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## The Prophet of Christmas.

A. W. Connor.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little . . . yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."—Micah 5: 2.

**B**ETHLEHEM! In Bible geography that was the earliest known town. We knew it in childhood's days as the birthplace of David, and then when the glory of Christmas dawned on us we knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, and not all the geography we have learned since has effaced the glamor of "the little town of Bethlehem." When Herod, the puppet king, asked where the Christ should be born, the answer was found in the text at the top of this article. So Micah is the prophet of Christmas, and fittingly he is also described as the prophet of the poor. This man lived nigh seven centuries before our era. He is a striking illustration of the saying that the prophet was a man "who spoke to his own times, whose words went far beyond his own times, and who speaks to all times." What has this man to say to us? Beyond the mists he dimly saw an ideal prince, an ideal priest, and an ideal prophet, who would minister to his people. His pictures take coloring from his local circumstances, and are expressed in terms that belong to his own time, yet on his canvas he paints an outline which we with the Gospels in our hand can fill up. The wider meaning of his message appears as we ask:

### From whence?

"Thou Bethlehem!" He is evidently not thinking so much, if at all, of the town as the birthplace of David, but of its insignificance in comparison with other towns. Out of obscurity, out from the common people, he will come that is to rule. How true this was of our Lord! Not from the palace of the lordly, but from the home of the lowly he came. Even Micah never dreamed how very lowly. He saw little Bethlehem, but we know of the cattle stalls and the manger cradle that sheltered his first days. Yet the prophet in a mystic word suggests that something lies behind that links him to the Eternal. "Whose goings forth have been from the days of eternity." It needs Philip-

pian two to explain that word. The New Testament fills up in plain words the picture, "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman." He was "The Word made flesh." God had a tremendous something to say to the world, and he said it in living flesh. All spoken words would fail to tell the great wonderful secret of the heart of the Eternal. "The living Word" has declared it. Nay, not it, but *him*. "He hath declared him." So the prophet dimly saw; so the Gospels plainly proclaim. Let us bow in adoration in the presence of the mystery of the incarnation, the Word made flesh that dwelt among us.

### For what?

(a) "And he shall stand and shepherd his flock." So Micah saw it even as later Isaiah saw it. "He shall feed his flock." And sacred art and poetry have sought to convey to us the fulness of this promise. But all they accomplish cannot equal the Gospel picture of the lost sheep and the seeking shepherd, who "goeth after that which is gone astray." And later the Lord himself put his own name in the picture and said, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." And so even at Bethlehem we are

not to lose sight of Calvary. "Golgotha is implicit in Bethlehem." So by his cross all his "other sheep" are to be brought home to God. Moreover, says the prophet of Christmas,

(b) "This man shall be our peace." Peace! In the vocabulary of Christmas peace is one of our great words. Christmas is a reminder to Christians of their responsibility to foster international peace and good will. The roots out of which war springs are in our own unregenerate hearts. Let this be a call to us to make this word a reality and not a mere word. "He is our peace." His reconciling work has broken down the partition wall and made us one in him. "This man shall be our peace." Oh, that men would give him his rightful place in the councils of nations, and that we all might drink more deeply of his spirit. The prophet further intimates to us:

(c) "Now he shall be great unto the ends of the earth." So Bethlehem's Babe is great. Yes, so great that no one ever says "Jesus the great," but just "Jesus." The name of the Babe of Bethlehem has passed into the language of the whole earth. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." "Of his kingdom there shall be no end." So he who came out of little Bethlehem has "become great to the ends of the earth." So great that he is loved and hated as no other ever was.

When in a few days his birthday shall come, his praise will girdle the globe, and even if in its adoration the world is not altogether sincere, yet in its homage it is at its very best. His greatness differs from the greatness of the world. It is the greatness of service for man. "I am among you as one who serveth." His disciples wrangled over position and place in the kingdom, but he in the full knowledge of his power stooped to wash their feet. I do not know if it was given to Micah to so understand his greatness, but we know it, for "the Son of man came to minister," and in proportion as we catch his spirit will we eschew the roads that lead to mere tinsel greatness, and follow that which the exchange of heaven for a manger and a

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throne for a cross has proclaimed to the world. "He that would be greatest, let him be the servant of all."

And so Micah's "Ruler," who was to come out of little Bethlehem, has become great to the ends of the earth. In his face we have beheld the glory of God. We have learned that he saves his people from their sins. And no more fitting doxology for the anniversary of Bethlehem's Babe can be

found than that of the prophet of Christmas. "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by transgression. . . . He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy." God delighteth in mercy. He has said it not in mere words, but in the Word made flesh. What a Christmas message for sinful men—

*"He delighteth in mercy."*

## The Unsuspected Slums.

In a recent issue we gave various illustrations of the need of a more Christian social order, and referred to the movement initiated to consider industrial and social relationships. Lack of space compelled us to hold over one other proof of the need.

No earnest citizen, and certainly no Christian, can be unmoved at the spectacle of slum areas in Australian cities. The church may well have something to say of the lack of Christian principle which permits certain areas to be haunts of misery and of vice.

We have received a copy of a booklet on "The Unsuspected Slums" written by Mr. F. Oswald Barnett, M.Com., and published by the Melbourne "Herald." This little volume is the result of two years' research into slum conditions, and was, in its original form, presented to the Faculty of Commerce, Melbourne University, as a thesis entitled "The Economics of the Slums." We wish for it a very wide circulation, for it is calculated to stir up every reader. The record is rather horrifying. In an introduction Mr. C. Irving Benson says: "I would warn you against this dangerous book. If you love your rose-hued spectacles—if your peace of mind depends upon not knowing how other people live—then thrust it from you." But if we want the truth, if we are willing to face the facts, and especially if we are prepared in the spirit of the Master to help to give the boys and girls of slum areas a chance, then read and pass on to others this arousing booklet.

### "The heart of the problem."

The author tells how he started on his investigation of a slum area. At the invitation of a friend, who loved children, he visited the slums. "I had chosen to speak on the cigarette, telling the children of its effect on the physique," he writes. "After the service was over, the sister in charge quietly said: 'Smoking is not a problem which worries us. I'll tell you what our problem is. I know every child here; I know all their mothers. Nearly every mother keeps either a sly grog shop or a house of ill-fame.' That, Mr. Barnett says, is the "very heart of the problem"; what could "home" mean to such poor mites? Some of them, even, were afraid to go home "until their parents were well drunk."

The causes of slums, the ancestry of the slum dweller and such subjects are briefly

discussed. We cull but a few sentences at random:

"Actual investigation has proved that the slum areas exist in most of the inner suburbs of Melbourne." It is allowed that in the area investigated "a great many are living in decent, well-kept houses, and are estimable citizens. Even some of those living in the poorest quarters are patterns of cleanliness and models of good citizenship." "Most of the slum-minded are born in the slums, and it is a very small minority that have

#### SLUMS A SCANDAL.

Bad housing and overcrowding are damaging to health of body and even more, perhaps, to health of mind and soul.

We cannot and dare not as Christians acquiesce in the subjection of our fellow countrymen to conditions so injurious.

A time has come when we can, if we will, remove this scandal from our public life.

—The Archbishop of Canterbury and Yeek.

drifted downwards from a better environment." "It is easy to realise the hopelessness of the slum children, where 80 per cent of the men and 30 per cent of the women are drunkards." "In the cases under review it was found that at least one-third of the men and one-fifth of the women were known to be of dissolute habits. The degradation is almost unbelievable."

### The toll of the slums.

What chance have children born in low surroundings? Mr. Barnett writes: "From babyhood upward immorality is accepted as a natural condition, and it is, therefore, quite understandable how young people grow up with no standard of morality whatever."

Consider the following figures:—

"With respect to infantile deaths under one year, the average for the five years ended December 31, 1932, is as follows:—

Pitzroy	79.83	deaths per 1000 births.
Collingwood	71.78	" " " "
Port Melbourne	71.24	" " " "
South Melbourne	70.87	" " " "
Richmond	65.53	" " " "

In all these districts there are "slum pockets."

The figures of the healthiest of the outer suburbs are:—

Camberwell	34.68	deaths per 1000 births.
Sandringham	35.95	" " " "
Malvern	38.91	" " " "
Brighton	39.11	" " " "

So in some of the inner suburbs the figures show an infantile death rate which is more than double the rate of some of the outer suburbs. Should not "the cry of the children" reach Christian ears and move Christian hearts?

### The suggested remedy.

The closing part of Mr. Barnett's booklet deals with the solution—of course with the removal and the care of the children. He refers to the different homes which have been established, and particularly to the Methodist Babies' Home. The proceeds of the booklet will be handed to this home. "The Herald" publishing it without profit to itself.

The writer of the booklet is a firm believer in the paramount importance of environment. "If a baby born of good heritage were transferred into the slums, it would learn to speak and to behave just exactly the same as those people do with whom it comes into daily contact." "One of our most experienced criminologists the other day said to a well-known criminal barrister, 'The more I know about criminals the more I am convinced that heredity has nothing to do with it.' 'Do you mean to tell me, then,' said the barrister, 'that if a baby born in Toorak were transferred to the slums it would grow up a criminal?' Without the slightest hesitation came the answer, 'There's not a shadow of doubt about it.'"

It is the thought that the force of environment works also in the case of the child transferred from a vicious home and distrust to surroundings in which cleanliness, pure speech and Christian influences play their part, which gives point to Mr. Barnett's plea that we give the children of the slum-minded a chance by removing them as soon as possible after birth from their present vicious environment into an atmosphere where they could grow up to be decent citizens. This he regards as the only possible solution of the problem.

### CHRISTMAS TO-NIGHT.

Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,  
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine;  
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,

Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright,  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!  
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,  
Christmas where old men are patient and grey,  
Christmas where peace, like a dove in its flight,  
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight!

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!  
For the Christ-Child who comes is the Master of all;

No palace too great—no cottage too small;  
The angels who welcome him sing from the height,

"In the city of David a King in his might."  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

—Phillips Brooks.

# A New Year Motto.

*Rejoice in the Lord, always.—Phil. 4: 4.*

H. G. Harward.

It is far easier to seek to direct the conduct of others than it is to regulate our own. Advice is said to be cheap; and even when unsought, it is often freely bestowed. We may point others to the mountain tops, when we have never tried to scale the heights ourselves. Doctors may refuse to take their own medicine; lawyers may fail to heed their own counsel; preachers may come short in the practice of their own precepts; and Christians may miss the attainment of their own ideals.

"Rejoice in the Lord, always." Only five words. And what a challenge they contain! What manner of man is this who courageously dares to appeal to fellow Christians to reach after a life of boundless joy? This message does not come from the pen of one whose circumstances in life are easy and comfortable, surrounded by material prosperity, and having what the world calls "a good time." Paul is a Roman prisoner. There is nothing in his environment to make him happy. He has every earthly excuse for being sad and discouraged. In this epistle there is no mention of sin. The words "joy" and "rejoicing" are used sixteen times. And what the apostle taught he practised. In the Philippian prison, with his feet fast in the stocks, and his body bruised and bleeding from the cruel scourge, he could still pray and sing praises unto God. And now, when enemies press in on him from every side, when he is removed from the active service which to him was a daily delight, when all his own plans have been frustrated, and he sees his earthly end to be martyrdom, he reveals the fact that he is drinking at the fountain of perennial joy. Life can be superior to surroundings. Circumstances need not depress us. Changed plans need not discourage us. A new outlook need not bring us to despair.

Paul does not appeal to Christians to rejoice in their circumstances, their experiences, their prospects, their gifts, their associations. That would not be easy to do. "Rejoice in the Lord" is a different matter. It is only in him we can rise above these things and be continually happy. And the apostle does not say "sometimes" but "always." He is not thinking of a joy that fluctuates, but of that which abides. With the Psalmist Paul would have us declare: "I will be glad and rejoice in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." In the dark days, as well as the bright ones. In the hour of weakness, as in the time of strength. In adversity as in prosperity. In confinement as in liberty. In the hour of seeming failure, as well as in the time of apparent success.

The doubting, discouraged, disappointed, despairing church member fails to represent Christ and Christianity. To his per-

sonal disciples Jesus said: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." It is our Lord's will that those who follow him should live radiant lives, triumphantly happy in all the varied experiences of life. "For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross." He would have us do likewise.

In the New Year may we not rejoice in

### *The presence of the Lord.*

We do not know now what other companions we may have throughout the year. But we may be sure of his company. His abiding promise is, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." And "He is faithful who has promised, 'I will never leave thee, I will never forsake thee.'" "When the gates of the morning are opened, swifter than the arrowy light is footstep of love is at our threshold. When the gates of evening revolve on their silent hinges, and day merges and melts into twilight, he is there! Amid the bustle of life he is there! By the lonely sickbed, when the glow of health has left our cheek, and the dim night-lamp casts its flickering gleam on our pillow, he is there. And when we are seated amid the awful stillness of the death-chamber, listening in vain for the music of cherished voices, hushed for the for ever of time, he is there!" And what confidence comes with his presence—and comfort, too. As we face the unknown future of this New Year: as we start toward its unrevealed paths, may we not hear our Lord saying as Jehovah said to Moses, "My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest"? For "He is as near to human hearts to-day, As when he journeyed on the earthly way; So near, that all our wants are known to him, So near that though our faith grow cold and dim,— Fall oftentimes to seek repose, He knows the secret story of our hidden woes."

May we not rejoice too in

### *The power of the Lord.*

The new year will bring tasks beyond our own strength. There will come opportunities of service for which we are unfitted. Some experiences may almost crush us to the earth, because the burden is so heavy. Happy are we if we have learned to put these two texts together—"Without me ye can do nothing"; "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Or to say with Paul, "When I am weak then am I strong, for the power of Christ resteth upon me." We may well glory in our infirmities, if we have learned to rejoice in the power of the Lord. That is always available for us. And it is never insufficient.

"I am so needy, Lord, and yet I know  
All fulness dwells in thee;  
And hour by hour, that never-failing treasure,  
Supplies and fills in overflowing measure,  
My least, my greatest need, and so  
Thy grace is enough for me."

### *The providence of the Lord*

should give us further occasion for rejoicing. We are not derelicts cast adrift on the great ocean of life, at the mercy of every storm that may beat about us. The Christian is one whose "life is hid with Christ, in God." He may rest in the assurance of divine guidance in the affairs of life, as he commits his way unto the Lord. He may often have to say:

"I know not the way I am going,  
But well do I know my guide."

And though unexpected paths may open up before him, he can press on hopefully, and with rejoicing, because the Lord is leading him on.

It is good to remember we are never out of his sight, nor away from his care. "He knows the way that I take." And what may seem to us at times the chance happenings of life are the appointments of our Lord. The promise, "All things work together for good to them that love God," still holds good. Believing this, disappointments become his appointments, accidents are turned into opportunities, and closed doors direct us to open windows.

"Rejoice in the Lord always!" Do that and life will be a happier experience for us all, and the world a more delightful place in which to be. Is it not a needed New Year motto?

## Prayer Corner.

Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee.—Deut. 8: 2.

⊙  
The years of available and happy life which have been already enjoyed ought to be the cause of thankfulness, even if "the days of darkness" were many. "The sorrow's crown of sorrow is remembering happier things," says Tennyson. Surely, in the sphere of Faith, at least, there is some mistake here. "For what we have received the Lord make us truly thankful."—James Smetham.

⊙  
Only be still, and wait his leisure

In cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whatever thy Father's pleasure,  
And all-discerning love hath sent;  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known  
To him who chose us for his own.

—Georg Neumark, 1657.

⊙  
Eternal God, who makest all things new, and abidest for ever the same; grant us to begin this year in thy faith, and to continue it in thy favor; that, being guided in all our doings, and guarded all our days, we may spend our lives in thy service, and finally, by thy grace, attain the glory of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—Selected.

# The World's Meeting Place.

L. A. Bowes.

The cradle of Christ is one of the three great focal points in the history of the ages. The others, so closely related to it, and to each other, both in time and in eternal significance, are the cross of Calvary and the empty tomb.

## Heaven and Earth.

The cradle of Jesus is the meeting place of heaven and earth. By virtue of the fact that it holds the hope of the world that cradle becomes a divinely appointed rendezvous in which are met not only "the hopes and fears of all the years," but the very purposes of eternity enter into conjunction with the processes of time.

The cradle of Jesus marks the beginning in time of that great age-long purpose in which God planned "to gather together in one all things in Christ"; the first unfolding of that mighty drama which has for its climax "the reconciling of all things unto himself"; the first move in the great cosmic campaign for the liberation of the human race, the restoration of man's lost dominion, and the "restitution of all things." Here heaven's majesty, splendor and wealth bend to meet earth's misery, distress and poverty; heaven's glory and power stoop to fill earth's emptiness and weakness; heaven's beauty touches and transfigures earth's unloveliness; heaven's hope irradiates earth's dark night of despair; heaven's fulness satisfies earth's hunger and need; and the love of God reaches down to heal the heart of humanity. The eternal Word becomes flesh to dwell among men; the eternal Love becomes incarnate and articulate; the eternal Son becomes bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; from the eyes of a little child the Redeemer of the World looks forth; grace and truth are revealed to men, who with gladness catch up the exultant cry of prophets of old: "God with us—Emmanuel."

## Men of Varied States.

The cradle of Jesus attracted men who were widely set apart by their circumstances of life, at the farthest extremes of the social state: the wise men from the east, and the shepherds from the hillsides of Bethlehem.

To both these groups was given the miracle of a special revelation, for the wise men had the star, and the shepherds the song of the angels. For the searchers of the vaulted sky the star to guide, for the simple peasant folk the song to thrill their hearts which never had discerned the sign of the star. Alike profiting by the sign so well suited to their circumstances they each came to see the child for themselves, one to find a king, the other in quest of a Saviour.

## Moments and Months.

How different the ways by which they came! For the shepherds the journey was one of breathless moments as their hurrying feet sped down the ways that led to the stable. For the wise men the months of journeying as they pursued their star-guided way steadily over deserts drear and past sandy wastes. Yet the expectation which sustained them was not less bright and joyous than that which glowed in the breasts of the shepherds.

## Worship and Gifts.

Each contrasting group came to bow in wonder, and worship adoringly at the cradle of the child, but while the wise men opened their treasures and brought forth gifts rare and costly—gold, frankincense and myrrh—gifts chosen discriminatingly, provided lavishly, guarded jealously, offered royally and reverently, the poor shepherd folk knelt with empty hands. Yet their

worship was accepted even as the other in that it proceeded from hearts that were humble, grateful and loving.

## The Way of Rejoicing.

Though so widely separated in circumstance and social condition, each little company went its ways from the worshipping of Jesus in a spiritual unity which transcends all human barriers, bounds, and limitations. Before the cradle they had received initiation into the order of heavenly joy, that joy "which is to be to all people." They went forth "rejoicing with joy unspeakable, and full of glory," exulting in the possession of that joy which becomes the satisfying portion and distinctive mark of those who have bowed in adoration before the Son of God.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES.

O day of memories sweet to me—  
I think of Christmas past and gone;  
Of friends long parted by the sea;  
Of faded treasures old and worn;  
Of friends who were the first to greet  
Old Christmas with a smiling face;  
But whom I nevermore shall see  
On earth in their accustomed place.  
I see in fancy once again  
Those friends around the festive board,  
Some who are severed by the main,  
And some who now are with the Lord.  
Their voices ringing down the years  
Again join in the Christmas song,  
Bidding us banish all our fears,  
And still the memory prolong.  
With angels and archangels sing  
Praises to him our heaven-born King.

Our Christmas here shall have an end,  
Each makes one less for us below;  
But in the home to which we tend  
We'll meet the friends of long ago;  
For they, too, live this Christmas tide,  
And join to celebrate the day.  
We here—they on the other side  
To Christ our Lord due tribute pay,  
Who came that death might vanquished be  
In life and immortality.

—Fairlie Thornton.

## Typical Groups.

Now these groups are typical, and the men comprising them thoroughly representative of men the wide world over. Between them stood barriers and distinctions which exist to-day to the disturbance of human fellowship and the disruption of human society. Their barriers were levelled, and their distinctions ceased to be important when they came to the worship of the Son of God.

## Gentiles and Jews.

They were separated by barriers of racial and religious prejudice. The men of the east were Gentiles; the shepherds were Jews. Yet these powerful barriers were swept away. Before the Prince of peace all such divisive factors cease to be. Pride and prejudice give way to goodwill and brotherly kindness. Antipathy is replaced by sympathy. "He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us." "In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free." Not by councils of nations, nor of churches; but by

our mutual submission to the Prince of peace will unity be secured.

## Rich and Poor.

Between these men stretched a great social gulf. The magi were rich, the shepherds poor. Yet in the adoration of their hearts and the mutuality of their worship this gulf was bridged. Before him, "who though rich became poor for our sakes, that we through his poverty might be rich," all extraneous circumstances such as poverty and wealth lose their power to divide. In Christ "all things are ours." The poor man remembers that "your heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of"; and the rich man "glories not in his riches but in that he knoweth the Lord."

## Culture and Ignorance.

The intellectual distinctions existing between these men were considerable. The wise men were men of the highest culture; the shepherds were men of rugged rustic simplicity. Yet before him "who is the wisdom of God," whose "thoughts are higher than the thoughts of men, whose 'fooly is wiser than the wisdom of men,'" these distinctions disappear. Here, in the incarnation, is a wonder so vast and profound that in it all human thought is drowned. Here, too, is the setting of that way of life "so plain that the wayfaring man though unlearned heed not err therein."

## Seekers and Tollers.

They were divided by great temperamental differences and industrial barriers. The magi were seekers, far removed from the sweat and grind of the workaday world. The shepherds were tollers. Yet at the cradle of Jesus they found the only one in whom all such differences can be reconciled, himself at once the world's chief seeker and the world's great toiler, who, while toiling with his hands in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth, lived on the heights of fellowship with God. This is he who in the days of his flesh toiled of a merchantman seeking goodly pearls, and of a toiler toiling in the fields. The one found at last the pearl of great price, and for joy sacrificed all his possession to make it his. The other stumbled on a hid treasure, and for joy made a similar sacrifice to secure the field that held the treasure. So each seeker and toiler has his opportunity, and if he pay the price, his recompense. Finding Christ men find not only a personal salvation but the solution of life's problems, the adjustment of life's relations, and the crown of life's endeavor.

Here is the message to be sounded clarion clear at this Christmas season. The only way out of all the muddle of misunderstanding, suspicion, distrust, ill-will and resentment, the confusion and chaos of class consciousness and creed consciousness, social unrest, industrial tumult and moral disorder, is the way that leads to the feet of Christ. That way must be travelled deliberately in full recognition of our need of his principles, influence and regenerating power in modern life; in full acknowledgment of his primacy, peerlessness and paramount claims on our strength and service; and in simple, sincere and steadfast worship of him as King, Lord and Saviour.

The acceptance of the personal, social, moral and spiritual leadership of the Babe of Bethlehem, who is the Christ of Calvary, and the Lord of life, King of kings and Lord of lords, would mean the securing of peace on earth, and the assurance of lasting goodwill among men.

Who was born on Christmas day? Somebody who is so great that all the world worships him; and so good that all the world loves him; and so gentle and humble that he never spoke an unkind word.—William M. Thackeray.

# Christ and the Modern Demand.

[Dr. E. Stanley Jones was one of the speakers at the recent convention of Churches of Christ in Pittsburg, U.S.A. The following report of his address—one that held the audience spell-bound—appeared in "The Christian Evangelist."—Ed.]

Dr. Jones said we must be able to give an explanation for the motive, aim and end of missionary endeavor. Sometimes the right of Christian missions to exist is questioned. There are some who ask if we have a surplus of Christianity in the United States, and if that is the reason why we are so anxious to export our surplus by giving it to others. This much is true—Christianity is that which we must share with others or else we will lose it. Truth is universal. Therefore, Christianity which is true, or Christ who is the Truth, is universal and so should be given unto all humanity. Missions are vascular—bleed when cut. This must not be done.

Dr. Jones said that there had been certain crises in our American life. Among these we find:

(1) War, a revelation which revealed the Western world to the East as it had never been known before.

(2) Then followed a period of disillusionment. We discovered that war does not get rid of war. You cannot get the devil out by the devil or evil by evil. Hates never make a love affair. War always breeds war. Collective madness—that's what war is, and it is un-Christian.

(3) Then came a period of national withdrawal. We withdrew from the League of Nations. We concentrated upon ourselves. This became a period of church building. It was also the period when we were told to express ourselves. We were more afraid of a complex than of hell. When we got our own way we did not like it.

Underneath all there is a spiritual hunger. We have been let down, and we feel our need of a bigger and better way. Our job is to get men into the kingdom of God and also to get the kingdom of God into men. There is abroad a spiritual hunger which must be met by the Christian church. Men should try Jesus' way of life, because it cannot be shaken. Our task is not to state a case but to discover a reality. After we have stripped all the added excess which has been placed around Christianity, we shall find at the centre a heart—a throbbing, bleeding heart.

Dr. Jones told us that there were some criticisms of Christianity which ought to be faced and answered. Among these criticisms he mentioned the following:

(1) We imposed unjust treaties upon China. China has suffered because of these. At the Jerusalem Conference, there were those who wanted to go back to their missionary labors with the backing and protection of gunboats or arms. When we came to discuss this phase of life, we found it hard because there was so much opposition. Finally, the almost dead recommendation was resurrected and discussed and finally when Easter morning dawned the problem was settled and settled right. When all is said and done, we discover that we are suffering from a paralysis of over-analysis.

## The World Needs Christ.

This world needs an untrammelled Christ. If we perish in our attempt to give him to the world, he lives on. The biggest thing is to be a Christian. We have come to the place in the East where it is to be Christ or Karl Marx. We who are Christ's ought to be willing to share his

life with others. We are all divided. We have all been sinners. None of our churches have a corner on the saints. Some things may hurt our denominational pride but will be good for our humility. We need in this day Christian internationalism to offset the sin of crass nationalism. The trouble with us is that we are spending too much time as fussing managers of human souls.

Gandhi mentions some criticisms of Christianity which should be faced.

(1) Gandhi thinks there should be no conversions. This runs counter to the teachings of Jesus who insisted that all men needed to be converted. Sometimes when we make a proselyte we only change the label but not the life. We need to talk to humanity about Christ and his way of life. Conversion is individual and collective. No man understands this better than Kagawa of Japan. In our conversion baptism becomes the outward sign of that great inward change.

(2) Gandhi says to talk about these things is indelicate. Is such the case? No, it does not seem to be when we realize that the Christian life is not an attainment but an obtainment. It was given unto us. It is the free gift of God. It is the revelation of the imperiousness of the love of God.

(3) Gandhi says we should not speak about it. We should use the rose perfume method. That is live the life. Reveal your spirituality by your deeds. This is true so far as it goes. But we must remember that Christ went about doing good. He also interpreted his gospel to humanity. The fact of the matter is that we need both the rose perfume method and the spoken word. These two ways melt together. They are the words and the music. Jesus calls

upon us to express evangelism with our whole being.

(4) Aren't the people of other lands getting along pretty well without Christ? No, they are not. Neither are we. Isn't their religion good enough for them? Judge it by its fruits. At the centre of our faith is a person. We must remember that Christianity is not a way. It is Christ who is the way. That is why some people say that Christ is too ideal. What would I add to or subtract from Christ? Nothing!

Dr. Jones continued by saying our task is not altogether one of interpretation. Rather it is one of taking Christ where he can do the most good. He is our message. He has been called a symbol. He is not a symbol. He is a fact. Our message is to make itself felt by its impact upon the whole of life. Therefore we need not become apologetic about Jesus. Of all the ways to live, Jesus' way is the best. Therefore, we should live as we have never lived before.

There are scars upon my own personal faith. Underneath them there are no uncertainties. Remember the world wants to know about Jesus. It wants to know him also. The world is tired of question marks. At the centre of our message is a cross. We cannot escape it. God could not escape it. Pure love suffers pain. God, therefore, suffered greatest pain. The cross is the revelation of the suffering which was in his heart. God's heart was broken for a world in need. Every man's sorrow was Christ's sorrow. Every man's son was his son. Because he was love divine he suffered for humanity. The test of the Christian life is its sensitivity. This shows up in Christ's life. He suffered with and for all. We must see others as men for whom Christ died. There is no conflict between home and foreign missions. It is the same heartbeat which is in both. Therefore, let us share proportionately. Our task is to make Christ known to the ends of the world. No church can remain Christian without a missionary passion.

## For Times Like These.

In some future day men will talk about this "hard" year. It has been a "hard" one.

Of this to-be-remembered year but a few days are left. We have acquired the habit of counting life by years. And with each old year's passing we take new hope.

What hope of bettered conditions does the new year hold?

The financiers, the bankers, the statesmen, the workers, will answer that question. They have held out, already, the assurance that things are "at bottom," and the trend must be upward.

What has the church to say for times like these? Men are discouraged, disillusioned, panicky.

For times like these the message of Christ's way is gloriously challenging. The lowly Nazarene, the Saviour of men, stands calling; calling to righteousness, to purity, to brotherliness, to faith, to hope, to love. His call is never so heeded as in dark days.

We need greatly the life that Christ gives. Our need, the world's need, is starkly revealed in these depressing times.

What opportunities these days hold out for the Christian church and for Christians individually.

In days like these the lights in every church edifice should symbolize the cheer and joy Christ gives. In days like these the messages from every pulpit should be vital with the life that lives on more than bread.

In days like these the church should be radiant, full of Christlike love and cheer.

Discouraged souls will crowd the church that proclaims the Christ of the storm and the cross, with his quieting words: "It is I, be not afraid."

Or, if men do not come to the church, let Christians, for they are the church, go out and find men and help them.

Many a family to-day, passing through hard times, will find the riches of life in Christ Jesus.

Let cheer and joy and assurance ring out the old year and ring in the new.

This is no time for the church to curtail and for Christians to mope. Show the world now what Christ means to you!

For times like these—Christ!—Selected.

### THE WISE MEN.

Step softly, under snow or rain,  
To find the place where men can pray:  
The way is all so very plain  
That we may lose the way.

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore  
On tortured puzzles from our youth,  
We know all labyrinthine lore,  
We know the Three Wise Men of yore,  
And we know all things but the truth.

Go humbly; humble are the skies,  
And low, and large, and serene the Star;  
So very near the manger lies  
That we may travel far.

—G. K. Chesterton.

## The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. PITTMAN.

### CHRISTMAS JOY.

Cold was the welcome to God's Christmas Gift  
At Bethlehem's village inn;  
Lowly the cottage home in Nazareth,  
The Carpenter's employ;  
Hard was the task a fallen world to lift  
From the selfishness and sin;  
Bitter the cross on which he conquered Death—  
Yet his last gift was Joy.  
O Christ-Child, come to us this Christmastide,  
Joyous and pure and bright;  
Thy glad companionship in our homes give,  
In our toll bear a hand.  
We welcome thee! Our doors are open wide;  
Lift us, and lead, and light,  
That in thy life we may more truly live,  
And in thy strength may stand.

—A. J. Whitby.

### THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM.

The atmosphere at Christmas time is charged with good cheer as a June day with the scent of roses. We boarded a trolley car moving countryward and jammed to the last strap with returning Christmas shoppers. The hanging bundle-bearers jostled each other, surging forward and backward as the car started and stopped. All smiled. It was the Christmas season. The car was late. We came to a cross road. A young mother with a baby in a carriage, accompanied by her mother and her grandmother, four generations, came hurrying up. The conductor stamped his gong vigorously. Really it was a pretty sight. As they all came up, out of breath, the conductor called, "All aboard!" "But the baby carriage has to be folded together," said the pretty young mother. "I'll attend to that," said the conductor. "All aboard!" I reached from the vestibule of the car and said, "Let me take your baby." She looked me over keenly and handed me what seemed to be a large bundle of clothing. The conductor called "All aboard!"

As she entered the car smiling, everyone tried to make way for her, to give her a comfortable seat. . . . I handed her the bundle and she began unwrapping it, and then she screamed, "You've got it wrong side up!" The people laughed. The conductor even forgot that his car was late. . . . Everyone seemed about as happy as mortals are likely to be. All of this was brought about because a young mother with a sweet babe had entered the car at Christmas time. That's how the Christmas Babe of Bethlehem came into the midst of this busy world to tranquillise and soothe and harmonise our discordant, jarring spirits.—"The Christian Advocate."

### MAKING ROOM FOR HIM.

One simple sentence in the story of the Incarnation has always greatly impressed the thought and imagination of the Christian world. The Christ-child had his birth in the rude Bethlehem manger "because there was no room for them in the inn." There is, it must be admitted, a touch of pathos in that, and many a man has found a moistness in his eyes as he has come to that part of the story. Of course, from his point of view, it didn't make much difference, and yet how incongruous it was. And if the inn-keeper and his thronging guests had only known, they might not have elbowed him out among the cattle. They might not, and yet we are not so sure. We do know this, that for

many long years he has tried to get into some hearts and homes, and societies and businesses and civilisations, and there has not seemed to be much place for him, but thronging self-interests, ambitions and indifferences have elbowed him out and taken up all the room. And Bethlehem had this excuse, they did not know him; but surely we, after all these years, cannot say that. It surely is the tragedy of tragedies in any life that it has no room for Christ of Bethlehem.—"Christian Guardian."

### CHRISTMAS.

"Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night;  
Christmas where snowpeaks stand solemn and white,  
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright,  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night."

Jesus is the world's Saviour, and it is fitting that his birthday should be celebrated in every inhabited spot of creation. We should never rest until every one for whom he died has heard the glorious news of salvation.

"Ring, Christmas bells, ring clear and sweet,  
While listening winds for joy repeat,  
In far-off corners of the earth,  
Your message of a Saviour's birth.  
Ring out, sweet bells, in glad accord,  
On this the birthday of our Lord;  
Say to the world on Christmas morn,  
Rejoice, rejoice, thy King is born."

Travelling by moonlight, villages and trees flit past, but the moon remains with us, and is as near to us at the end of our journey as it was at the beginning. It belongs to another sphere. So it is with Christ. Christmas is, and will be as near to our descendants two thousand years hence as it was that night in Bethlehem when the shepherds heard the angel say: "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The keynote of Christmas is love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."

The best way to exalt Jesus is to put the spirit of the Christ-child into Christmas and all the year. Every day should be the birthday of the Saviour to those for whom he died.

Not to be ministered unto, but to minister, is the secret of Christmas Day; the secret of all joy, peace and growth and power.—"East and West."

### HOW TO DO IT.

A minister, having a strong physique and a desire to serve as a policeman, made application for such a position.

He was called into a private conference with the chief of police, who, after looking him over and being satisfied with his physical fitness, proceeded to secure necessary information as to his alertness of mind to act wisely and forcefully.

Among the questions he asked was, "What would you do to disperse a maddening crowd?" The minister thought a minute and said, "I would take up a collection."

### RETRORT DISCOURTEOUS.

Rimer: "Do you think I should put more fire into my poetry?"

Editor: "No, quite the reverse."

## The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

Monday.

And he shall go before his face in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to walk in the wisdom of the just; to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him.—Luke 1: 17.

Thus, in John the Baptist, was the prophecy of Malachi 4: 5, 6 fulfilled. The forerunner of Jesus appeared to put an end to personal animosities, and bring about reconciliation in Christ.

Reading—Luke 1: 1-25.

Tuesday.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the most High, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.—Luke 1: 22.

Thus also, in Jesus, was the prediction of Isaiah 9: 6, 7 fulfilled. Jesus was great in wisdom, power and dominion; the greatest and the highest amongst men, the Son of the Most High, lineal successor to king David, Prince and Saviour, Lord of lords and King of kings.

Reading—Luke 1: 25-56.

Wednesday.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.—Luke 1: 80.

Though dwelling in obscurity the child John prepared himself for his public ministry. He grew physically, mentally and spiritually, and thus fitted himself in every way for his public appearance as recorded in chapter 3 of Matthew and Luke.

Reading—Luke 1: 57-80.

Thursday.

And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.—Luke 2: 7.

Jesus was born poor, and remained poor till he went back to the mansion from which he descended. Thus we learn that it is no dishonor to be poor, and it will not matter much in the long run if only our treasure is in heaven, and heaven our eternal home.

Reading—Luke 2: 1-24.

Friday.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house?—Luke 2: 49.

The Authorised Version puts it, "my Father's business." Jesus was in his Father's house and upon his Father's business. It was fitting that he should make his way to his Father's house, the temple, and engage himself in his Father's work, even now, although his public ministry was not to commence for eighteen more years.

Reading—Luke 2: 25-52.

Saturday.

And he came into all the region round about the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto remission of sins.—Luke 3: 3.

"John's baptism was instituted of God (John 1: 33) just as Christian baptism was instituted by Christ (Matt. 28: 19), and both the baptism of John and of Christ were followed by confession; the first—of sins, the second of Christ, "unto remission of sins."

Reading—Luke 3.

Sunday.

And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God.—Luke 4: 12.

"That is, thou shalt not try him; or, thou shalt not, by throwing thyself into voluntary and uncommanded dangers, appeal to God for protection, or trifle with the promises made to those thrown into danger by his providence."

Reading—Luke 4: 1-30.

## Prayer Meeting Topic.

December 27.

### A WISE MAN'S CHRISTMAS.

(Matthew 2: 1-12.)

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

The wise men said, "We have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." If our land were filled with wise men our churches likewise would be filled. Then there would be a happy Christmas free from sorrow, tempered with joy and full of good fellowship. But many spend the season without thought of its origin or its meaning. All it means is that it is an occasion of getting away from work for a day or so, and it affords an opportunity for enjoyment. That holiday spirit claims many a victim even among Christians.

#### Who is a Wise Man?

Not that one who loves and seeks pleasure for its own sake. That one is dead and cannot be wise. Such a one will return to the grind of a work-a-day world unprepared for life's tasks. These wise men of our story sought the Christ that they might worship him. There is no solution of the world's difficulties save in and through him. The angel heralded his coming with a message of "Peace on earth, goodwill among men." And because most men were not wise he has not had opportunity of applying his message. Let all the world be wise and come and worship him.

#### Wise Men of the East.

We boast our western civilisation, but what is it? All that we have received that is of any value is based on the teaching of an easterner. And wise men came from the east. They made earnest inquiry about where they might find him. You, reader, made enquiry about a holiday spot. You intend capturing the holiday spirit, and you seek a care-free time in the bush or by the sea. You, perhaps, have made earnest enquiry for all save the Christ that you might worship him. The record is that these wise men worshipped him. Do you intend to bow in the congregation of the Lord, to worship in adoration, to think of the incarnation and of the world's Redeemer? The wise men came from afar at cost, and therefore worship had significance for them. And it was all in the spirit of humility. They were also careful to guard from danger. There was the possibility of such action as would lead to injury to the holy Child. May we be as careful to guard the Christ from injury by our conduct at this season. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that we betray him.

#### Gifts.

This is the spirit of Christmas. God gave his greatest gift to the world, and we in small way make our gifts to those we love and esteem. But what gifts do we intend presenting to our Lord? Paul urged that we present our bodies "a living sacrifice," and told of the Macedonian Christians who made a splendid gift to the poor "but first gave their own selves to the Lord." Now, at this Christmas season is it possible to make some special gift to the Lord? We give to others and make provision for our holidays, but usually gifts to the Lord are fewer than at other times. Surely, if we be wise we shall come and worship and bring the best of our gifts unto him who is our Redeemer. And also remember that "inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye do it unto me." Christmas may be an opportunity of helping the many and revealing wisdom in the gifts we make. May there be many wise men making gifts this Christmas.

TOPIC FOR JANUARY 3.—TOWARD THE HIGHWAY.—Jeremiah 31: 15-22.

## Our Young People.

Conducted by W.M. GALE.

### "How Shall I Conduct My School Session?"

This question was put to me during a recent trip into the country on home mission business. Breakfast was over, and whilst preparing my bags for loading into my little "Riley," I was informed that my friend had recently been appointed the superintendent of the Bible School. This question was a natural one, and to the point. That question must be faced repeatedly by one who leads a Bible School session—every week should see the worth-while superintendent facing that question with reference to the next Lord's day.

#### Keep Out of Ruts.

It is so easy to get into a rut; it is easy to grow up and to lose the viewpoint of children. The real danger is that the "average" superintendent will consider that he knows all about it, will not read, will not adequately prepare, and so he remains "just an average superintendent"—one that could drop out without being missed; his removal might be a blessing to his school in some cases. The worth-while leader becomes indispensable.



Miss Iris Allen, of Camberwell Bible School, who has qualified for the gold medal for ten years' unbroken attendance issued by the Victorian Bible School and Young People's Department.

#### Those Details.

So the question becomes "How shall the worth-while superintendent conduct his school?" Success as a Bible School leader depends upon many things. He must be able to pay attention to details. Preparation down to the smallest detail is essential. As it has been expressed: "Plan your work—work your plan."

#### Planning for Thirty-five Minutes.

Now for this school session, "What shall I put into it?" was one point raised. The school had decided that the lesson period should be twenty-five minutes—just a nice time. So there are thirty-five minutes left. What to do in this time is the question.

#### A Sample Programme.

2.55 p.m. music on piano, organ and orchestra, stopping on the stroke of 3 p.m., which is the signal that school is open, and all eyes are expected to be on the superintendent.

3 p.m., superintendent recites the verse given in "The Sunday School Hymnary" (Carey Bonner), for school opening. The school now recites its response. Then all sing the opening worship verse. Superintendent leads in the invocation—a three-sentence prayer. A hymn is announced. A word, ever so brief, about its author, the tune, or some fact associated with its history. The leader offers prayer. "How simply he voices the needs of the child. How sympathetically he speaks of their heavenly Father. What a number of petitions he brings within the limits of the four minutes at his disposal. He is a veritable high priest beside the altar. He prays that the divine blessing may rest upon

the school, that the mistakes of the past week may be forgiven, that each child may be given strength to live nobly." (From "The Student Teacher.") Now follows the reading of a portion of Scripture. A hymn is sung.

A march is played and the school marches off to classes at a signal from the superintendent.

A warning played by instrumentalists indicates the approach of the signal for re-assembly; this being given and with the playing of a march the school re-assembles.

Now in the worship service a very short story is sometimes related, touching some emotional chord in their lives and leading them to want to do something for Christ. This is followed by a suitable hymn. Birthdays may be announced and birthday offerings received—one month for home missions and the next for missions abroad. Announcements are now made.

The superintendent recites the closing verse and the response follows by the school which now sings the vesper verse (see "Sunday School Hymnary," by Carey Bonner). After a quiet period, with heads bowed, the instrumentalists strike up a march and at signal from the leader the school marches out.

It will be seen that there needs to be co-operation in many details to ensure the whole programme working without a hitch so as to preserve a worshipful atmosphere.

#### Books for Reference.

Excellent books are available to help superintendents. Quotations in this article are from "Our Greatest Asset," by Blackwood and Walton; "The Student Teacher," J. Hocking; "How to Conduct a Sunday School," Lawrence. Superintendents should see these excellent books; they will enable them to provide freshness and variety in their programmes. It is a big job they are doing—an honorable job—and as such is worth doing well.—W.G.

#### Y.W.L. PICTURE STAMPS.

The new set for 1934 is now to hand and has a splendid lot of pictures. We will publish each quarter a list of Scripture portions and memory texts for these stamps. They are now obtainable, together with albums and all Y.W.L. supplies, from the Austral Co.

#### TEXTS FOR JAN.-MARCH, 1934.

Date.	No.	Story.	Text.
Jan.	7	1 Luke 5: 27-32	Luke 5: 32
"	14	2 Luke 6: 1-11	Luke 6: 10
"	21	3 Luke 8: 40-56	Luke 8: 56
"	28	4 Luke 9: 16-17	Luke 9: 16
Feb.	4	5 Mark 7: 32-37	Mark 7: 37
"	11	6 A Chinese Village	(Notes on these
"	18	7 Chinese River Life	will appear in
"	25	8 Chinese City Gate	"Pure Words"
Mar.	4	9 Shopping in China	for February.)
"	11	10 Mark 4: 35-41	Mark 4: 39
"	18	11 Mark 9: 2-13	Mark 9: 7
"	25	12 Mark 14: 66, 72	Mark 14: 72

A little light in Bethlehem,  
No larger than a candle's flame,  
A wee, white light in Bethlehem,  
Silver and small it came.

And Mary slept and did not see  
The faint far gleam when dark unfurled—  
The little light that grew to be  
The light of all the world.

—Elizabeth Thornton Turner.

## Here and There.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.—Psalm 90: 4.

We wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a bright and joyous new year.

We regret to learn that Bro. B. W. Ewers, of the church at Lake-st., Perth, W.A., is seriously ill in private hospital.

B. G. Corlett, evangelist in the Granville, N.S.W., circuit, left last Friday for a five-weeks' holiday in New Zealand.

A. Mackenzie Meldrum has been in Sydney for several weeks past, and has delighted some of our Sydney churches with his very able addresses.

There will be no issue of the "Australian Christian" next week. Reporters will please take note, and oblige by not sending double or duplicate reports.

The following telegram from Toowoomba, Qld., reached us on Monday morning:—"Toowoomba tabernacle crowded last night, eight baptised, one confession.—Hinrichsen."

Bro. F. Collins, of Launceston, Tasmania, has resigned his position as evangelist to the church at Margaret-st., and will be open for engagement at the beginning of April next.

Opening services of the new chapel at West Preston, Vic., last Saturday and Sunday were very successful. A report and photo, of the building will appear in our next issue.

It has been decided to revert to Easter for the N.S.W. Conference, starting with that of 1934. Members throughout the State should set aside that season for the things of the kingdom and the State Conference.

The N.S.W. home missionary annual offering is coming in slowly. It appears that the total will not be as great as that of last year. Any N.S.W. disciple who missed the offering should at once forward his or her gift to the office, 242 Pitt-st., Sydney.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Percy Pittman are leaving India, and will sail by the P. & O. "Maloja" from Bombay on Jan. 4. As they do not intend to return to India, they will be glad to hear from any church requiring their services. Letters may be addressed c/o G.P.O., Perth, W.A.

Miss Florence Cameron, missionary on furlough from India, passed through Melbourne this week on the "Narkunda." She is returning to her home in Adelaide for Christmas after a busy time amongst the churches of N.S.W. and Queensland. Miss Cameron expects to leave in February next for India.

The editor of the British "Christian Advocate" has evidently suffered, judging by his recent "Note to Scottish Correspondents": "Whenever I am so obsessed by my Southern domicile as to write English and English on this page, will my correspondents over the border always please read Britain and British?"

The evangelistic campaign at Lidcombe, N.S.W., following the golden jubilee celebrations, concluded on Dec. 10. Prior to the mission a house-to-house canvass was made, distinctive literature being distributed. Attendances at all services were encouraging; five men and a boy decided for Christ. The messages of Bro. Hagger were of a high order. Bro. W. Armstrong rendered fine service as song-leader. On Dec. 4, at a thanksgiving and consecration service, opportunity was taken to express appreciation of the splendid service rendered to the church by the missionary. On Dec. 6 Bro. Hagger delivered a lantern lecture on "The Rise and Progress of the Restoration Movement."

The year's work at the Chinese Mission, Queensberry-st., Carlton (Vic.), was concluded on the evening of Dec. 14 with an enjoyable social. The continued indisposition of Miss A. Baker, who has for many years served the mission as secretary, is greatly regretted. Mission work will recommence on Jan. 9.

In a recent address the Prince of Wales said: "The nation cannot afford, from an economic point of view, the perpetuation of the slums. Nor can the nation afford the moral and mental degradation which slum conditions create in those who inhabit them. Every generation has a dominating social task, and so let our age, our generation, be remembered as the one in which we swept away this blot that disgraces our national life."

At Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic., there was a large gathering at fellowship meeting to welcome Bro.

### THE OLD YEAR.

What is the Old Year? 'Tis a book  
On which we backward sadly look,  
Not willing quite to see it close,  
For leaves of violet and rose  
Within its heart are thickly strewn,  
Marking love's dawn and golden noon;  
And turned-down pages, noting days  
Dimly recalled through Memory's haze;  
And tear-stained pages, too, that tell  
Of starless nights and mournful knell  
Of bells tolling through trouble's air  
The De Profundis of despair—  
The laugh, the tear, the shine, the shade,  
All 'twixt the covers gently laid;  
No uncut leaves; no page unscanned;  
Close it and lay it in God's hand.

—Clarence Urmy.

and Sisters Wiltshire. Bro. J. A. Wilkie presided, and in an impressive manner gave recognition to the ministry which the call of the congregation, and the acceptance of Bro. Wiltshire, implied. "The Grace of God" was the theme of the helpful exhortation that followed. At night the congregation was good. On Monday evening, at a welcome social, greetings from B.S. and young people's departments, women's auxiliaries, Mt. Clear, York-st., Peel-st., also officers and congregation, were tendered. Bro. J. E. Allan conveyed greetings from President of Federal Conference and Preachers' Association. The president of the Council of Churches added to the welcome. Bro. A. E. Bailey was chairman. Musical items and closing refreshments made the evening an enjoyable one.

At Grote-st., Adelaide, a welcome social was tendered to Bro. and Sister Schwab on Dec. 13. The meeting was very well attended, and the welcome accorded hearty and sincere. Bro. E. R. Manning was chairman. Bro. H. Gray and A. E. Illingworth represented the brotherhood and the preachers of S.A., and Mrs. Russell the sisters' conference. Bro. E. Barnes, T. M. Glover, W. Watson, W. E. Blackley and A. Mercer spoke on behalf of church and various activities, and Miss Leedham expressed the welcome of the sisters. Bro. and Sister Schwab responded, and delighted all with their messages. Refreshments were provided, and a happy time was spent in social intercourse. Good meetings on Dec. 17. At night a choral service was held, the choir rendering the "Messiah" in able manner, under leadership of Bro. Watson. Bro. Schwab's brief message harmonised with the service.

"To take Christmas out of life would be to take the perfume out of flowers, the sweetness from all songs, the color from the rainbow, the sheaf from the summer, the soul from the body, God from his sky."—N. D. Hillis.

Auxiliaries at Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic., have had functions to close the year's activities, J.C.E. holding a picnic at Fitzroy Gardens, and young men's club an evening. The kindergarten had a Christmas treat on Dec. 16. Bro. Ennis addressed the church on morning of Dec. 17. At night the choir, under leadership of Bro. Nat. Haddow, rendered the sacred cantata, "Bethlehem"; Bro. Ennis gave a brief appropriate message. On behalf of the members he said goodbye to Bro. Alf. Richards, who leaves early in the new year for his appointment at Warragul. Officers of the church made a small presentation. Bro. J. Simpson has been elected to the board of officers in place of Bro. Richards.

Special services were held on Dec. 10 and 11 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the church at Port Fairy, Vic. Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnacle, of Camberwell, and Mr. John Gray, of Gardenvale, foundation members, and Mr. R. Gray, of Geelong, journeyed to Port Fairy for the occasion. Amongst the many greetings received was a very welcome message from T. J. Bull, of New Zealand, another foundation member. Mrs. Long, of Warrnambool, and Mrs. Harman, of Preston, who attended at the opening of the chapel, were present. Three cars came from Warrnambool and one from Hamilton. Mr. and Mrs. Clewett, of Surrey Hills, who were passing through, attended the morning service. Bro. John Barnacle presided at the morning service; the address was given by W. Gale, home mission secretary. In the afternoon a very interesting session was held in which Bro. John Gray (Gardenvale) and John Barnacle (Camberwell), in much appreciated messages, related incidents of the early days of the church and district. The reading of messages from past members was a great delight, especially as they revealed what an influence the Port Fairy church had exerted during the fifty years. W. Gale preached at night. Messages in song were rendered by Mrs. Kelly, of Port Fairy, and Mr. K. Morris, of Warrnambool. On Monday night W. Gale gave a lantern lecture on the history of the Restoration movement in Victoria.

F. D. Kershner writes as follows regarding the address given by Dr. Stanley Jones at the Pension Fund breakfast held during the Pittsburgh Convention:—"Jones was at his best and it is doubtful whether our conventions have ever listened to a more practical, thorough-going and straightforward presentation of vital Christianity than was furnished by the famous missionary to India. The speaker was clear-cut, never dodged difficulties, and said about the last word on the subject. The combination of ethics and mysticism which he advocated, and which he himself embodies, is fundamental to religious progress. Without the ethics the mysticism becomes mere moonshine, and without the mysticism the ethics loses its dynamic. Jones himself is a fine illustration of the combination. Our people need this kind of tonic and they got a good deal of it at the Pittsburgh Convention. We have always said that if we could combine our message with the Quakers who are especially strong along the lines suggested by Dr. Jones we would present an unconquerable appeal. Shailer Mathews remarked a good many years ago that the Friends came nearer reproducing the life of apostolic Christianity than any other religious group. He referred, of course, to their emphasis on Christian ethics and to their dynamic mysticism. There is nothing about our plea which prevents our appropriating these features. On the contrary, there is everything in favor of such an appropriation. We are grateful to the author of "The Christ of the Indian Road" for helping us in this direction."



## News of the Churches.

### South Australian News-letter. J. Wiltshire.

Not a great deal has transpired in the religious life of the State since my last letter to call for comment. The Christmas season and preparation for it absorb the thought of most people and foreclose upon any new enterprises.

#### A Backward Step.

It is with great regret we have seen the passing of legislation for the licensing of bookmakers. The Council of Churches offered a very strong resistance to Parliament, but their efforts failed. The debates on the subject in the Houses revealed very few who could defend gambling; most of the members of Parliament regarded it as economically and morally destructive, but to meet the wishes of a section of their electors, and perhaps concurrent with their own desires (a number of them at least), they have extended the facilities of the evil. The saddest part of the proceedings was the consistent support the Premier gave to the measure, a very poor indication of the value of the first five-year parliament. Mr. Jeffries, the Attorney-General, held true to his early decision to have nothing to do with the bill. He opposed it very vehemently, and won the commendation of the best of the South Australian citizens.

#### U.A.M. Annual Meetings.

The annual meetings of the United Aborigines Mission were held at Grote-st. church on Wednesday, Nov. 22. Mr. W. L. Wright was a special visitor for the occasion, and took part in the preceding Lord's day evening service. Mr. Wright proved himself a very fine exponent of the Word of God. Considerable interest was taken in the meetings. The mission has eleven missionaries at work in the State, stationed at Quorn, Oodnadatta, Neppabunna, Swan Reach, and more recently at Ooldea. Splendid work is being done in all these places. It was my privilege to preside over this section of the mission for some years, and in token of appreciation my fellow-workers gave me two valued gifts—an embellished emu's egg (the decorations were the work of the natives), and the autographs of the missionaries. Grote-st. Dorcas Society, a most untiring band of Christian women, provided tea on the Wednesday for about sixty people who paid as they were willing; the proceeds were given by the sisters to the mission.

#### J. W. Black's Final Visit.

Another opportunity was given the brethren of Adelaide to see and hear Bro. J. W. Black. He returned to us on Thursday, Dec. 7, and remained until Monday, 11th. It was a pleasure to the churches at Norwood and Mile End to have him with them morning and evening respectively on the Lord's day. I met him at the home of Bro. Frank Cornelius, Bordertown, just after his great meeting in that town. Brethren had gathered from as far as Naracoorte to hear his thrilling message. He spoke for more than an hour. There was one decision for Christ at the close. Bro. Black was waiting while I was speaking with him for the express to Adelaide, which he was to board at about two o'clock in the morning. He seemed remarkably fresh, and ready to discuss any subject ranging from closer settlement of Australia to the millennium.

#### Grote-st.'s Ministry.

After nearly eight years of very happy service at Grote-st., among the most generous people I have ever been privileged to serve, we said farewell on Monday evening, Dec. 4. It is more than

twenty-seven years since, greatly to my surprise and perplexity, I was invited to become the student-pastor of Bentham-st. (Adelaide) Christian church. With the exception of four years spent abroad, the whole of my ministry has been served in South Australia. God has magnified his mercy and superabounded in grace towards me. No door of usefulness has been closed against me, and the love and goodwill of my brethren I have enjoyed to the full.

Bro. Charles Schwab, a man of God whose praise is in all the churches, has come to take up the work at Grote-st. We rejoice that his coming has been anticipated by earnest prayer. God will bless both preacher and church. Bro. Schwab has also been asked to assist Bro. H. R. Taylor as teacher of the Central Training Class; this will invite the continued confidence of the brethren generally.

Now settled in at 221 Drummond-st., Ballarat, having received the warm-hearted welcome of the brethren at Dawson-st., we must take our leave of our readers. Bro. H. R. Taylor, with whom I have worked so long in close fellowship, will succeed me, and of all his interested readers there will not be found one more intense than the residents at the above address. Thank you, dear Editor, for the privilege which has been mine so long.

### South Australia.

**Exeter.**—Bible School anniversary on Dec. 3 attracted crowded meetings all day. The children sang well under the baton of Mr. Stroud. All departments are working well.

**Healey Beach.**—Good attendances on Dec. 10. Bro. Green exhorted in the morning; Mr. Golly took the service at night. On Dec. 17, Mr. Green again exhorted the church; Mr. Chappel gave the gospel message. Christmas carols were rendered by the choir. Bro. Manning is now convalescent.

**Fullarton.**—Bro. A. W. Wyeit spoke to a large gathering on morning of Dec. 17. On Dec. 12 the Y.P.S.C.E. paid a visit to Home for Incurables, distributing cheer to the inmates. Special Christmas singing from "The Messiah" was rendered by the choir on evening of Dec. 17. Sunday School is making steady progress. A young man, recently immersed, was received into the church on Dec. 10.

**Nailsworth.**—Enjoyable and well-attended meetings were held on Dec. 17. Sunday School had record attendance of 201. On Dec. 14 the ladies' guild had an enjoyable afternoon, terminating their year's work with afternoon tea and musical items. The kindergarten, under leadership of Miss C. Minter with her staff of helpers, gave the kinders a Christmas tree on Dec. 16, attended by about 70 little ones and mothers.

**Mile End.**—The kindergarten Christmas tree and presentation of gifts, J.C.E. and Bible School junior department socials were observed last week. One young man was received into fellowship at morning service on Dec. 17, when Mr. Nankivell gave an address. Bro. Manning preached at night, when the choir rendered carols and anthems culminating with the Hallelujah Chorus. Splendid attendance of members and friends.

**Norwood.**—On Dec. 10 Bro. J. W. Black gave an inspiring message on "The Supremacy of Christ." Bro. Rankine preached at night. On Dec. 14 the Adelaide City Salvation Army Band gave an interesting concert programme. On Dec. 16 kindergarten and primary departments held a successful Christmas tree party, and the junior department spent a happy afternoon in Botanic Gardens. Bro. Rankine addressed the morning service on Dec. 17. The choir is helping services greatly.

**Kadina.**—Meetings continue to be well attended. On Dec. 3 Bro. Warren addressed both services. At ladies' guild anniversary held on Dec. 10, Bro. Trenwith spoke to the church and Miss Dunn, president W.C.T.U., conducted the evening meeting. The drawingroom afternoon was held on Dec. 14. Mrs. Warren presided, and Bro. Lambert addressed the meeting. On Dec. 17 Bro. Warren preached to good audiences. A feature of the evening service was the singing of Cornish carols by the choir, and Mrs. Larcombe rendered a solo.

**Cheltenham.**—On Dec. 10 Bro. Lampshire spoke to the church on "Sonship." Eight were received into fellowship. In the evening his topic was "The Guest who Waited for an Invitation." On Dec. 16 the kindergarten superintendent, Mrs. Glastonbury, and teachers entertained children and mothers at a social afternoon. Christmas gifts were given the scholars. On Dec. 17 Bro. Hinde exhorted the church. At the gospel service the chapel was crowded, Bro. Lampshire speaking on "The Logic of the Calendar." Afterwards six were immersed.

**Maylands.**—On Dec. 12 the primary held its Christmas party, which was preceded by a manager service by older scholars and presentation of gifts for the hospital, each child bringing a "hankie." Parents and friends commended the leader, Miss Elvie White, for the instructive evening. Dec. 16, the mutual improvement society held its annual banquet. G.E. societies are doing helpful Christmas benevolence, and Bible School made a gift of groceries. Dec. 17, splendid services, W. T. Matthews speaking in the morning. The evening Christmas music, and the topic treated by G. T. Fitzgerald, "The Sun of Righteousness," were well received. The junior grade party was arranged for Dec. 19.

**Semaphore.**—The oldest member of the church, Mrs. M. A. Gilchrist, was called home last week at the age of 84. The men's fellowship final meeting for the year, held on Dec. 11, proved a happy social evening. Excellent reports were given at annual business meeting of church on Dec. 13. The following officers were elected for ensuing year: Elders, Bren. A. Roberts and A. P. Mann; deacons, Bren. J. C. Stanley, R. McKenzie, C. Dunstan, W. Lough, F. T. Rees, L. Parker; O. D. Howard and T. Russell; secretary, R. McKenzie; treasurer, F. T. Rees. The Christmas tree for kindergarten was held on Dec. 16. Miss Florence Hand has left for her home in Brim. She was a faithful worker in the kindergarten. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. J. C. Stanley in the loss of her sister. Services on Dec. 17 were very helpful. Bro. Beller spoke in the morning on "The Prophet," and at night concluded the series on "The Body of Christ," taking the theme, "At His Feet." Beautiful anthem by the choir and solo by Bro. Stewart.

### Queensland.

**Rockhampton.**—Meetings draw good congregations. There have been five confessions, and five have been baptised. A visit from Miss Cameron, from India, was enjoyed, and her address was most interesting. Election of officers for twelve months resulted: Bren. Watson, Dobbs, Tresseder, Knight, Rowley, Nelson and Cooper. The last-named is now secretary.

**Gympie.**—Good meetings continue when weather permits. On Dec. 3 Sister Miss Cameron, from India, gave much light on the work there. After her address at the gospel meeting a man and his wife decided for Christ. Bro. Bowes spoke at the morning meeting. The ladies' guild held a sale of work and gifts with satisfactory results. Bro. Bowes addressed the morning meeting of Dec. 10, and spoke at Goomborian in the afternoon and New Veteran at night. Bro. E. Trudgian preached at Gympie, and Bro. G. Jensen at Monkland.

**Roma.**—On Dec. 8 the sisters' guild annual Christmas fair was held with satisfactory results. At the Christmas tree celebration of the Bible

(Continued on page 812.)

## Foreign Missions.

Conducted by G. T. WALDEN, M.A.

### MEDICAL WORK, HUEILICHOW, CHINA.

Bro. Anderson reports on nine months' medical work in Hueilichow, West China: We entered our new premises the first week in October, but no sooner had we settled in when we had the persecution mentioned previously in our letters home. Thus it was that most of the medical work under review was done during the latter part of the year.

The new clinic is most suited for the work we have in hand. We have four very fine rooms, two consulting rooms, one operating room and the dispensary. The wide hall serves both as a passage to the upstairs and as a waiting room for patients. We are grateful to the brethren at home for making it possible to have such premises. You are also aware that attached to this clinic we have the chapel, whilst the whole upstairs serves as a very fine dwelling for the doctor.

#### Cost of the New Building.

The total cost of this new building was in the region of 5,000 local dollars. Fortunately with a fine exchange rate the total cost in pounds would work out at about £200. The first £150 was donated by two consecrated workers at home. The Ballarat sisters donated £20, whilst the remainder was made up in different ways. When we say £200 we did not include the high exchange ruling between Australia and Hong-kong.

#### Statistics of Medical Work.

Patients, new cases, 1,350. Included in this number we had 40 opium poisoning, 40 minor operations, 3 major operations, 12 obstetric cases. Retreatments, 5,600. Home visits, 30.

All the obstetric cases were serious, most of them having been in the hands of Chinese midwives till the patient was at death's door. This happens time and time again with cases here. Chinese women are not anxious to have a male doctor around unless it is a case of life and death. Most would sooner die than call in the doctor.

#### Medical Receipts.

Our estimated income was £20, but our actual income about £30. We can be gratified, when we consider our ups and downs, that we had such a fair income; when we consider, too, as often happens, that during a whole day out of perhaps 20 patients we might take 50 cents, about 4d. Our only charge for registration is only 20 local cents, about one penny, whilst many poor folk cannot pay anything, and we do not turn them away. This is by far the largest income our clinic has received. The actual outlay for drugs is about £35. So we have the satisfactory position of our fees about covering the cost of drugs.

#### Dr. Hsueh's Faithful Work.

Dr. Hsueh has put faithful work into his clinic, and has been ready at any time to try and help the suffering around him. In addition he has ever been ready to help in the preaching and with advice generally when needed.

Dr. Hsueh has been ably helped by his assistants. Miss Loh has been with us for over two years, and during that time has been loyally helping in the work. She has now left for Shanghai to have some special training in midwifery, and will be away two years. We assist her a little in her training with the understanding that she returns to us when her training is complete.

Our second assistant is Mr. Liu, one time associated with the Baptists in various parts of China. Later he was engaged as an army doctor, though he had no special qualifications to

admit him into such service other than a fairly wide nursing and hospital experience. He has never trained as a doctor, though he has proved a very valuable help to Dr. Hsueh. He has helped in another way. He is a very strong type of man, and is able to stand up for his principles, and a very able defender of Christianity. A man very valuable to have around in these troubled days.

Now Miss Loh has left us, Mr. Liu is more fully engaged in the work, whilst our own Pearl Anderson is assisting in whatever way she can.

At special times Dr. Hsueh, too, has had the able assistance of his wife. She has had some special training; and whilst not generally in the clinic, she has always been ready to step in and help out when assistance was required.

#### Dr. Hsueh's Kindness to Our China Missionaries.

Before closing this report I would like to add how very kind Dr. Hsueh has been to all the missionaries on the field. When we have needed his attention he has been kindness itself, and has always been ready to suggest ways and means to make things easy for the others in the home. When Mrs. Anderson was so ill last year Dr. Hsueh was very thoughtful and, for a part of the time, took the children to his own home to save us needless worry and trouble. When our little one was born no one could have been more thoughtful, and when we were under the shadows, owing to the dangerous illness of Bro. Waterman, Dr. Hsueh was most attentive, and did all that mortal man could do.

#### GENERAL WORK IN HUEILICHOW.

Bro. Anderson writes: Our work continues despite the unrest of the times. The military business and robber scares keep people on the jump, but the soldiers in no way try to prevent our meetings, nor yet do anything more than listen if they attend. We have been treated with respect from soldiers on the street. Our women's meetings have been well attended again lately, and we are sure that, if we did not have these scares every now and again, we would be in for a good time.

Ordinary meetings in the evenings are crowded, probably more coming than in the early days of our first coming here. The morning meeting on the Sunday could be better attended, the probable reason being that, in these days of insults and threats of persecution, some of the actual members do not wish to be seen around too much. This, however, does not speak of all, for some of them are most loyal in attendance.

#### Our Tribes Work.

Our reports from the tribes tell of work going on, but recent troubles have taken some of them as recruits to go out after robbers. As conscription is in force, there remains nothing else but to do as you are told. All these things have disorganised the work somewhat, though the meetings are always held there, and the little school remains open, though depleted.

Our school in the city continues its witness, and last Sunday we had the joy of baptising two of our school girls, and one other girl who was a member of our school a few years ago.

In addition to the three girls, we baptised two young men. One of these young men comes from a fine home, and recently became engaged to Pearl Anderson. He, too, was one of our previous school boys.

This makes for the year ten baptisms. Had we not had our sickness and troubles we would have had more trips to the tribes, and had more additions in that centre.

#### SHALL WE GIVE UP THIS WORK?

When you have read the above message of Bro. Anderson, concerning the work in China, can you face voting to give up this work, so full of promise, for an extra expenditure of eightpence per year each from 10,500 of our 34,207 members of the Churches of Christ in Australia? It seems such a small sum to save closing down our work in China, and leaving these new converts without a shepherd, and closing up our clinic from the poor in Hueilichow when times of sickness come.

#### WEST CHINA REINFORCEMENT FUND.

##### A TELEGRAM.

Adelaide,  
Dec. 19, 1933.

Foreign Mission Board decided to close this fund on fifteenth February, 1934. This leaves only eight weeks to decide that we will keep our missionaries on the field. Let us get busy. The Lord's business requires haste.

WALDEN.

## LESS THAN YOU EARN

**I**f you have foresight and good judgment, you spend less than you earn, and you keep a State Savings Bank account. If you are **CONSISTENT**, your account grows steadily. The sure road to financial security is via the State Savings Bank. Regular deposits soon grow into a worth-while bank balance—and money in the bank saves worry!

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## The Epistle to the Romans. Lingering in the Vestibule.

(Romans 1: 1-7.)

A. W. Connor.

As we begin the reading of the epistle to the church at Rome it will help us to linger a little on the threshold.

### The Writer.

"Paul." Twenty years before he had met Christ on the road to Damascus. That vision of the radiant living Christ had transformed him. Since that memorable day Jesus had "dwelt in his heart by faith," and the spring of all his zeal had been "Christ liveth in me." So here as he dictates this incomparable epistle he describes himself

"A bond-servant of Jesus Christ,  
Called to be an apostle,  
Set apart to proclaim God's good news."

### His Theme.

(1) "The Gospel of God." Of it he affirms two things: (a) It was promised beforehand through his prophets. The reality of the prophetic gift is recognised. The way was prepared for the coming of the good news. (b) The record of this is found in the Holy Scriptures. (c) The burden of all varied prophecy is one. "Testimony to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." As all roads led to Rome so all roads in Old Testament, and in the New, centre in one glorious person. This gospel of God concerns that one.

(2) "The Son of God." (a) His full title is given. "His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (b) His human descent is stated. He was of the "Seed of David according to the flesh." (c) His divine nature is declared. "Declared to be the Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead." So even in the vestibule we are challenged by the great Christian dogmas, incarnation, atonement, resurrection. This gospel is no mere refined humanism. Nor must we, in the interest of simplicity, whittle away its great mysteries.

### Paul and His Readers.

"He." The called apostle has received "grace and apostleship." He has been authorised by his Lord, and speaks with power. This is his, not by human merit but by divine grace, unmerited favor. His mission now is to win men to obedience to the faith especially "among all the Gentiles." World evangelism! Human responsibility.

"They." They, too, have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. They are "the beloved of God," "called to be saints." What a perfect standing in Christ! What an insistent appeal to holiness of life, and faithfulness of service. "Called to be saints!"

What they were, we are, if we are Christ's, and so we stand reverently in the vestibule, before we walk into the spacious temple of the epistle to receive the benediction that will help us to profit by our study.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

### S.A. SISTERS' AUXILIARY.

The sisters met for their monthly meeting at Grote-st. chapel on Thursday, Dec. 7. There was a good attendance, 85 sisters being present, 56 of whom were delegates. Mrs. W. Green (temperance superintendent) led devotions. The meeting took the form of a temperance rally. Mr. Train gave a very fine address entitled, "The Challenge of Responsibility." Vocal items by Mrs. Louis were much enjoyed. Mrs. A. L. Head gave a short talk on her visit to Federal Conference. Collection for the afternoon amounted to £13/9.

Since last meeting Mrs. Lawton, of Queens-town, Mrs. Lovell, of Maylands, and Mr. Cooper, of Croydon church, have received the home-call. A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs. Smith, of Norwood, whose husband passed away. Mrs. P. Verco offered prayer for the bereaved ones.

Mrs. Green thanked Mrs. Louis for her solos, also Mr. Train for his splendid address.

Receipts for month.—For home mission, £3/19/1; for foreign mission, £9/4/1. Paid foreign mission secretary for Christmas cheer, £3/4/4. Balance, £5/19/9. General fund, £2/4/-; Paid secretary for postage, £1; balance, £1/4/-; General Conference catering fund; Surplus from conference luncheon, 17/7; in hand, £7/2/10; total, £8/0/5.—P. M. Bristow, asst. secretary.

### Kedron Mission, Queensland.

Evangelism is indeed the essence of Christian endeavor, and the churches' surest escape from spiritual decay. The fine mission conducted by Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen and Bro. V. B. Morris closed on December 10 with 61 decisions, and about £130 thankoffering. Unusually, rain fell more than half the duration of the six weeks' services. Great sermons. Over 200 present several nights; good for this district and climate. Bro. Hinrichsen and Morris are a powerful evangelistic combination of story and song, wonderfully blessed of the Holy Spirit. At least 50 new members (12 young) will be added to Kedron roll. Sister churches helped much, especially Albion, which closed Sunday night and week-night services to assist the mission. Bro. J. W. Black, of England, delivered two fine messages in the crowded mission marquee. Thirty new scholars were added to the Bible School. Kedron church expresses great gratitude to the Home Mission Committee, and to the gifted missionaries. Kedron may become self-supporting early in the new year. Members of Home Mission Committee conducted the Lord's supper service on Dec. 10, and a youth responded when Bro. Noble gave the invitation in the evening. We indeed "praise God from whom all blessings flow."—N. G. Noble.

### Obituary.

JACOBSON.—On Dec. 7 Joseph William Jacobson, aged 59 years, was suddenly called to be with the Lord. A few days previously he accidentally collided with a motor truck which rendered him unconscious. He died in the General Hospital without regaining consciousness. Our brother linked up with the church at Kellewie some years ago, and later at Hobart he enjoyed fellowship when able to do so, though sometimes hindered by ill-health. On Dec. 9 we laid his mortal remains in Cornelian Bay Cemetery. The writer conducted the service at the graveside, many relatives and friends being present. Bro. Jacobson leaves a wife, one daughter and two sons, a dear old mother (Sister G. Jacobson), Mervyn, Hillmer (deacon at Collins-st.), Fred, and a sister, Mrs. Rollins (Launceston), besides many other relatives and friends, to await the day of reunion in the house of many mansions.—J. K. Martin.

A stable was thy court, and when  
Meth turned to beasts, beasts would be men;  
They were thy courtiers, others none,  
And their poor manger was thy throne,  
But stay; what light is that doth stream  
And drop here in a gilded beam?  
It is thy star; run, page, to bring  
Thy tributary Eastern kings.  
Lord! grant some light to us that we  
May find with them, the way to thee!

—George Herbert.

## DID YOU FAIL

to make your Home  
Mission Offering on  
Dec. 31

## IT IS NOT TOO LATE

Place it in envelope marked "Home Missions" and put on collection plate in your local church, or send to Home Mission office.

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All general correspondence to A. J. Ingham, secretary, 11 Gladstone-st., Kew, E.4.

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## News of the Churches.

(Continued from page 809.)

School, held on Dec. 12, 90 gifts were distributed, a varied programme was submitted by the children, and each child received refreshment. The building was crowded. Church services were well attended. On Dec. 10 Bro. A. S. Cooke spoke in the morning. At night Bro. L. R. Pittman's address was on "The Observations of a Lawyer." A young lady confessed Christ. All church auxiliaries are in a healthy condition, and prospects are good.

### Western Australian News-letter. A. G. Saunders, B.A.

The churches at Bunbury, Collie and Harvey unite each year in conference—the South-west District Conference. It is one of the most pleasant and most interesting occasions in the calendar of our Westralian churches. This year the meetings were held in the splendid seaside town of Bunbury, 115 miles from Perth. Bro. Albany Bell was president. While there were fewer visitors than usual from the city, the conference was invested with special interest by reason of the tent missions, conducted by Bro. Buckingham, being held in the district. The first is doing well at Collie, with 32 decisions and a revived church reported so far. The tent is to go to Bunbury, and finally to Harvey. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, A. Ware; vice-president, V. G. Whelan; secretary and treasurer, G. Mandry. Next conference is planned for Collie.

Brethren in the east will be grieved to know that Bro. R. W. Ewers is in hospital seriously sick. We trust that our good brother may win his way back to health in due season. But it is unlikely that he will be able to continue his work on conference committees. Many brethren overlook the strain imposed upon those who accept responsibility in the way of committee work. It is not the first time a brother has paid a big price for adding such service to his load of work.

Our attention, along with yours, has been directed towards the murdered princes. A Romanist priest named Fahey and Dean Moore (Ang.) have engaged each other in a newspaper discussion on the subject. The Dean closes his latest communication thus: "Our views are irreconcilable. Only the power of God can bring harmony, and he will show the way in his own good time; meantime let us cease trying to score points off each other and work only for the salvation of all men."

Trinity Congregational lecture hall was crowded at a recent meeting of men from various Protestant bodies, when a stimulating address was delivered by Associate Professor A. C. Fox, of the Chair of Philosophy in the University of W.A. Professor Fox is usually challenging in what he says. On this occasion the subject gave him full scope, "The Church as Leader." Although he gave the church something in the nature of a "dressing down," he did so in a constructive way. This is how he concluded: "The soldier should in time be degraded from his present eminence. He should eventually be looked upon as an unfortunate necessity, like the garbage man or street sweeper. They should have the courage to see that the profession came to be regarded as a degrading one, their aim being to use their brains to dispense with such a calling. Why should not governors be 'attended' by a teacher or a doctor, a craftsman or an artisan, instead of by a soldier or a sailor? Vested interests were strong and peace could only depend on the insistence of the common people. The church could give them a pre-eminent lead only by leading men's thoughts and loyalty to God." It took courage to say that. But it is a thing that needs saying.

### Western Australia.

**Maylands.**—Meetings have been excellent. H.M. offering, £10. On Dec. 6 Bro. Peacock gave an enjoyable talk on his travels and experiences in Tasmania. A happy time was spent at the gullid break-up social on Dec. 7. At this function Bro. Bridge, a foundation member, was honored on his 80th birthday. On Dec. 10, at the close of Bro. Thomson's address on "God's First Question in the Old Testament," one made the good confession.

**Subiaco.**—Meetings on Lord's day morning are fairly well attended. Gospel meetings improve each Sunday. Bro. Saunders' addresses are good. A message from Bro. Lang on Dec. 3 and Bro. Hunt on Dec. 10 were helpful. The Bible School, under leadership of Bro. Piper, is keeping up its good work. On Dec. 2 the men's fellowship entertained wives and friends enjoyably. On Dec. 3 the girls' club closed its year's work with a tea to which young men of the church were invited. About 70 sat to the tables. At a meeting arranged by the finance department to put the monetary position before members, and to appeal for £50 to bring finances to a better standard, £21/10/- was promised from 28 members. It is hoped to reach £50 by the end of March; if this can be done one brother has promised pound for pound up to £50.

**Perth (Lake-st.).**—A happy evening was spent by forty young folk—members of choir and various auxiliaries of the church—on Dec. 11, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Beck. The occasion was arranged to honor Bro. A. B. Povey, who has removed to North Perth. He has been choir-master for several years, and always a zealous worker with the lady of Lake-st. church and school. A kinder gift evening was held recently, arranged by kindergarten teachers, a nice lot of toys being gathered in readiness for the Christmas tree. The girls' club had a successful evening on Dec. 7, when they presented a programme in meritorious style to a large gathering; proceeds in aid of the club and the new Sunday School at Kensington. The new hymn book has been used at mid-week prayer meetings for some months. It has now been decided to use it at all services after Dec. 30.

### Victoria.

**Wangaratta.**—Good meetings on Dec. 17. 87 attended school. Three girls were baptised at the gospel service.

**Bampton.**—The kindergarten Christmas function on Dec. 16 was a happy occasion. Good meetings on the 17th.

**Geelong.**—The ladies' aid annual sale of work was held on Dec. 7. Work continues steadily. Auxiliaries are going into recess for Christmas holidays.

**Kyneton.**—The M.I.S. held an enjoyable social on Dec. 16. At the close of Bro. Ritchie's address on the "Incarnate Christ," on Dec. 17, one young lady confessed Christ.

**Melbourne (Swanston-st.).**—Good meeting last Lord's day morning. At evening service, after Bro. Scambler's sermon, the choir rendered choruses from "The Messiah," assisted by soloists, who sang the special solos from the same work. There was a large attendance. On Monday evening last the Bible School children held an entertainment and enjoyed the Christmas tree and the gifts provided. All brought a gift to make others happy.

**Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).**—The ladies' social circle has decided to forego the annual picnic and subscribe the funds for the outing to social service work. Sister Griffiths, wife of one of the esteemed elders, is seriously ill, but slightly improving. Services on Dec. 17 were inspiring. At night a young lady accepted the Saviour, and two candidates were baptised. Since the opening of the new chapel three weeks ago there have been twelve decisions. The kindergarten had a happy time on Dec. 16 at Christmas tree and distribution of toys.

**Doncaster.**—On Dec. 17 a visit from Bro. and Sister A. A. Hughes was enjoyed. Bro. Hughes spoke morning and evening and addressed the Bible School. There were splendid attendances. Bro. Connor was at Mont Albert.

**Horsham.**—Bro. Jno. Methven, of the College, gave an appreciated address last Lord's day evening. Efforts throughout the year by the sisters made a total of £60 for building fund. Offering for social service was taken on Dec. 17.

**Moreland.**—Meetings were well attended on Dec. 17. Bro. R. L. Arnold delivered helpful addresses. Christmas carols by the choir were appreciated. J.C.E. Christmas mail distributed over 2,100 letters and parcels to members and friends.

**Keeuca.**—Meetings are well attended. On Dec. 10 Bro. Payne's son Paul made the good confession and was baptised. On Dec. 17 a baptised believer consecrated his life to Christ, desiring to associate himself with the church. Bro. Jack Bothwell had fellowship with the church in the morning.

**Mildura.**—On Dec. 11 Miss Fowler, from United Aborigines' Mission, gave an appreciated address to the Y.P.C.E. A young man was received into fellowship last Sunday morning. A Christmas choral service was held on Sunday evening, the building being filled. Bro. Macnaughtan spoke on "Out of the Ivory Palaces."

**St. Kilda.**—On Dec. 7, at half-yearly business meeting, many reports were received of the church work. On Dec. 17 Bro. Alcorn gave the church his last sermon for the year; he is leaving for vacation. Bro. Baker, from the College, is planned to speak for two Sundays. There is slight improvement in attendance.

**North Williamstown.**—On Dec. 7 the sisters' sewing class arranged a successful social, at which presentations were made to Bro. A. Greve and Sister V. Clarke on the eve of their marriage. On Dec. 16 Bro. F. T. Saunders spoke in the morning. A choral service was held in the evening, when Bro. H. A. Hunter preached well.

**Ballarat (York-st.).**—Meetings for worship and gospel services have not been very well attended of late. Work in the Bible School is encouraging; attendance in Bible class increasing—25 present on Dec. 17. The school gave 15/- towards Christmas cheer for needy children in the district, and assisted social service Christmas fund. Attendance at Y.P.S. is increasing.

**Middle Park.**—On Dec. 16 the cradle roll and kindergarten held a successful Christmas tree. Splendid meetings on Dec. 17. Bro. A. O. Baker gave a fine address in the morning. A Christmas service was held in the evening, when Bro. Westwood delivered a splendid gospel address. A solo by Bro. A. O. Baker was enjoyed. Sister Mrs. Candy is progressing well after operation.

**Drumcondra.**—A successful concert was held on Dec. 6 in connection with Bible School anniversary. Kinders had happy time at a Christmas tree on Dec. 16. Very fine gospel meeting on Dec. 17. At close of Bro. R. Banks' message on "Living Up to Our Privileges," a young man confessed Christ and was baptised. Ladies' aid members have handed over £7 to church as result of their work.

**Dunolly.**—On Nov. 25 a successful concert was given by Maryborough Bible School. Bro. Lewis commenced labors with the church on Dec. 10. All meetings are well attended. A record attendance of the S.C.E. was held on Dec. 14, when Bro. Lewis spoke. Messages for Dec. 17 were on "Ambassadors for Christ" and "Painting a Picture of God's Words." Bro. Woolridge rendered a beautiful solo.

**Glenferrie.**—As a result of the sale of gifts in October the ladies' aid society donated £100 towards clearing building fund debt. Bible School obtained front rank certificate in efficiency campaign. At evening service on Dec. 17 a service of special Christmas music was conducted by Mrs. Bennett. Christmas cheer collection amounted to 15/5/-. Bible School donated 20/-, and senior C.E. society 25/-, towards Social Service Department.

**Camberwell.**—Meetings are well attended. On Dec. 17 Bro. Clay spoke in the morning, and in the evening a Christmas choral service was held. On Dec. 12 the Y.P.S.C.E. visited Balwyn society. At a decision day in the Sunday School four scholars accepted Christ. Miss D. Cook and Miss Wood, from Tasmania, are having fellowship with the church.

**Fitzroy (Gore-st.).**—Good meetings were held on Dec. 10. Bro. Holland spoke at both services. Bro. R. Tippett, from S.A., was amongst visitors. On Dec. 17 meetings were well attended. Bro. Northeast, who is taking Bro. Holland's place while he is absent in Adelaide, spoke morning and night. On Dec. 16 the kindergarten Christmas tree was held. Members learned with regret of the passing away of Sister Mrs. Hollingsworth, who had been connected with Fitzroy church from its commencement.

**Preston.**—On Dec. 10 two were welcomed into fellowship by faith and obedience, and one by restoration. A very fine message was given by Bro. Dow, of Fairfield. The Y.W.L. celebrated its fifth anniversary on Dec. 17. In the evening a combined Christmas service was held, when members of the league rendered carols and the church choir three anthems. The kindergarten hall was crowded on Dec. 16, when kinders were treated to a Christmas party arranged by the mothers' club and teachers and staff of kindergarten.

**East Kew.**—Four have been received by letter in the past two weeks. On Dec. 17 there was one baptism. Home Mission offering was an increase on last year, just passing the aim suggested by the H.M. Department. A happy Christmas tree celebration was conducted by the kindergarten on Dec. 16. The church has received a large parcel of clothing, and taken an offering for Social Service Department. Y.P. sunshine committee is preparing Christmas cheer for children of needy families in the district with whom Bro. Ingham has been in touch.

**North Richmond.**—On Dec. 17 the hand of fellowship was extended to a sister. A Christmas choral service was held in the evening. Special music was rendered by the choir, and Bro. Sparks gave a splendid address to a good gathering. Two young ladies from the Bible School took their stand for Christ. The kinders' Christmas treat was held on Dec. 16; each child receiving a gift. After a trying illness Sister Mrs. Nichols was laid to rest on Dec. 14. Bro. Shipway and Sparks officiated. Sympathy is extended to those who mourn.

**Swan Hill.**—On Dec. 7, at the final meeting for the year, the W.C.T.U. spoke words of love and farewell, and gave a beautiful present to the organizer of the branch and retiring secretary, Mrs. A. H. Pratt, who gave a farewell address. On Dec. 13, prior to the last meeting of the ladies' guild for 1933, Bro. and Sister A. H. Pratt gave farewell messages. A married woman confessed Jesus as Lord and was baptised with the three who confessed Christ on Dec. 10. Well attended prayer and Endeavor meetings are conducted. A Christmas tree was held on Dec. 15.

**Newmarket.**—On the morning of Dec. 17 Bro. Brown, of Ascot Vale, presided, and Bro. Neighbour, of Essendon, gave a helpful address. The evening service was conducted by young people. Bro. N. Hansen spoke on the life of Philip P. Bliss, the hymn-writer, and Bro. Geof. Emmett spoke on several hymns written by that author. One adult and three Bible School scholars made the good confession. Bible School progresses favorably, and has received certificate as a front rank school. The kindergarten had a pleasant afternoon on Dec. 16, when they all enjoyed afternoon tea and received presents from Christmas tree. The C.E. had a visit from Essendon C.E. on Dec. 14, Essendon conducting a good spiritual meeting. Auxiliaries are progressing favorably, and a healthy spirit prevails.

**Parkdale.**—A great day of fellowship and blessing was spent on Dec. 17, when home-coming services were held. A large number of past members returned and had fellowship. Bro. L. O. Collyer presided in the morning, between 90 and 100 partaking of the Lord's supper. Past members read the Scriptures. Bro. A. W. Stephenson gave an uplifting message on 1 Cor. 1: 24. The gospel service was well attended. A special choir rendered an item splendidly. A challenging gospel message was given by Bro. A. W. Stephenson on "The One Thing Needful."

**Cheltenham.**—On Dec. 10, meetings were good. In the evening the one who confessed the previous week was baptised, after which Bro. Brooke delivered an excellent address on "Baptism." Dec. 17 was observed as Christmas Sunday, with special addresses by Bro. Brooke. Christmas anthems were sung in the morning, and in the evening the choir sang selections from "The Messiah." After the sermon on "Why did Jesus Come?" the choir closed with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus." A most effective service included the confession of Christ by two Bible School children.

**Carnegie.**—On Dec. 12 the church recognised the services of Bro. and Sister Tinkler. Various speakers, representing several auxiliaries, spoke of the splendid qualities of our brother and sister. Mrs. Tinkler was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the sisters, and an electric kettle was presented to the family through Bro. Tinkler. The school and church are delighted at having secured the banner in the front rank competition. Good meetings on Dec. 17, Bro. Shipway speaking at both services. Bro. and Sister Shipway and daughter leave on their annual holidays this week.

### New South Wales.

**Iverell.**—There have been three confessions and baptisms for the month—a young married couple and a young man; and an old member has been restored to the church after years of separation.

**North Auburn.**—The 22nd church anniversary services were held on Dec. 10 and 12 with splendid attendance. Bro. W. J. Crossman was the speaker. Bro. I. Schofield, for many years superintendent of Bible School, has been given leave of absence.

**Chatswood.**—Fine meetings on Dec. 17. Dr. Meldrum's address to the church on "The Cosmos" was eloquent and instructive. At the gospel service J. Whelan spoke on "Passed By." A fine message resulted in a husband and wife making the good confession.

**Enmore.**—Ethelbert Davis gave a splendid address on the morning of Dec. 17, and Dr. Verco an interesting temperance lesson to school. In the kindergarten a Christmas tree attracted a large number. At night the choir sang Christmas anthems, and Bro. Paternoster preached on "The Living Word."

**Grafton.**—A powerful sermon on "Repentance" was preached by Bro. Larsen on Dec. 3, and again on Dec. 10 on "The Judgment Day." The C.E. society, though not large in members, is yet intensive, and good meetings are held. A number meet on Thursday nights for prayer and Bible study, and find meetings helpful and instructive.

**Mosman.**—"Be patient" was Roy Acland's exhortation for the church on Dec. 10. "The Church Established" was his evening subject. The kindergarten Christmas party on Dec. 16, arranged by the new superintendent, Miss Mitchellhill, was enjoyed by a large gathering of children and parents. The preacher's morning subject on Dec. 17 was "The Lord's Day"; at night, "The Day of Pentecost."

### ADDRESS.

H. Cooper (secretary Rockhampton church, Qld.).—Margaret-st., Rockhampton.

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### DEATH.

\* NICHOLS.—Passed peacefully away on Dec. 12, Jane, the beloved wife of the late W. E. Nichols, and mother of James, Ada (Mrs. Smalley), Herbert, Clement, Rhoda (Mrs. Thomas), Estella (Mrs. Smith), Fredrick, William (deceased), Victoria (Mrs. Woods), in her 72nd year. To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

NICHOLS.—A tribute from a loving friend to the memory of Mrs. Nichols, who passed away on Dec. 12.  
—E. F. Nash.

### IN MEMORIAM.

SQUIRES.—In treasured memory of my loved parents, who passed to higher service; Henry Squires, Nov. 16, 1916; Mathilda Squires, Dec. 3, 1933. Sweet memories.

TIDD.—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, who passed peacefully away on Dec. 27, 1920.

When least expected death did come,

No one could stay its power;

One of the best the world contained

Was cut down like a flower.

'Tis sweet to know we'll meet again,

Where partings are no more,

And that the one we loved so dear

Has only gone before.

—Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, 4 Henry-st., Glenferrie.

### HOLIDAYS.

When on holidays in the Mornington Peninsula, Red Hill church invites you to fellowship Lord's day mornings at 11.15 a.m. Dromana 6, Rosebud 8, Mornington 12, Balnarring 8, Flinders 11 miles.

Visitors to the seaside are cordially invited to attend services at Chelsea (Blantyre-ave.), and at Frankston (high school hall). At Frankston the meeting is held at 3 p.m.

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## Mosman, N.S.W., Silver Jubilee.

The first meeting of the celebrations was held on Saturday, Nov. 11, a welcome home service being attended by a large number of past members and those in present fellowship. Bro. T. P. Dale, church secretary, presided over the afternoon session, when the present preacher, Bro. Roy Acland, extended a welcome. The jubilee choir, under leadership of Bro. L. Harbutt, rendered an anthem, and Mrs. Watkins a recitation. Responses were made by Brev. Ethelbert Davis and P. C. Bennett, past preachers, and an address was given by Bro. Geo. T. Walden, who served the church from April, 1914, to April, 1915. At tea, prepared by members of young ladies' Bible class, Bro. F. G. Gillmore presided, and reminiscences and experiences were related by Brev. Richard Verco, C. J. Lea, A. Mitchellhill, S. O. Gole, Ethelbert Davis and Geo. T. Walden. Reference was made to brethren and sisters who had passed to their reward. Bro. Arthur Oldfield, who was the first one to suggest that services should be commenced in Mosman, and in whose memory a memorial tablet rests on the wall of the chapel, was specially mentioned. The secretary read greetings from several unable to attend the celebrations.

Sunday's services were a spiritual feast. Bro. Acland presided in the morning, and Bro. Ethelbert Davis preached. Other past members taking part were Brev. L. J. Price, R. W. Perkins, A. Mitchellhill, C. J. Lea and F. G. Gillmore. The jubilee choir rendered the anthem "Te Deum." Mrs. Arthur Oldfield, Mrs. E. Gole and Mrs. A. B. Maston, who attended the first meeting called on October 22, 1908, for the purpose of forming the church, were present.

In the afternoon the Bible School anniversary was celebrated. Bro. J. L. Stimson, the superintendent, presided, and Bro. S. O. Gole, the first superintendent, addressed the scholars, whose singing was very pleasing. Two items by kindergarten scholars, presentation of kinder prizes and presentation of a New Testament to Miss Violet Mitchellhill, concluded this session. Bro. Gole, in handing the gift to Miss Mitchellhill, who was one of the first scholars when the school was formed, and who had been actively associated with it since, paid a grateful tribute to her long and faithful service. In the evening a bright gospel service was conducted by Bro. Acland. The choir sang a beautiful anthem, and the scholars of the school two choruses.

On Monday, Nov. 13, the jubilee was continued by a youth demonstration, when Bible School scholars and youth activities presented the theme, "Building the Church of the Future."

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, the jubilee concert, arranged by the young people's auxiliaries, assisted by Miss Nance Marley, Mrs. W. E. J. Lewis, Miss Warren and Mr. F. Horsey, was held in Anzac Memorial Hall and was a delightful entertainment.

The concluding meetings were held on November 15, commencing with the jubilee dinner, prepared by the members of the ladies' church aid. Specially invited guests were Bro. J. Wycliffe Black, from Leicester, England; the Conference President, Bro. A. Allen, and Mrs. Allen; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Rofe; the Mayor of Mosman, who extended a civic welcome to Mr. Black as an Alderman of Leicester County Council; and Mr. Pickup, Baptist minister. The public demonstration was the climax to a season of great thanksgiving and joyous fellowship. Bro. T. E. Rofe, President of Council of Churches of N.S.W., presided, and a stirring and interesting address was delivered by J. Wycliffe Black. The Conference President, Bro. Allen, expressed a brotherhood greeting, and the jubilee choir again sang. Presentations were made from three auxiliaries to the church from the young ladies' Bible class of receipts for money spent in alteration and improvements to front of chapel grounds;

£4/15/- from Junior C.E., and a thankoffering arranged by the ladies' aid totalled about £15.

The success of the celebrations was largely due to the efforts of the jubilee committee representing all phases of the church work. Decorations were arranged by a committee of young people led by Miss V. Mitchellhill. The jubilee choir was trained by Bro. L. Harbutt. An attractive souvenir booklet was produced which included the history of the church by the secretary and pictures of the past and present workers in church and Bible School.

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### W.A. Women's Auxiliary.

The hospital committee had charge of devotions at November meeting, with Mrs. K. Robinson as leader. The report showed that 270 visits had been paid to institutions since conference. Literature, gifts and home comforts had been distributed. A visitor for the children's hospital is needed. The resignation of Mrs. Eaton, assistant secretary, owing to her removal from the city, was received with regret. Mrs. Lucraft has consented to fill the vacancy until conference.

Mrs. W. Thomson gave a very interesting account of her visit to Federal Conference. The sisters regret very much the departure of Mrs. Schwab from the State and from the executive work. At the combined farewell meeting to Bro. and Sister Schwab, Mrs. Saunders said a few words of farewell and made a presentation to Mrs. Schwab from the auxiliary.

On Dec. 5 the devotional session was led by Mrs. Smillie. Mrs. K. Robinson rendered a solo. The business session was presided over by the president, Mrs. A. G. Saunders. Correspondence included letters from Bunbury, Collie, Kalgoorlie and Brookton women's guilds. A cheque for £9 was received from the sisters' effort at Brookton. The president reported on the south-west conference, which she and the secretary attended as delegates.

The secretary was asked to convey sympathy to the following who were absent through illness: Sisters R. W. Ewers, S. Thomson, J. W. B. Robinson, Preston and Abbot.

Reports of Dorcas classes by Mrs. Fieldus, and young women's clubs by Mrs. Smillie, showed a very active and busy time spent in the various churches preparing goods for India and needy cases.

The prayer and praise meeting was planned for Dec. 14, to be held at Lake-st., Mrs. Saunders to be leader and Mr. Hunt speaker.

Mrs. Robinson, sen., who was present for the first time in many months, thanked the sisters for their letters and many kindnesses while she was ill.

The president extended season's greetings to all sisters, and thanked them for their gifts to hospitals; she also welcomed Mrs. Lucraft and Mrs. Berry to the meeting, and Mrs. D. M. Wilson after her illness.

The next meeting will be held in February, when Mrs. W. Thomson will be devotional leader, and conference business will be discussed.—A. C. Elliott, secretary.

### THE THIRD MAN.

"Every business, properly managed, takes an inventory of its stock and plant once a year.

"Take an inventory of yourself.

"Every man is, in a sense, three persons. One, the man he thinks he is; two, the man his friends think he is; three, the man he really is. The only one that you have to worry about is the third.

"Study this third man. You can know him if you want. Write on a piece of paper the hours he works and the hours he wastes each day. Find out your true assets and liabilities.

"Then you can deal with yourself on the basis of an honest trading account."—"Daily Express" (London).

Christ's birth as the Babe of Bethlehem has made the little child almost divine in its sacredness.—Mark Guy Pearce.

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count heads but God  
counts hearts.

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