

PEOPLE WHO ARE BUILDERS

How does a group of practising Christians go about the task of presenting Christ to the Aboriginal people of today? First of all, they crowd together in a small building with little money and no equipment. Then they start to build.

That is how Mission Publications of Australia began. Run jointly by the Aborigines' Inland Mission and the United Aborigines' Mission—both of which work only amongst Aborigines—M.P.A. was formed ten years ago to produce Christian literature for Aboriginal people all over Australia. Most of the Protestant missions around Australia are on its mailing list.

The beginning was not easy. Voluntary workers put up the print shop and office both of which, as Pastor-Manager H. R. Miles said ruefully, were "stuck on" to the original U.A.M. Mission house at La Perouse. Then the inside fittings had to be made and a secondhand printing press bought. The staff had to 'learn as they worked'. And learn they did, so that today most of the writing, typing, artwork, and offset printing is done on the premises.

Mission Publications of Australia now has modern equipment and a staff of thirteen, of whom four are Aborigines. All work on a voluntary basis as associate missionary workers, receiving only their accommodation and a living allowance.



The whole team together



*Top right:
Jessie Mungaranie*

*Right: Marlene Reid,
Captain Allen Polgen, and
Dorothy Lennon
at work in the
basement of the mission
print shop*



*Far right: George Smith
operating one of the three
printing presses*

