) of water in the hall at the peak of the flood, and we slept on tables and old church benches put up on chairs to keep them out of the water.

The hall had a large fuel stove and when the water started to go down we dried out the stove and lit it up with dry wood found in the ceiling of the hall, left there from extensions carried out in years past. Along with tinned food and flour and what ever we could find in cupboards around the neighbourhood, we started having hot meals again. Ronald Aust was a pastry cook by trade and started making pumpkin and grammar pies, from what was fished out of the water as it floated past.

Two semi-trailers loaded with green banana had left Queensland headed for Newcastle to be loaded on a boat for export on the Thursday before the flood and when they reached Singleton could not go further because the Highway was blocked and by the time the highway was opened 3 or 4 days later the boat had sailed and the bananas had nowhere to go. Drivers said they couldn’t take them back to Queensland so rather than dump them the resourceful Controller, Clive Bourke said “Don’t waste them, we can use them”(and I being the only other person in sight) said pointing to me, “He knows his way around town. He will show you where to leave them. “

So armed with a list of drop off places and 2 truckloads of bananas we proceeded around town to places like the Hospital, High School, St. Cath’s School, and all the halls around town, and anywhere we could find someone to take them. We finally unloaded the trucks and they headed back to Queensland and Singleton ate bananas for weeks after. When they finished I did not want to see another banana again. BUT they were good eating at the time fat and just starting to ripen.”

As the flood was rising the mayor in an army duck travelled through the area and reported that the water there was a raging torrent and running at about 20 miles per hour. We were fortunate that the church property did not suffer great damage, but when the water subsided it left quite a mess to be attended to. As many members had been affected in their homes they found they had two areas to put back in order again.

Here is a photograph of the Ricardo home on the right, and the house next door. The water line on the home shows the height to which the water came. It was just one block away from the hall. The water was deeper here than at the church because the church was built a little higher than the home, but the picture gives an idea of the terrifying situation at the time, and the thought that the water could keep on rising adding an extra unknown fear. Homes of members nearby had four feet eight inches of water and suffered great destruction, but the hall was able to house the people there especially as the water subsided.



As the water receded people moved back to their homes to clean up, or they moved to the few places which were not inundated by water. Fortunately people were able to team work and restore the buildings back to normality. The church had about two feet of water in it and lots of mud. *We were grateful for helpers who came from nearby towns with squeegees to help scrape mud out of the buildings, but until the water supply was restored little headway on cleaning up took place.* Electricity was a while being restored. Once town facilities of water and electricity were working the task of cleaning up became much easier. It was only a matter of a few weeks before we could meet in the church again.

THE HAIL 1996

Another disaster was the hail storm of 1996, though this was not quite as destructive as the flood

A photograph enclosed shows the damage done to the roof of the church necessitating a complete retiling of the roof. With the holes caused by broken tiles water was able to seep through into the church and cause damage to the furnishings and floor. The affected rooves were covered with plastic, and then operation clean-up began to restore furniture and floors and walls.

While repairs were effected meetings were held in the Hall which escaped damage.

Photos to right show above the tarpaulined roof awaiting repairs, and below the retiling in process.



29. CONCLUSION

The achievements of the early members of the church have been an inspiration to those who followed them. We have a group of devout members who have contributed to all areas of living in the community, and it would be hard to single out individual names. The willingness with which they have applied themselves to all aspects of living has created a feeling of empathy with the citizens of the town and a good will within the church. The fact that we have so many supporters for our public functions gives us a feeling of stability, satisfaction and achievement.

Some areas in which the members have wholeheartedly contributed are:

Local government

Serving as an alderman on the Singleton Council, and working for the Council as an officer in Economic Development.

Commerce

Members have operated their own business creating employment for all sections of the community including church members in the following:-

The Saw Mill, joinery and hardware in the Timber Industry, Music and Piano Tuning, Electrical stores, with sales of and repairs for all types of equipment; Air conditioning, Television, Real Estate, Grocery, Drapery, New Car and tractor sales and service, Building of all kinds of homes, Painters, Medicine; including Nursing, Physiotherapy, Homeopathy, Chiropracting, Naturopathy, specialised areas of the Coal industry; and electricity, departments of the Soil Conservation, Hospitality, Journalism and all types of farming.

Education

An area which our people supported while actively involved in Parent and Citizen Organisations as floor members, presidents and secretaries, Norman Gray was instrumental in helping with the purchase of land for the school complex at King and York Streets, the High School, and Clifton Gray was instrumental in establishing the Technical College. Members have become teachers in all areas, kindergarten, primary, high school, technical colleges, university and music.

Service Clubs

Apex Our men became foundation members and served there until their age moved them on.

Rotary Members past and present joined this club which provides service to the community and which promotes business ethics.

State Emergency Service Organisation

Many of our members have made loyal and practical contributions here, being on call to go anywhere in the state at any time. Several State Awards have been earned here, by ladies as well as men.

Neighbourhood centre- providing community services- initial foundation committee

Scouting and Guiding

This is an area in which many of our ladies have taken a part and led or supported in the area for many years, several have gained State recognition for work with Brownies and Guides. We also supplied Cub leaders.

Meals on Wheels service

This has been undertaken by some members.

Red Cross and Country Women's Association

This has attracted some members.

Ecumenical

Town and ecumenical activities are supported by our members where possible.

Some members take part in the Entertainment activities of the Town Band, the Drama Club and Musical productions.

Perhaps our greatest gift to the community is our effort at Christmas time to bring carols to Nursing homes and to present a carol programme in the park. This has taken place ever since 1953,

We thank all members who have helped establish and promote the work of the church.

30.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Written and compiled by Beryl Ricardo
Computer editor and assistant Margaret Beardslee
Printed by Stanley Gould.

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meetings held in the church
Minutes of the Trustees of the Church
Minutes of the Band
Minutes of the Committee Meetings held since 1950.

Scrap books kept by L. Knight, Allyn Knight, B. Ricardo and others.
Individual scrap books and photographs from
Brian Fellowes, Dorothy Crouch, Myrl Gould, Rachel Gould, Belinda Gould
Les Kelly
Photographs taken recently, and especially for the history,
 Marc Gould, Paul Ricardo, Margaret Beardslee,
"The Singleton Times" 1862
"The Singleton Argus Files" - kept by Robinson family and Historical Soc.
 Margaret Gould's article on the new hall "Argus" 1986

Walter Gould's private papers.

Thesis on "The Christian Israelite Church in Australia" Lynne Gray.

Notes kept by N.Gray and C.Gray.

The information in booklet published in 1986 "124 Years of History" Beryl Ricardo.

Church Registers for Baptism, Marriages and Births.

The 1926 Back to Singleton Booklet.

Municipal Council Minutes 1890-1900
Donald Gray Maps
Council Building Permits 1938-1969
Municipal Council Rate Books 1866-1890

Interviews with people in the church.

Assistance given by Proof readers: Paul Gray heather Knight and Bruce Ricardo

Statement of Belief

**The Christian Israelite Church beliefs can be fully supported by the Scriptures.
Here is an outline:**

We Believe

- * In God Almighty creator of all things (Genesis 1:1).
- * In the existence of Satan, the Devil, in whom God allowed iniquity to be placed (James 2:19; Ezekiel 28:14,15).
- * That God created a spirit-existence in which the devil manifested evil and caused some of the spirits to rebel against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 6).
- * That God created our physical world, to which each person comes with a body and a soul made alive by a spirit from the spiritual creation (Luke 9:55; Genesis 2:7).
- * That God gave His people instructions on the way they should live, which instructions were "*for their good always*" (Deuteronomy 6:24).
- * That all have sinned and come "*short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
- * That God has reconciled the (whole) world to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus (John 3:16,17).
- * That through belief in the sacrifice of Jesus believers are counted as righteous before God, and can be assured of the resurrection of their souls (a Spiritual body) at Jesus' return (1 Timothy 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:44).
- * That there will be a small number who will fully prove their faith by a work of true obedience to God's instructions and will thereby receive the prize of the highest calling of God, the redemption of spirit and soul and body - this living mortal Body made Immortal without seeing death (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 14:1-5; Hebrews 11:39,40).
- * That Jesus Christ will return to this earth again, subdue the power of Satan and reign forever and ever, (Revelation chapters 19 and 20).
- * That the return of Jesus Christ is near and we are living in the period described in Scripture as the latter days (Matthew chapter 24; Mark chapter 13 and Luke chapter 21).
- * That there are promises in the Scriptures especially to Israel - God's chosen people (1 Peter 2:9).
- * That although Israel of old did not accept the challenge of spiritually being God's peculiar people, a remnant of their descendants will come forward in the latter days to fulfill the obligations and receive the promises (Revelation 7:1-8).
- * That the Mission of the Christian Israelite Church is to awaken the lost ten tribes of Israel to this special inheritance to be the physical Immortal "Bride of the Lamb" and to be the vehicle for the task of bringing them all together at God's appointed time (Matthew 10:5,6; Revelation chapter 19).

We believe that God is the absolute Judge and Arbiter and that we as His servants have an obligation to respond to what He puts in each heart, and that whilst we seek to proclaim and discuss our beliefs, we have no right to contend with other people about them.