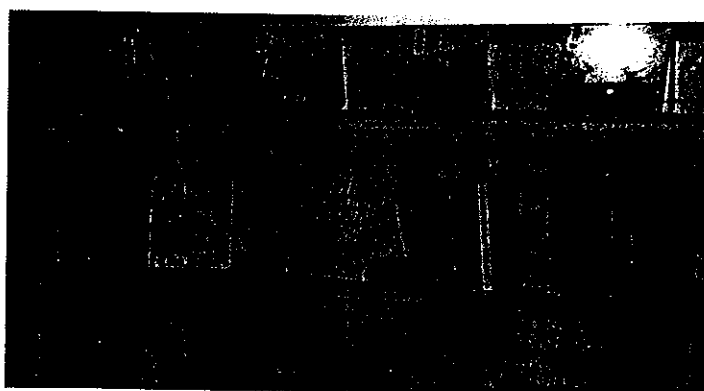


Leon Morris' Library Comes to the Leon Morris Library

by Ruth Millard

The Reverend Dr Leon Morris was Ridley College's Principal from 1964 until 1975. When the new library was opened in 1984 it was named after him. In November 2001, when Dr Morris and his wife Mildred moved from their family home to a retirement unit, he generously donated his very substantial personal library to Ridley College. The collection comprised some 4000+ books and a large number of journals.



The first step, once the collection arrived, was to sort the books, and to list those we did not need at Ridley. Those not required by Ridley Library were offered to George Whitefield College, an Anglican theological college in Cape Town, South Africa. David Seccombe, the Principal of George Whitefield College was delighted to accept all of the 2700 books. 138 boxes were collected from Ridley at the end of August, 2004 for shipping to Cape Town. We were delighted and relieved to receive word in November that the boxes have arrived safely. The books retained by Ridley will be catalogued and incorporated into our library.

Dr Morris' journal collection has also been sorted. 287 issues of journals, covering 24 titles were added to Ridley's collection. The remaining journals were offered in the first instance to Trinity Theological College, Perth, and then to other theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand, and to George Whitefield College. Trinity accepted a large number of issues covering 22 titles, and the remaining journals were dispersed to the 14 other libraries that requested them.

On 29 November 2004 we dedicated and opened a display of the collected writings of Leon Morris. This was a happy occasion attended by some fifty people including family,

friends and former colleagues of Dr Morris. Dr Morris was a prolific author and the display contains books from his library that were written by him, co-authored by him, or which contain contributions by him. There are also a number of translations of his writings,

including books in Spanish, French, Italian and Korean, and a festschriften published in 1974 to mark Leon Morris' 60th birthday. The special collection comprises 136 volumes and includes 48 titles written by Leon Morris, 4 titles co-written by him and 43 titles to which he contributed.

The display is a work in progress. I am currently working on a bibliography of the writings of Dr Morris, and expect to locate a few more books written by him. There are also a huge number of journal articles and these will be copied and displayed in folders as part of the special collection.

Given Leon Morris' long association with and great contribution to Ridley it is appropriate that Ridley College Library displays the writings of this significant Australian theologian. It is an honour to do this, and a privilege to be the recipients of his library. Please contact the College Librarian Ruth Millard at Ridley College (library@ridley.unimelb.edu.au) if you would like a listing of the contents of the Leon Morris Special Collection. The Leon Morris bibliography will also be available later.