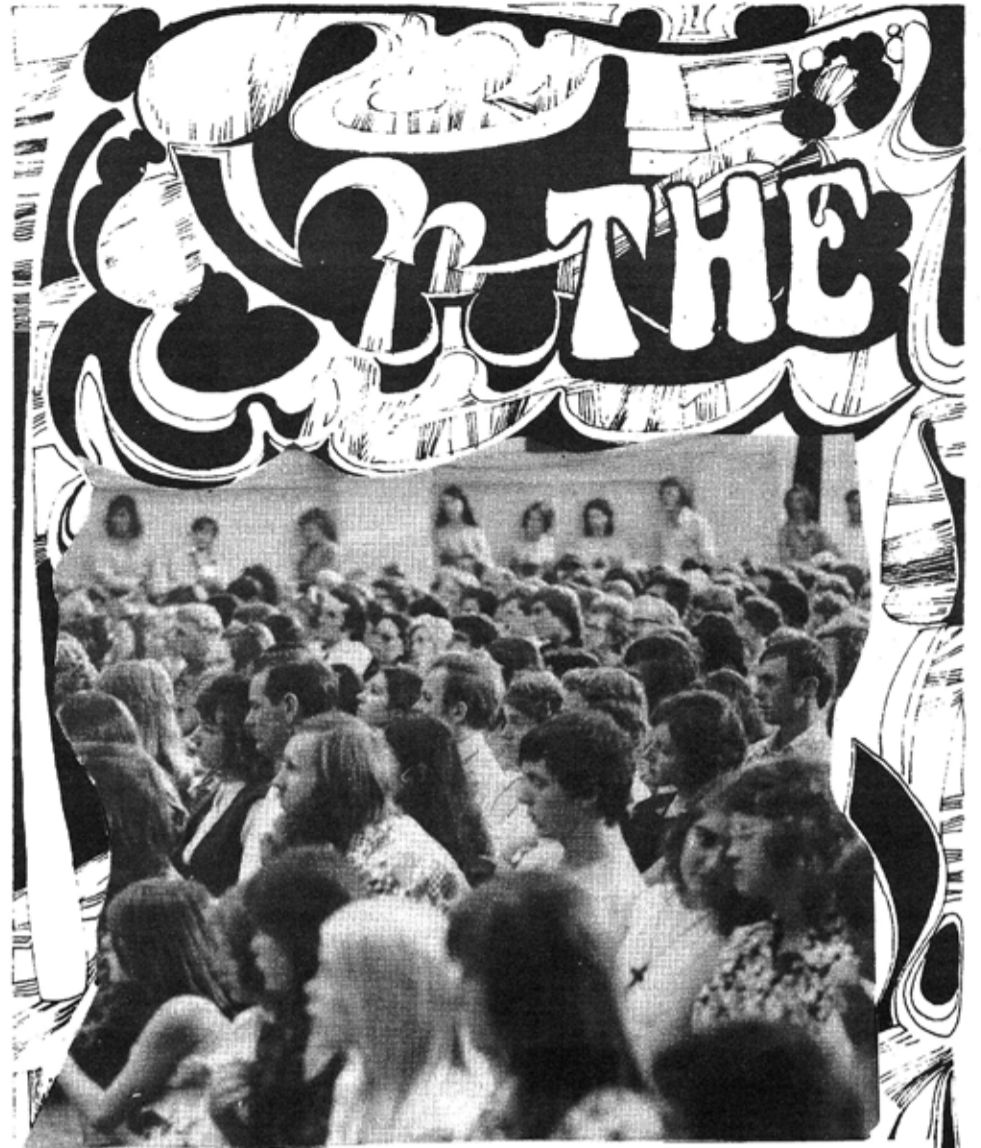


LIVING FREE
Sturt St. Christian
Revival Crusade
Jesus Paper
c. mid. 1974



When you get 1,200 people all alive, expectant and exuberant — their faces beaming forth the love of Jesus, cramming themselves into a hall that's only meant to seat 950, something's just got to happen! And it did! That Saturday night, February 9, saw the start of one of the most incredible Jesus Concerts Adelaide has ever seen. The occasion was Life, Love, Liberty. — The muso's were "Family" and the attraction was an experience in Music with Jesus Christ.

It's difficult to describe the atmosphere that throbbed through that place that night. There was such a warmth and expectancy, a love, a joy, that was fused with the very presence of Christ. Kids were sitting in the aisles, standing around the walls, sharing seats, and everywhere faces were lit with the joy of hearts turned on by the warmth of Jesus' love. The supporting group set the night rolling with a solid half hour of Jesus Music that got the people stamping, clapping and relaxing in a night that after all was to present Life, Love and Liberty.



Then it was over to "Family" — three tremendous brothers in the Lord. When they came out front things really started rocking to the sweet songs of salvation. When those guys came out front, it wasn't just them and their guitars, but it was Jesus behind each one of them that really got the people together in the spirit of Life, Love, Liberty. You've got to get that, because it was Jesus that got the whole night together to make it the incredible experience that it was. As the fellas in "Family" said, they were merely "agents on stage through which God could present his music." Jesus was there that night, and he came through loud and clear in the message "Family" had for the people.



FAMILY 3 guys with a message for the people - JESUS all the way, and the truth that he liberates the captive.

THE FAMILY... Sings Life Love Liberty

Now if you were there that night, you can probably remember the foot-stamping, free-wheelin night that was had, but in case you weren't, we, of "Living Free" felt it would be great to somehow share that night's experience with everyone. So we've managed to get together for you some of the things "Family" shared with us that night, and we hope that as you read on, you'll be able to share in some of the Christ centred exuberance that "Family" emanated in everything they said and sang about that weekend.

Before we get into the heavy stuff of the night, it'd pay to give a quick run down on "Family" to you. "Family" was formed in November 1972. Prior to this the guys were involved in other groups in Queensland, but gradually the feeling that they could best sing when they sang of their beliefs, forced the guys together as one vocal group. The two Truscott brothers, Ian and Phil formerly were members of their own rock'n'roll band and these influences can still be felt in most of the contemporary Jesus Music performed by "Family". The third member, Ian Smallbone sang with a number of folk groups prior to "Family's" formation. Most of the song writing for "Family" is undertaken by Ian Truscott and at least half of the group's performances on stage comes from Ian's manuscript. OK well enough of the general blurb. Let's get back to Life, Love, Liberty.

In hearing "Family" one can't get past the way they combine the message of God together with the sounds of today — they flow through their brackets singing "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord" and "Once I felt like a lonely sailor lost in a raging sea; and I picked myself up and set myself down and had a little talk to me; I was bound by the chains of sin and lost as a sinner could be; That's when I met Jesus, Jesus set me FREE!"

Much of "Family's" music has its origins in their everyday experience. For instance Ian Truscott goes on to relate: "We'd like to sing a song that resulted from us having been thrown out of innumerable recording companies before we finally got onto a recording company that was willing to say OK we'll record you. Anyway it all eventuated from them saying: "We can't have gospel music and stuff" so we thought "We've got to get a commercial way of saying what we want to say. And what we want to say basically is that Christianity is not just a thing off the normal way of life. People think that the Australian way of living is kinda normal and Christianity is sort of "well, if you want to join them OK! — Best of luck!" — What we want to say is that Christianity is the proper way of life. And so we thought "How can we put that in a song?" — So out came this song:

"What we're tryin to say is, do your troubles worry you,
For if they do we've got a message that's true,
Don't you judge by the way others seem to think it is
All you have to do is listen . . .
Put your feet where they won't get stood on. Got to get it
right with your, got to get it right your your God . . ."

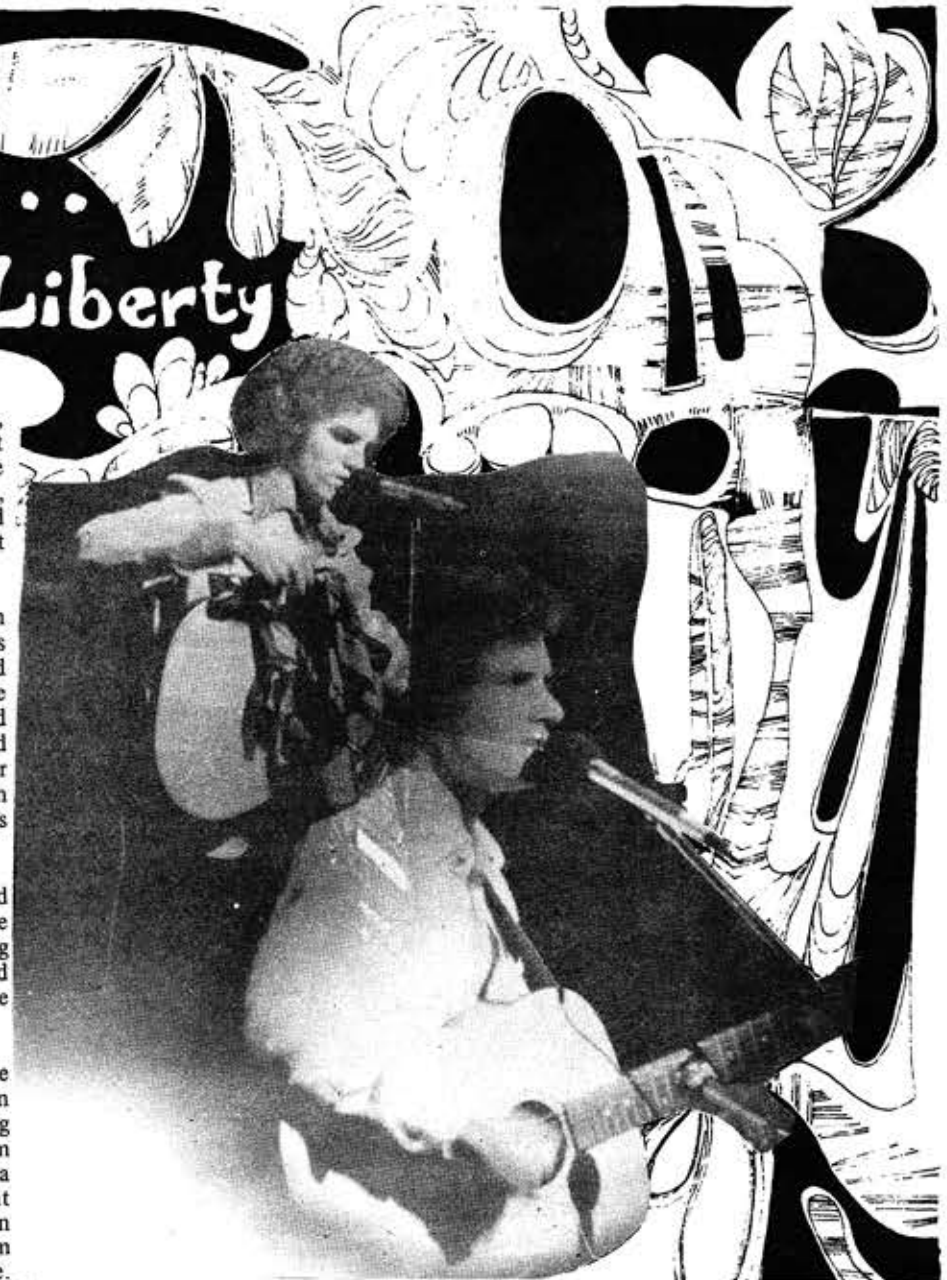
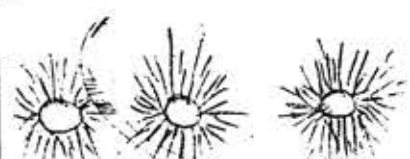
They related that Christianity is more than just a spiritualness, but that it is also loving and caring for your brother — It is a compassion for the world in need. — So "Family" went on to relate to us something of the intenseness of the floods that came to Queensland in January. Ian Smallbone goes on:

"Just a short while ago we had showers of blessings in great abundance, and like it's all right up to a point, but when it kinda starts rising up through your carpet and generally making quite a nuisance of itself it is no cause to be happy, not humanly speaking, anyway. But, I really believe and we found it so as we were scrubbing down the walls and shovelling out the mud, that really when you are happy within, it kind of lightens the load and makes it quite a pleasant task. We were in many ways quite sadly affected by the flood. We lost our piano and so we were rather pleased when the opportunity came to write a song for the Channel 9 Flood Telethon, that eventually became the theme song for the appeal. Ian Truscott got it together, so here it is, the Flood Song.

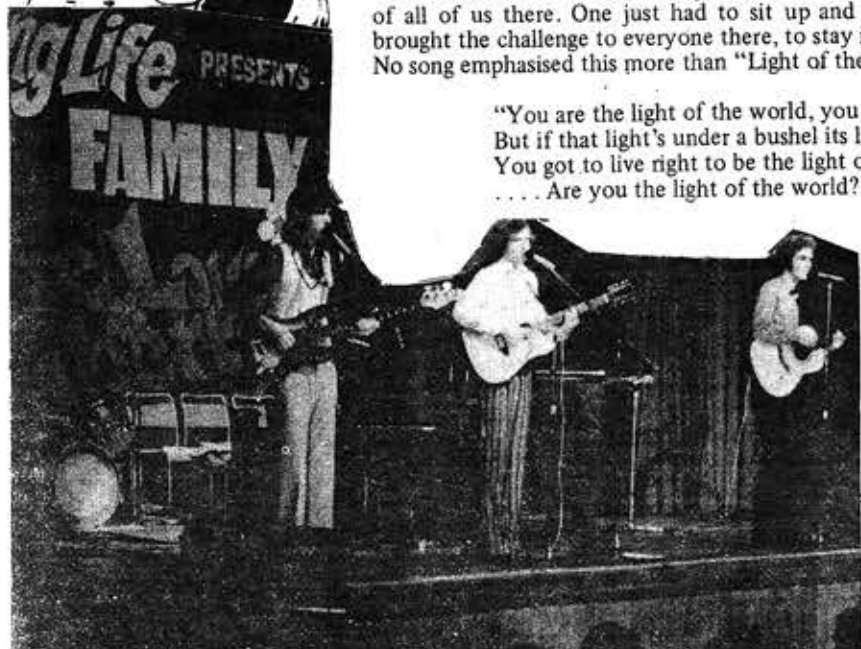
"Children are paddling like man, others are looking for their dad,
Floods have taken him away, Now it seems he'll stay that way,
Water has pointed the Bone,
Young Married girl mourns the photograph she lost
'I can't believe it', she cried, all her best wedding gifts
safely kept at home.
But home is now part of the river.
Water wed with heartbreak spreads sorrow on a million heads,
What about a helping hand stretching out to those in need.
Please stretch out to those in need."

It was the force of such lyrics, the vitality of such words, that caught the attention of all of us there. One just had to sit up and listen to the message of "Family" for it brought the challenge to everyone there, to stay in a right relationship with God and man. No song emphasised this more than "Light of the World".

"You are the light of the world, you are the light of the world,
But if that light's under a bushel its lost something kind of crucial,
You got to live right to be the light of the world.
. . . . Are you the light of the world?"



So to the sounds of that phenomenal song "Hallelujah Day" the night ended. The crowded hall gradually emptied. The light boys slowly dismantled their gear. The muso's packed up their equipment. And so, slowly all over that hall things were winding down. But in the hearts of those who had been present, things continued to wind up! The vital message of "Family", the experience of a togetherness in Jesus with over 1,000 other brothers and sisters was impressed upon each one's heart. — It had to be carried on. People realised they had encountered a night with Jesus. — A night of Life, Love and Liberty.



"Family" continued in Adelaide for another week after Life, Love, Liberty, touring eight schools and reaching approximately 3,500 kids. The second Saturday saw a night with FAMILY IN CONCERT, with 600 or so kids packing the 'ol Crusade Hall — Family is coming back later in the year, so get to see them, but in the meantime, check our next month's Life, Love, Liberty, when again a group from interstate comes to little old Adelaide town to get it together with us and Jesus in an experience of genuine JOY.