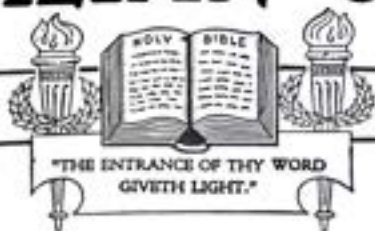


# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

A Journal Representing



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## The Disguises of Christ.

"Their eyes were holden, that they should not know him."—Luke 14: 16.

WE know how the writers of the gospel story wrote with the Old Testament at their elbow. At every other turn in their Saviour's life they caught prophecies and coincidences concerning it in the old book, and thus the phrase "As it is written" besprinkles their pages. They did not exhaust those apposite and confirming Scriptures. Indeed, we might add to them without irreverence or presumption. For example, in the account of Mary's meeting with her Lord on Easter morn we should not be startled if we read, "She knew not that it was Jesus; as it is written, Wherefore hidest thou thy face and forgettest our affliction." And of the encounter of Cleopas we might read, "Their eyes were holden that they knew him not; as it is written, The Lord is as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for the night." These Old Testament candle-lights would be quite seemly if placed as I have dared to place them, because so many of the appearances of the risen Christ have this in common, that he appeared to his followers in what we may venture to term a disguise, or at least, he was disguised to them.

If our blessed Lord were to enter visibly and tangibly the church in which we worship to-day we should probably be slow in apprehending his presence, at least until something other than sight and touch revealed him to us. Even Mary and Cleopas and the disciples in their boats a little way from shore were slow enough in detecting him even though they saw him. Now, as to this, I ask you to observe the character of the "disguise." It was akin to the location and attire and occupation of those among whom he intervened. To Mary he looked like the gardener of the place; to Cleopas and his companion like a fellow-traveller, equipped and attired for a journey; to the disciples at their fishing like any other fisherman loitering on the shore.

Do you never wish that you could see Christ face to face, and speak with him as a man speaketh with his friend? You may answer, of course, and say, "It sufficeth us to have communion with him in the unseen, in the blessed intercourse of prayer, and in

that most intimate communion with him that is available for us in the holy supper." That is a high and creditable answer. But in the privacy of your spiritual desires, in your pious dreams, do you never wonder if Christ might not even yet appear to you as he did on Easter day long ago? Well, if he ever did thus manifest himself to you, be prepared for the manner of his appearing! He might never come in that shining shape which Charles Lamb imagined, pushing open the door and so confronting us that we should all kneel to him. Look to see him in disguise, and in the shape and commonplace attire and manners of the people with whose life we are at one. Look for him where those who encountered him on the first Easter day found him: in gardens, among gardeners; on the road, among travellers; on the seashore, among fisher folk.

Perhaps you may think all this to be rather fantastical. You may say, "Does this mean our keeping a nervous outlook on all the ordinary people we come across, lest we miss the Christ in his disguise?" You may say, "There is unreality in this! Such an expectation would land my daily life in futile distraction and ruin the common sense of my relations with my fellow-men!" I wonder if it would. Nay, I believe you would find yourself living among your fellows

and dealing with them in the one way in which a disciple of our Saviour ought to live and deal. Let me consider that if Christ ever confronts me as he confronted Mary and the others, he may very well take me "off my guard," as we say; he may accost me in the disguise of the people I see so often that I have well-nigh ceased to see them. Therefore I will set myself to detect in all such, signs and graces of the saving Christ himself. Is that a fantastical course to take? Why, our Master himself, in the days of his flesh, went about seeking signs and traces of himself in the most forsaken and unpromising men and women conceivable.

Sooth to speak, the one way in which his follower should live and deal among his fellows is just this: to look eagerly for vestiges and hatchments of the divine in them all, to anticipate a higher life in them than externals promise. It is this that radically distinguishes the Christian attitude from the world's attitude. The world always suspects more of the devil in others than appears. The Christian always suspects more of God in others than appears. The world tests others by doubting the goodness of a man until he is proved true. The Christian tests others by, at least, giving the man the benefit of the doubt; and even when he is judged bad the Christian still looks for traces of God in him. The Christian is often cheated in this Easter expectancy of his, but the world is more often cheated, and the world is cheated worse. Indeed, the more businesslike way, the more profitable way (if I may risk such a phrase in this adventure of heroic and uncalculating hopefulness), the more profitable way with others is to think them better than they look and to act on that conviction. For one thing, if you doubt the badness of a man till he is proved bad you shall find out the truth about him more quickly and surely than if you doubt his goodness till he is proved good. And for another thing, you may often be a loser by expecting to find Christ in a man and acting on that expectation. But your loss is as nothing compared with the loss he suffers who will not engage with human nature until he has disproved them children of the devil.—Dr. A. Boyd Scott.

### EASTERTIDE.

That Eastertide with joy was bright,

The sun shone out a fairer light,  
When to their longing eyes

restored,  
Th' apostles saw their risen Lord.

He bade them see his hands, his side,  
Where yet the glorious wounds

abide;  
O tokens true, which made it plain  
Their Lord indeed was ris'n again.

Jesus the King of righteousness,  
So thou thyself our hearts possess,  
That we may give thee all our days  
The tribute of our grateful praise.

O Lord of all, with us abide  
In this our joyous Eastertide;  
From ev'ry weapon death can wield  
Thine own redeemed forever shield.

—Anonymous.

# Victoria and Christian Education.

## THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., Box Hill.

It happened that I received the other day from President Walter Scott Athearn, of Butler University, U.S.A., a complimentary copy of one of his new books—"The Minister and the Teacher." The book contains a review of the educational situation as it exists in America, with special reference to the problem of Christian education. Historically the author tells that "in 1910 the American college made its first response to a new demand for trained leadership from the churches of the nation. In that year Drake University offered the first course in religious education that was granted credit towards a liberal-arts degree, and established the first academic department in this subject in an American college. The movement spread rapidly." Professor Athearn was the teacher in that course, and I was a member of the first class enrolled. Since then Dr. Athearn has become a national figure in the field of religious education, and is qualified to speak with authority. Following are some of his arresting statements:—

"A great crusade should be aroused in the interests of religious education. The church should be convicted of the fearful sin of the spiritual neglect of children and youth. A church which can never save its own children can never save the world."

"Church boards do not regard the school of the church as an integral part of the church for which they have major responsibility. This nation is moving rapidly toward a cultured paganism."

"When church-school leaders are listing their resources and their problems, they almost invariably place their ministers among their problems. Not that the minister is hostile to the school, but that he is often uninformed and not actively interested in the problems of religious growth. Too often his theological seminary has taught him to speak a dead language to a dying world, and he has no message for a living developing growing world." Incidentally that is not true of our Bible College, but—*are any of our preachers among the problems?*

This little article has in part a financial objective, and the following paragraph will therefore be of interest. "Of every church dollar, two cents go for religious education of the children of the church and ninety-eight cents go for other purposes. Of every municipal dollar, forty-seven cents go to the secular education of the children of the community and fifty-three cents go for other municipal purposes." With us, the state and not the municipality attends to the work of secular education, and the disparity between church and state would not be so great. But it would be an interesting question to ask how many pence of every church sovereign go for the religious well-being of our young people. The query may help us when we come to make our contribution to the Bible School and Young People's Department on May 7.

## THE NEED OF YOUTH.

Keith Jones, Hampton, Chairman Youth Dept.

Does this generation of youth differ so greatly from every other generation of youth that has gone before it? I can imagine a battery of replies to that question, but all would admit that there are things in which this generation certainly is remarkable. Five minutes' talk with one who has long served Christ will convince us of that. Many of the old restraints have passed, and with their passing much more liberty and freedom have come to the young people of to-day. That may be for the better or for the worse according to use. That many employ it to their downfall is all too patent to deny.

Some outward things have changed it is true, but the need of the human heart is changeless. The glorious figure of Christ that moves through all human history is still calling youth to the way of the cross. Only by education of the right type, only by lifting up the young people to see the beauty of living, will they discover that, after all, "life is not a cup to be drained, but a chalice to be filled."

The Bible School and Young People's Department is doing its utmost for the help of youth in our churches. We have been greatly encouraged by the splendid response in many ways. Sometimes the work has not met with the measure of success for which we hoped, but the need still exists. Let us prove recreant to our trust, we must work on, to bring Christ to the young people in our midst to-day. Let everyone have a share in this good work. The opportunity is yours on Sunday, May 7.

## INTERESTED IN THE BIBLE SCHOOL.

A. B. Withers, Kaniva.

The father of a little fellow only a few years old arrives home between four thirty and five thirty on Sunday afternoons. While he has been away the child has been to kindergarten, and has brought home his expression work—a book of texts and drawings, and as well, a tiny black doll made of a few strands of wool tied together; a seed-bag, or whatever suits the afternoon's story. Father sees these and hears in the child's own way the story he has been told. The child is interested in the school. He likes it. "My Sunday School" he calls it with childish fondness.

So do older boys like the Bible school, unlike the one for whom the Sunday school hour was "his weekly hour of revolt." There are some for whom it is that still; but all that is possible is being done to prevent it being the fault of the school. Teachers are trained to understand the child. They are encouraged to adequately study the lesson.

It is the Bible School and Young People's Department which does this. This and the fact that it is a "Bible" School Department should make us interested enough to listen to its appeal.

## YOUTH.

C. J. Robinson, Red Cliff.

The appeal of Christ to the youth of to-day differs only from that appeal to the youth of all ages in its application to the peculiar needs of our time. In a word, it is an appeal to sacrifice and service. Youth is not less responsive to a challenge than it has been, but these are days which demand united and organised action if we hope to check the encroachment of worldliness into our churches. We cannot afford to overlook our young people, for they constitute a big percentage of our congregations.

How best to enlist their united sympathy in our ideals as a brotherhood has been the subject of many conferences, and will be, until the department which exists for the purpose of cementing our youth work is recognised as an important factor in the church of to-morrow. Some systems of religious training and education apart from Bible Schools would satisfy a long-felt want which is not satisfied by a score or more of clubs in various stages of growth or decay. Who could handle such a task more efficiently than the Bible School and Young People's Department were it not hampered by lack of sympathy? Recently the writer travelled over 100 miles through a well-populated district where the Church of Christ is not represented and scarcely known except for one Bible School conducted by a faithful isolated sister in the

face of serious opposition. Yet there are hundreds of young people in that district who receive no religious training whatever because none is provided. Here is an opportunity for our Young People's Department if they are given the impetus and encouragement. Having been a member of the committee one knows the heart-aches of the brethren who see the fields white to harvest, but not the wherewithal to procure sickles.

## A GREAT ASSET.

A. J. Fisher, Preston.

By liberally supporting and loyally assisting the work of the Bible School and Young People's Department, the church is developing one of its greatest assets. One often wonders whether the value of the Bible School is sufficiently realised, especially when it is found necessary for an individual school or a Conference department to make so great an appeal for help.

## The Numerical Asset.

Here are some facts which any observant reader can verify:—

1. What a wonderful field for evangelism is presented by the Bible School! In many places the school gives a larger gathering of souls than any other meeting of the church. And they are souls expecting to be taught about Jesus; souls in an impressionable and responsive period of life.

2. What a magnificent opportunity for pastoral oversight the Bible School creates! Think of the homes opened to the preacher or visitor because of a child attending the school. How often, too, the child unites with the church, to be followed in due course by the parents.

## The Spiritual Asset.

Here are some of the spiritual functions of the Bible School:

1. It trains young disciples, enabling them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. The children learn of Jesus first and then accept him, and so are helped to "come smiling through the world's great snare, uncaught."

2. It develops the talent of the church, utilising many who would be unable to find a sphere for service elsewhere.

Let us do our utmost to develop this great asset by loyally supporting the local schools, by personally consecrating our talent for this work and by giving a worthy offering to the Bible School and Young People's Department.



Youth Leaders Spend a Week in Training.

The Young People's Department conducts two training conferences each year; visits schools regularly; holds Schools of Methods periodically in individual schools; conducts workers' conferences and Sunday School Institutes; its members travel many hundreds of miles yearly in work amongst Bible Schools and young people's organisations; it is doing its utmost to deepen the interest of our people in all phases of young people's work—it is ever stressing the need for training leaders for to-morrow. The committee represents all branches of youth work and leads its help to all freely.

# In the Fields of Youth, N.S.W.

## WONDERFUL BLESSINGS.

The Conference year just closed has been a remarkable one in the youth missions' activity among Churches of Christ in New South Wales. Remarkable because God has blessed the work for youth to a degree never before attained. A glance at the results will surprise any unbiased reader at the wonderful results of organised effort by the Young People's Department. A few examples out of many will suffice.

**Canterbury.**—A dozen workers from several different centres responded to the call of the department and opened up a Bible School in July last. Seven scholars were there the first Sunday afternoon; now 170 are enrolled. About thirty parents and scholars have responded to the gospel invitation. Others formerly in membership have linked up, and a promising church of fifty members already has resulted. There is every promise of a strong self-supporting church in that locality.

**Bexley North.**—A school was opened in a cottage. Half-a-dozen workers from as many different centres entered upon the big job of winning souls for Christ and organising them for service. They were not able to pay the rent, and having no men with money to provide means they made it a matter of prayer. The Young People's Department made arrangements whereby a mission could be held and a building erected. Sixty converts have responded to the gospel message since May last. A vigorous church has been organised, an attractive brick edifice has been built, and a wonderful future is assured for the work there.

**Clyde (Mona-st.).**—In this centre communistic influences were hard at work. A few workers made it a matter of prayer, and entered the field in faith that support would be provided. Assistance has been rendered in various directions needed. A school of sixty scholars has been built up, and a number of converts have accepted Christ. Meetings for worship and for preaching have been organised, and the future is bright with all the promises of God.

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## HOLDING THE YOUTH FOR CHRIST.

The Young People's Department is making an earnest effort to assist the churches in their big task of holding the young people for Christ. The following features show some of the activities of the department.

**Christian Endeavor.**—Since the department organised C.E. effort for the churches, between 40 and 50 new C.E. societies have been formed.

**Christian Fraternal.**—When the young folks were slipping away in many instances to worldly outside organisations the Young People's Department got behind the Christian Fraternal movement. It sought to provide for correct leadership, and to make the movement a real uplift to the churches. There are thirty of these Christian Fraternal Chapters working, and the leaders are a wonderful asset to spiritual life.

**Training Classes.**—Central training classes have been arranged at City Temple, Sydney. With the assistance of the preacher there, and the courtesy of church officers, a valuable work has been done training teachers and speakers.

Conferences held in a number of centres showed that many recognised the value of such training. Classes have been commenced for the northern suburbs in the metropolitan area, and others are being arranged for several more centres.

Several country towns are receiving help per medium of the C.H.E. sessions. Arrangements are made for information as to formation of classes and the curriculum offered. Help is also offered per wireless and by correspondence.

The Young People's Department annual camp is proving of splendid value in promoting Christian fellowship among the youth of the churches.

The annual harbor excursion is maintaining its popularity as a means of bringing the Christians of the metropolitan churches together. The annual scripture examinations have been vigorously pushed, and the department is able to report that the N.S.W. candidates lead in the proportion of entrants. In the number of new schools, as in all other features of youth mission activities, the New South Wales Young People's Department gives thanks unto God for a remarkable progress.

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## IN ISOLATED CENTRES.

Many thousands of children in New South Wales have no opportunity of attending regular Sunday School classes. Many of our western centres have no Sunday School, even if parents wished to send their children. Sunday is the big day of sport. Racing, gambling, drinking are the prominent features which mark the Lord's day. The department is enrolling scholars throughout these vast distant districts. Between



Home Class at Cullerin.

200 and 300 young people are now listed for home class instruction. Austral supplies are sent to these classes, and the answers posted back to the office in Sydney. These classes thus constitute one of our largest Bible Schools in the State. Some of the scholars enter for the annual examinations, being enrolled in a separate section. From time to time reports come in of young lives won to the Lord as a result of this great work. The picture of the class at Cullerin is an example of the classes thus formed.

The class at Cullerin is under the leadership of Mrs. Cox, whose church affiliation is at Enmore.

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## YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT HELPS OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

As prospers youth work, so prospers all other church work. Any depreciation of the work of the department is as a boomerang which hits the thrower. A few simple samples of the way in which youth work has co-operated with other Conference departments is shown.

At Parramatta North a sister co-operated with the Y.P. Department in forming a home class in her house. The attendance grew to such an extent that the good preacher of the church with which she was connected opened up preaching services. The Home Missionary Committee ably handled the opportunity, and as a result built up a vigorous church. The small beginnings of a Bible School in the home of the good sister, however, provided the opportunity. Co-operation with Home Mission Committee and Young People's department, each helping in its special sphere, has been a pleasing feature in the splendid results achieved by earnest and able Christians at Tempe, Manly, Bexley, Canterbury, Concord West, Penhurst, Mortdale and Thornleigh.

One sample of the value of co-operation with Foreign Mission Department will suffice. For years the Chinese work in Sydney had been a financial burden to the Foreign Mission Committee. Then in co-operation with the department, a young people's worker entered on the task of organising youth activity. From a school which had dropped to an attendance of six the Bible School had grown to an enrolment of seventy-six. Converts have been baptised, open-air meetings in Chinese are conducted by the youth workers, and the whole church has been revived.

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## N.S.W. COIN OFFERING.

First Sunday in May  
Is Coin-offering Day.

New South Wales churches are asked by Conference to observe the first Sunday in May as the day on which annual offerings are made for the work of the Bible Schools and Young People's Department. The response this year has been disappointing. So many appeals were crowded into that month that the offering for the youth work was crowded out in many individual cases. As a result of this, the finance committee of the department recommended that notice be given the organising secretary that the incoming committee may have to terminate engagement of an organiser. Also that the Home Mission Committee be advised that it may be necessary to relinquish portion of premises now occupied by the Young People's Department.

The youth of the churches are asked to help in the way out. The P.B.P. at Burwood promised to contribute sixpence per member. The P.B.P. at North Sydney collected each week, and responded with an encouraging contribution. Christian Endeavor societies are coming to the rescue. Youth will respond to save this valuable asset, the Young People's Department, for the brotherhood.

Coin offering envelopes have been supplied to all youth auxiliaries. Coin cards are being forwarded for all who are able to make use of same for a self-denial offering. A month of self-denial will make possible the help which will save the Lord's work in the fruitful fields of youth, as enumerated on this page, from closing.

First Sunday in May is coin-offering day.

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## A COMMENDATION.

J. Whelan, B.A., Conference President.

The need of the hour in all our churches is an awakened consciousness to the work of the Bible School and Young People's Department. If we would safeguard the future of civilisation we must have the Christ view of the child. Knowledge and a vision should arouse our consciences to a fuller sense of responsibility. Work among the young is often left solely to a band of consecrated enthusiasts. Yet this work is one of the most God-honoring, Christ-enthroning and character-building tasks which we can give ourselves.

## The Church of the Future.

The church must not fail here, because the church of the future depends largely upon the present success in winning and holding youth. Every power which can be brought to bear upon their physical, mental, and spiritual development must be requisitioned. Our sympathy, fellowship and service will win these young people to Christ-like expression, guaranteeing the future.

## Y.P. Work Co-ordinated.

The Bible Schools' and Young People's Department exists to foster the highest ideals and to co-ordinate all the manifold young people's activities. Success has been achieved both in numbers and efficiency. It is incumbent upon us that all should learn the due share of responsibility. We all may be partners in giving. May we prize the privilege.

First Sunday in May is coin-offering day.

# South Australia.

May 7 - - Bible School Day.

## OUR OPPORTUNITY.

A. E. Mauger, Chairman Bible School Dept.

The need for greater work was never more urgent than it is to-day. When we look over our land we see the depressed state of everybody and everything, but also can we hear the expression and see the seeking after something that will satisfy. The church must see that its efforts are not withdrawn or work curtailed or interest lost, as this is a show of defeat to the world, and the girls and boys of to-day will not be attracted into the church.

I believe the church will have to make greater efforts if we are to go forward in this work.

I think this is where the mistake lies, too few of our middle-aged and older people are in attendance at our Bible Schools, setting the example we desire for girls and boys to follow. Jesus said, Other sheep I have which I must bring, so our place is with the girls and boys at Bible School.

Most of the schools have teacher problems, and the younger men and women are willing to try and solve them, and all honor to them. But this is a challenge to the church for greater consecrated effort and interest in the girls and boys that they may be guided and guarded in the paths of righteousness for Christ and his church by Christians of experience and knowledge.

Reader, will you help? Start in on May 7.



## "OUR BOOK."

Theo. Edwards, Vice-chairman Bible School Dept.

Possessive! It is our book! but who is the "our" and what is the book? Need we explain? Perhaps to some, but to those who have read to edification the "our" is known to encircle the children of God and the "book" is the Bible.

We handle many books but we never covet them, and they never become ours. We seize the Bible because it provides a feast. It is the bread of life to the hungry. It gives comfort to the sorrowing, strength to the weary, and lifts the burden of the despairing. Indicating a source of great things; it attracts all kinds and conditions of men, establishes a bond of sympathy, maintains and enlarges the body of Christ.

It becomes an individual possession because it proves to be the mirror of life. In it we see not the person thought, or imagined, but the person that is. The exposure of imperfections reveals at the same time the possibility of their elimination and attainment of perfection. It is a telescope. Beyond the horizon of human sight there is the unknown. Our Book penetrates those dim distances and reveals unknown joys and realities.

Our Book is too big for us alone. Like the child sprawled upon the floor with his picture book and excited companions about him. We need to show the wonders of our Book to others that it may become their book too.



## OUR PLAN.

W. B. Manning, Convener B.S. Day Committee.

Each church touches quite a different circle—morning, afternoon and evening—in the Lord's day services. Consequently, we suggest something fresh for each service on May day, May 7.

We are glad to know that many of our morning exhortations are based on the Scripture lesson, hence we suggest that the topic for that morning should be "In His Steps." An exposition on Luke 8: 40-56 would be suitable and helpful for such an occasion.

Where convenient we suggest a Bible School teachers' recognition service. In the afternoon this year we are sending a suggested programme to each school, including an original dialogue which sets forth the work and needs of the Adelaide Children's Hospital.

We recommend that not only should this be a general assembly of the Sunday School but that parents, members and friends all be invited and the offering be made toward the maintenance of a cot at the Children's Hospital and for kindred institutions.

In many centres very helpful and entertaining afternoons have been arranged, proving a blessing to the school and a help to the unfortunate.

Our churches have always been noted for their bright and attractive evening services. The number of young people attending is most heartening and gives great scope for evangelistic work.

We recommend calling the evening service this year a "Young People's Enlistment Service," and making our motto "The Young for Christ."

Let us all enter wholeheartedly into the spirit of this great young people's day and be diligent in prayer for our youth until this opportunity comes. Christ is never more beautiful than when he is seen looking through the eyes of per-mind-ed youth with its radiant prospect of future usefulness.

## AN OFFERING

From Every Church for Forward  
Movement Work

From Every School for Child-  
ren's Hospital Cot and  
Kindred Institutions.

## OUR METHODS.

W. T. Matthews, Convener Flying Squad.

There are two thoughts that teachers should always keep in the foreground of their memories. Firstly, that they are not teaching for the superintendent or the leader of their department, but in God's service, and if we keep this fact in mind it will help greatly when difficulties confront us. Secondly, we are teaching in a Bible School, and the book we teach from is the Bible, and as this book is excluded from our State schools, and we have the scholars for a few minutes only on the Lord's day, we must not let anything sidetrack us from the reading of and teaching from God's Word. The very best advice to give and the best method to use is "Be Prepared."

Being prepared you can then show enthusiasm in your work by using many external aids and methods, such as pictures, drawings, models in the lower departments, or maps, charts, blackboards in higher departments.

Study your scholars and you will find it repays you well. Remember the so-called Sunday School teacher is not only on duty on Sunday, but a lot can often be done in the week. Read up good works on this subject. The Bible School Department is trying to help in producing better methods; there is the teachers' library for use of teachers—ask your secretary to apply for a box.

The department has inaugurated a kindergarten teachers' training class. Does this interest you? Come and see their methods. The department also has a flying squad ever ready to help with advice or suggestion.

## OUR RESOURCES.

L. J. Hudd, Treasurer Bible School Department.

In reviewing the subject of our Bible School work in the past and in considering its development in the future, the question of finance cannot be overlooked. Whilst it is not the most important factor in this branch of Christian service and activity, it has a close relationship to the consecrated enthusiasm that is the driving force in all Bible School progress.

The interest we take in any movement is generally reflected in the financial support we are willing to give it.

The May day movement was commenced with a dual object.

1. To enable the Bible School Department to assist in the formation and development of schools throughout the State.

2. To foster and encourage a spirit of Christian sympathy in the hearts of the scholars for children passing through suffering and sickness.

For this purpose two annual offerings were agreed to by the department (or Conference?). These to be taken up on the first Sunday in May.

The first in the church on the Sunday morning to establish a fund for assisting in a general forward movement in Bible School work.

The second on the Sunday afternoon for the purpose of definitely interesting the youth of our schools in benevolent work, particularly in regard to maintaining a Church of Christ cot in the Children's Hospital.

During the past few years we have not received such generous support as previously, owing to the unfortunate depression through which the whole world has been passing, but we confidently appeal to our brotherhood and to the scholars of our schools to make it possible for the Bible Schools Department to continue this splendid work that has proved a means of great Christian service in the years that have passed.



## OUR SERVICE.

Will Beiler, Secretary Bible School Department.

The Bible School Department of South Australia is ever ready to serve to the utmost of its power. Its record in the past is very creditable and its determination for future usefulness is very definite. "How can we help your school?" is the query we would put to each school in the State. We aim to help the country as well as the city school. Had the secretary no other work to do he could very easily find plenty of scope for service and the greater helping of our schools—but we will still gladly do our best for all. "Christian" readers might just here peruse the lines that follow which give a justification for our existence as a department, and are at the same time a plea for your generous support in sympathy and prayer, and on May 7 your offering for an extension of our work and its betterment in the introduction of better plans and methods. Simultaneous training schools planned throughout the State during May and June (600 entries), studying first principles, church history, and the art of teaching, organised kindergarten training class—meet monthly, begun in March with 45 attending. Delegates attended and gave helpful advice at Southern and Northern Conferences. Planned country conference on Bible School work for April in the Berri district and planning another for June 5 at Murray Bridge. Arranged for broadcasting at S.A.D. children's service, Sundays in May, 5.30-6 p.m. Provide helpful page for "Challenge" monthly. Supervise work of young worshippers' leagues. Conduct annual scripture examinations. Have a flying squad ready to respond to any request for help on "Methods." Circulate teachers' library. Helping start new school and assist weak ones. Encouraging Dhond Hospital support by young people. Supporting Children's Hospital cot and kindred institutions. Is it worth while keeping all this service going? Give your answer on May 7.

# W.A. and the Bible School.

## THE TEACHER'S USE OF THE BIBLE.

Roy Raymond.

The Bible is the teacher's text book. Other things are only "helps." Treat them as such. But get your lesson from the Bible. Until we do this "helps" are wrongly named. Further the whole Bible is the teacher's text book. Let us not be satisfied with passing the young people through our schools with only a casual acquaintance with a very few selected portions of this God-given book.

(1) Teachers, know your Bible. Not an impossible task, and an intensely interesting one. Acquaint yourselves with its leading characters. Learn its doctrines. Know its author. Make it the first book in your life. Is this asking too much from one who presumes to teach? Let the scholar learn its lesson on the way to school, if we cannot have it do better, but we expect better from teachers.

(2) Teachers, believe your Bible. You will if you know it. You can't teach it effectively if you don't believe it. Don't be influenced by destructive critics. Too many of them are influenced by things that don't matter. Read the things that will strengthen your faith in the book, and your teaching will never lack power.

(3) Teachers, teach the Bible. That is why we are given a class. We have at most a few minutes each week in this holy work. Shall we waste them by entertaining our classes about sport, and stories, and a thousand other things that don't matter? Our opportunity is too good, and our responsibility (note the word—responsible to God as well as the child) is too great to waste on mere nothings.

Teachers, ours is a holy work. Some of us may be giving a child its first conception of God. Think of it. Be sure we know God before we attempt it. And we won't discover God until we discover him in the Christ who is revealed to us in the Bible.

## THE TEACHER'S USE OF LESSON HELPS.

J. A. Ewers.

Even the most experienced teachers welcome suggestions from others while preparing their lessons from week to week, and in a much greater degree the teacher with less experience will feel the need of lesson helps prepared by men of knowledge and experience. Hence the Austral Graded Lessons should be a most useful publication for the Bible School teacher.

Many teachers lack the time and facilities for research necessary to assemble all the information about any particular lesson, and therefore find the lesson helps of great assistance and a saving of time. The teacher of little or no experience should avail himself of these helps, for therein he has set out for him the substance of the lesson to be taught, the order of the presentation of the lesson, and many useful suggestions for successful teaching; in fact the most difficult part of the work of preparation has been done for him.

Unfortunately some unwise teachers realise this fact and make very little preparation, but armed with a copy of the lesson book, take their places before the pupils and practically read the lesson from the book. That is absolutely foreign to the purpose of the book. The wise course would be to make a study of the lesson, its subject matter, and arrangement, and know it thoroughly, then leave the lesson book at home. If a teacher's memory is faulty a few notes could conveniently be prepared for reference during the lesson.

Each teacher during preparation should ask himself, "How can I make this lesson interesting to the class, and to each individual in the class?" For on this hinges the failure or success of the

lesson. Most teachers find it convenient to use the lesson helps as a basis for the lesson and add to it such matter as will appeal particularly to their own special classes. I think it is necessary for the children to have something more to do than merely listen to the teacher, and the wise teacher will always have something for the pupils to do, which, besides being an aid to stimulating interest, will help the memory.

## THE TEACHER'S USE OF THE QUESTION PERIOD.

V. Whelan.

Most teachers ask their class a few questions during the lesson, questions frequently thought of as the lesson proceeds; such a method is not right, as the best is not gained through the questions. Questions must be thought out, just as thoroughly as the lesson.

The manner of questioning will vary with the age of the scholars and the nature of the lesson; it would not be wise to always ask direct questions as in an examination, when teaching the Bible class or elder scholars.

Questions should not always be asked to find out what the child knows or does not know; they can be used very successfully to teach the child.

With careful questions the child goes from truth to truth, and thinks that he is discovering for himself. This method impresses his mind more deeply than a mere statement by the teacher.

Some teachers divide their class, and by competition during the question period seek to make the scholars keen; others award marks and give a prize every year. Many ways are tried, yet the success or failure depends on the time the teacher has given to think out his questions. Seldom ask a question that requires a mere "yes" or "no" or a parrot-like repetition of what you have just told; ask your questions so the child has to think and reason for himself before he can answer. It is impossible to give rules and methods as to how this can be accomplished owing to the great variety of teachers and scholars. Each teacher with preparation and practice will find the best method for his particular class.

## THE CHILD AND THE CHURCH.

A. Hutson.

### 1. The Child's True Place.

The true place for the child is in the midst. Jesus placed him there, in the midst of a crowd of disciples. Possibly among the greybeards, and doctors of the law. And they were never to forget to place the child in the forefront of their programme.

When Jesus himself was found by his parents he was in the temple in the midst of the doctors asking and answering questions. He took his place there naturally. Every child can take a similar place, and he has the right to have his deepest questions answered. Some years ago when the Epping church was built a little boy was the first to enter the new building prior to the dedication service. Robert Haikes revealed to the church the possibilities there were in the child.

### 2. The Value of a Child.

To many the true value of the child depends entirely upon whose child he is. If he is ours then no one can estimate his value. Jairus evinced a father's natural anxiety concerning his daughter. The Syrophenician woman was importunate for her demented daughter. A lady in U.S.A. lost her son and advertised for him, offering a reward of £2,000 for his recovery. Re-

cently in our State a boy was lost and practically the whole town of Albany turned out to search for him. He was found—yes, but dead. A teacher has a class of five boys. What a responsibility. At £2,000 each—£10,000. But no one can estimate their worth to the kingdom of God, each of them worth the world itself.

### 3. Value of Early Training.

Train up a child, is a scriptural injunction. No child is born a heathen or a Christian. He is made one or other by teaching and training. From a State point of view, a child's development, intellectually and morally, is most important. But the foundation of character is laid before the child reaches the State school. Environment and home associations have already exercised a powerful influence. The issue is thus thrust back to the home life and parental example and precept. The Bible School is just an aid to home life and teaching. Still this is all the spiritual education the majority of children get. A tremendous responsibility is thus thrust upon the teacher to teach and train the child in spiritual things. The church has to realise that the child in the midst is her greatest asset; the youth of the community her greatest field for evangelism. Without exploiting this field at least 80 per cent. of our church members came from the Bible School and 90 per cent. of our preachers. We are surely guilty of criminal folly if we neglect this fruitful field of Christian service. Young people themselves ought to value the church and the school and all other young people's organisations within the church.



YOUNG MEN'S CAMP, W.A.

At the tenth annual young men's camp, held at Claremont Showgrounds, Feb. 13-18, thirteen young men were full-time campers, while each night others came for the lectures. On the last evening over forty were present. The camp theme was "to study world problems in relation to the kingdom of God." Addresses were given by F. D. Pollard, B.A., on the "Most Vital Problem"; A. G. Saunders, B.A., on "The Problem of International Relationships"; L. C. Peacock, on "Myself and Personal Relationship to World Problems"; R. Raymond, on "My Task or World Evangelism." Helpful discussion followed each lecture. On the devotional side, a study of "Christ as King," Matthew; as "the Servant," Mark; as the "Son of Man," Luke; as the "Son of God," John; as the "Risen Christ," the Acts. Each evening one of these aspects of our Lord's life was splendidly dealt with by different brethren. Each evening a questionnaire was presented containing six questions. Time was allowed for written replies on the subjects, God and the Bible, Christ and His Message, the Church and the Creeds, the Ordinances and the Christian Life. Bro. Whelan prepared the questions and adjudicated on the answers. A fine set of answers was received each night. The secretary of the Young People's Department, A. Hutson, was in charge of the camp. Provision was made for sport, and all had a happy and profitable time.

# An Annual Offering? Why?

## Queensland's Appeal.

"O King! at the last day the angel will say: 'What are thy works?'"

We base our appeal on what has been done by the committee; the benefits received by the brotherhood, the schools and the scholars; and on the need for liberal offerings that these good things may continue without curtailment.

We ask for very careful reading of the information given below, which is taken from the Conference report, and covers ten months, from Feb. 1, 1933, to Dec. 31, 1933.

Preachers and church officers are asked specially to read the par on finance, and then ascertain from their treasurer the amount of the offering from their church last year.

Statistics.—There are 44 schools with 301 teachers and 2,151 scholars, a total of 2,452 compared with 2,393 shown in last year's report. The year's average attendance was 1,761. There are 25 Bible classes with 376 members. Cradle rolls have 348 members. New schools have been started at Glenmorgan and Goombourian. The name of the Croydon Junction school has been changed to Baddow.

Young people's organisations number 35, with an enrolment of 1,194. A Band of Hope and a Young Worshipers' League have been started at Hawthorne, and boys' club and girls' club at Stone's Corner.

Twenty-eight schools and 15 young people's organisations were affiliated with the department during the year.

Scholars added to the church during the year totalled 46, compared with 36 last year.

Finance.—The financial statement for the period totalled £71/1/8 as against £97/16/4 for the year ended February 29, 1932. By a constant watch on all expenditure it has been found possible to accumulate a balance which it is hoped will be sufficient to carry on our work till June next, when the annual offering, our main source of income, will be received. The balance shown in the report has, of course, since been considerably reduced. It is regretted that it is necessary to refer to the deplorable lack of interest shown by some of our churches, many of whose Sunday Schools receive the maximum of benefit from the department, while their members give the minimum of support. Some of our largest churches give us no financial help whatever, and were it not for the assistance of private individuals the Young People's Department would cease to function. In previous years there has been a similar condition, but the depression has made it necessary to draw attention to it now. The committee is seriously considering following the practice adopted by southern States by charging examination entry fees to cover expenses, but better support would render this unnecessary.

Youth League.—For this, our second year's work, we show an increase of 42 yearly members and five life members. We have now 220 yearly members and 34 life members. Our bi-monthly paper, "Youth News," has been circulated free of cost to all members, bringing to its readers instructive messages from many brethren, reports of the work among our young people of the various church auxiliaries, and new items of State-wide interest. Miss H. Blackburn has been editor of "Youth News," and to her is due much credit for her work in this respect. We wish to thank all who have co-operated with the committee by securing new members and collecting subscriptions. Our motto is "Every Child for

Christ," and our aim to foster and stimulate interest in the work among the young people and to link the home and church by encouraging family worship. The Youth League secretary is Bro. H. Wyeth.

Examination.—For the annual Scripture examination in July, 1932, 425 entered—205 sat and 197 passed, representing 24 schools. We are glad to report that three Federal awards came to Queensland this year. Framed certificates for premier schools were won by—"A" division—Gympie, "B" division—Stones Corner.

Tournament.—The tournament was held from July 17 to October 2, 1932. The shield for schools with over 50 scholars enrolment was won by Moorooka again this year, and the shield for schools with under 50 enrolment was won by Stones Corner. This year examination results have been included.

The committee is not satisfied that the best results are being obtained by the present method

### Queensland Young People's Department

ANNUAL OFFERING,  
MAY 7.

We Need Ninety Pounds.

of holding the tournament, and are collecting from other States information with a view to devising some method that will give more enduring results.

Attendance Awards.—These were as follows—Certificate for first year to 50 scholars, seals for 2nd year, 34; 3rd year, 15; 4th year, 11; 5th year, 7. Five scholars had six years to credit, one eight years, and Jean O'Connell, of the Brisbane school, will receive a gold medal for ten years' attendance.

Home Department.—During the year the committee continued to serve the children in isolated parts in the supply of lesson facilities. Two families have been attached to organised schools, the department having been used during their residence in isolation. At the commencement of the year 29 children of ten families were enrolled, and there are now 28 children of ten families, several new families enrolling in place of those now in schools. At the annual examination Ruth Roberts, of Drillham, secured first place in Division IV. Others, while not entering for the examination, do very commendable work, and show the value of definite Bible study in the home.

Dhond Hospital.—During the visit of Or. Oldfield he met the members of the committee and placed before them a plan to conduct the Dhond

Hospital with the aid of the young people's organisations of Australia by which the sum required for the upkeep would be subscribed without the hospital going into debt. The young people of other States are co-operating, and he wished to enlist the help of Queensland. The committee approved of the scheme and appointed Mr. O. Potter as the agent for the Dhond Hospital. Seven schools and societies have responded to an appeal issued by Dr. Oldfield, the sum realised being £8/0/6. We appeal to the schools and young people's societies to help the Dhond Hospital.

Federal Committee.—This committee undertook office for two years and at the end of that time, owing to the postponement of the Federal Conference, informed the Federal Executive that it would not be continuing. At the end of January, 1933, the Victorian Young People's Department took over the duties which had thus been carried out by the Queensland committee for two years and five months.

Space forbids more than mention of other important departments of work, such as the travelling library for teachers; the Young Worshipers' League; youth week; evangelistic drives; representation on Council of Religious Education and other young people's organisations; and, last but by no means least, advice and assistance which are continually being requested and freely given.

### THE HOPE OF THE FUTURE.

JAN. E. THOMAS.

These are days in which our young people confront more temptations than at any time in modern history. The inventions of man have increased the avenues of pleasure, and the customs of living have added many counter attractions to the Sunday School and the church. If we would help the church of the future we must hold the young life of to-day for Jesus Christ. It is no use condemning our youth when they are fascinated by other calls. They hear so many challenges that it is not surprising that some of them are drawn away and become lost to the church. As we study the problems of our young people we must admit that they are more difficult than their fathers faced. We must be sympathetic and patient and do all we are able to make Christ so real to our young people that they will love him more than anything else they may be tempted to follow. It is no wonder that our understanding Lord said first to Peter, "Feed my lambs." This was the most essential thing in the church Peter was to be used to establish. Keep the young for Christ and help them grow up as workers in the church. This is what the Young People's Department is helping to do, and the church of to-morrow depends on how well we care for the young of to-day.

### A PARENT-TEACHER LITANY.

We thank thee, the Creator of all things, for the child thou hast set in our midst.

Grant that we may accept the responsibility of parenthood, and hold in sacred trust our privilege to direct, protect, enrich and beautify a human soul.

Let us take time to become an intelligent, informed parenthood, realising that a nation is no better than its homes.

Let us put away the lesser things of life and take on the bountiful life of service, being always true, gentle and kind.

May we ever strive to be united in the big things of life, to be liberal in things unimportant, and charitable in all things.

Teach us to criticise tenderly, to be generous in judgment, and plentiful in sympathy.

Give us a vision of service, a discernment of action, and a definite conviction that will provide the best for every child.—Selected.

# Tasmania Catering for Youth.

## A GREAT WORK.

E. A. Stevens, President Tasmanian B.S. Union.

Brethren! I appeal to you all to support us in our work among the young, for in these days they need all the help and encouragement that can be given them. The world caters for them liberally in numerous ways, so then let us cater for them spiritually, that they may learn to know what a wonderful Saviour is Jesus our Lord, and that he may be glorified by his word being taught to the children.

Remember these same children are to be the parents of the next generation, and are to be our future political leaders, therefore it is imperative to teach them the word of God, that they in turn may teach their children the way of the Lord and lead this young nation to a higher plane.

Many brethren realise this great work and its possibilities, but we need more money to finance this work. In one of our city's suburban areas



The Campers—Rest Time After Lunch.

we have tried to open up a new school, there being no other school in its vicinity, and it is a wonderful opportunity for us. Some brethren, realising the need, made special donations for this purpose, and this money is being held in trust till such time as enough money is subscribed. So brethren, in conclusion, seeing the need is great, let me urge upon you to give liberally to our offering on May 7, and let me urge you all to pray earnestly for this part of our Master's work.



## CONSERVATION OF YOUTH.

N. J. Warmbrunn, Conference President.

The responsibility of preserving, guarding or protecting the youth is not merely confined to the parents, but such duty is mandatory to all mankind.

We are concerned however especially with the spiritual aspect of youth welfare, and in realising the greatness of such responsibility your Bible School Committee appeals for co-operation in this work these days.

If we as a church are to conserve our forces we all must be interested in the juvenile aspect of the work, and seize every opportunity for expansion.

To-day, we fear, indifference has taken hold, for our girls and boys do not receive the united attention and spiritual instruction warranted if progress is to be achieved.

In the juvenility of youth we have the ground suitable for sowing the good seed, therefore unless the gospel is given to them in that period of existence preceding maturity, the opportunity for Christian service to a great degree is lost.

How often do we find that those who pass their youth in vice are condemned to spend their age in folly, often ending in shipwreck.

Many steps are necessary for the conservation of youth forces, but that of expansion of Bible School work is imperative. Such opportunities

appear in many districts—the committee awaits your bidding. Shall we enter?

If each member of the church is seized with the responsibility of keeping the child in a safe and entire state, there is no other way than to teach them the way of the Saviour.

One shilling per member on Sunday, May 7, for youth work in the State will help in reaching boys and girls who know not our Guide for this world's journey.



## BIBLE SCHOOLS IN TASMANIA.

Geoff. J. Foote, Secretary Bible School Union.

Bible School workers in Tasmania are encouraged by the progress made during the last Conference year. In the island we have fourteen Bible Schools with a total enrolment of 719 scholars and 115 teachers. There are schools in the North-west, at Ulverstone and Devonport, in the North, at Mole Creek, Cave-side, Prospect, Invermay and Launceston, on the Huon River at Dover and Geeveston, on Tasman's Peninsula at Kelleve, Nubeena and Tunnel Bay, and at Hobart and West Hobart.

The largest school is situated at Hobart with 140 scholars and staff, followed by Launceston 128 and Invermay 115.

You will notice from the above statistics that the largest schools are in city areas, and that there are enormous fields untouched in country districts at Scottsdale, St. Mary's and St. Helens on the East; Zeehan and Queenstown on the West, and Burnie on the North-west.

How can the Tasmanian Bible School Committee open these new fields and carry on the work at present in hand? Only by the prayerful co-operation of the whole brotherhood. Brethren, pray for the work, volunteer for service in it, and give to it as you are prospered by the Lord.



## YOUTH IN THE CHURCH.

F. Ludbrook, Vice-President B.S. Union.

"The prosperity of a nation," says Martin Luther, "consists in the number of its cultivated citizens, its men of education, enlightenment and character."

The immediate and crying need of the world is true prosperity, and the time for the cultivation of intellect and the formation of character is youth. As the world is ever ready to train the intellect so must the church be prepared to train the conscience.

There is to-day a definite opportunity for the application of Christian principles in the politics and leadership of the world. If the church is to take advantage of this opportunity—if the church is to lead the world to real prosperity—she must instil the spirit of Christ into the youth of the world.

Brethren, for the sake of humanity, make a place for youth in the church.



A Group Ready for the 110-Mile Journey Home. (On the extreme right: Camp Commandant and T.B.S.U. President, Mr. E. A. Stevens.)

## FINANCIAL.

M. S. Taylor, Treasurer Bible School Union.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The annual offering is planned for May 7. Each member is urged to give at least one shilling towards this important work.

A special fund for extension work is being built up. The committee hope to establish a Bible School in a populated area where as yet there are no Bible Schools. Considerable financial support is necessary to realise this aim.

Other expenses include the giving of prizes for examination work, and shields or banners for increase and attendance campaigns. It is desirable to add new books to the portable library. The running of the first young people's camp also meant some expense, although this will be decreased now that experience has been gained.

The committee exists to promote unity of purpose in the Bible Schools, and this needs the active co-operation of all those concerned. Schools may help the committee by sending in reports of methods they have found successful. This applies especially to the purchase and use of study books and teaching aids. Finally, it is hoped that every church member will show interest in the young people by giving financial support and prayerful co-operation.

## Prayer Meeting Topic.

April 26.

### THOUGHTFUL PRAYING.

(Matthew 6: 5-15.)

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

Surely there is no true Christian who denies the power of prayer. Yet there are many who fail to make use of it. This is a sin of omission. Jesus is both example and teacher in the matter of prayer.

"Use Not Vain Repetitions."

Prayer is not a matter of much speaking, said Jesus. Hence he urged the disciples to be on guard against speaking mere words. Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." We should note that Jesus does not condemn any repetition of a prayer. If that were so then Paul would stand condemned, for he prayed the Lord thrice that a thorn in the flesh be removed. Jesus himself in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed the same words three times. No, it is vain repetition that is forbidden. Words for the sake of words. And a prayer only spoken once may be that. How difficult is public prayer! There is always the temptation to be ostentatious and to think more of the form than of the need and our relation to God. That one who prays in a meeting is a representative and his prayer is on behalf of all present. The Amen is used by those present to give assent to all that is spoken. Vain repetition does not necessarily preclude many references in prayer to the one big subject. Foreign Missions, for example, may be the object of our prayer, and God may be approached on behalf of the workers, the converts, the committee at home; indeed from numberless aspects. But let all praying be sincere, from the heart, and not a matter of words.

### Object of the Petition.

Prayer, of course, is not necessarily a petition for some object we ourselves desire. It is often described as communion with God. But when we do make petition let it be clear and simple. "Your Father knows." He does not need to be informed of all the details, nor does he desire that our prayer be a finely-worded speech to the people. The danger with a written prayer is that it tends to the vanity of words and to formality that has done much to

(Continued on page 255.)

## Here and There.

The Easter holidays have delayed mails. All reports to hand by Tuesday afternoon have been inserted.

The Melbourne "Argus" of Saturday last contained a long account of an interview with Mrs. Sandells, in which she gave an interesting account of life in the New Hebrides.

Anzac Day with its solemn memories is almost upon us. To many it is a day of sad and sacred memory. The authorities desire that it be observed with due solemnity and not allowed to degenerate to the level of a public holiday.

Anzac Day falling on a Tuesday this year, the last form for next week's "Christian" will close a day earlier than usual, viz., on Monday evening. Church reports and all items of news should reach Austral Co. as early as possible.

On Tuesday morning we received the following telegram:—"Queensland rejoicing in great jubilee conference. Record attendance; great enthusiasm; intense spiritual tone; inspiring messages by Bro. J. E. Thomas; E. C. Hinrichsen new president.—Young."

Bro. G. T. Walden, Federal F.M. secretary, returned to Adelaide on Tuesday, after attending the Victorian Conference. His final greeting was to the Endeavor meeting on Monday evening, in which he urged all to remember July 2, the day of the annual offering for Foreign Missions.

The interest taken by the public press in religious matters is gratifying. For instance, on Saturday last each of the three great Melbourne dailies had leading articles on the resurrection of our Lord, as well as other articles or items of religious news. The "Argus" leader, in particular, had great value.

The church at Brighton, Vic., enters upon the Hagger-Plummer tent mission on Lord's day, April 23. Meetings will be held every night excepting Saturday. The tent is erected on Church-st., Middle Brighton, east of Male-st. Visitors from sister churches will be appreciated. Brethren everywhere are requested to remember the special effort in their prayers.

Bro. J. W. Stokes, of 95 London-st., Dunedin, N.Z., secretary of the church meeting in St. Andrew-st., sends the following announcement and request:—"The three-quarter centenary church anniversary of the tabernacle will be commemorated on May 21, 1933. The church is making extensive plans for the proper celebration of this important event in its history, and is anxious to communicate with all members who have been associated with the tabernacle during its past history and who are now meeting with the Australian churches. We feel that these brethren will be glad to have fellowship with us on this special occasion, and desire to ask them to communicate with myself giving their name, full postal address and the period of their fellowship with the Tabernacle Church of Christ."

From the reports prepared for our W.A. conference we cull the following statistical information. 183 baptisms were reported for the year. Additions by letter (127) exceed losses in this manner by 27. 16 deaths are recorded. The total membership of 2,958 shows a net increase of 13. The average attendance at the Lord's table (1,284) represents only 43.5 per cent. of our reported membership. Practically every church reports some type of young people's work, besides the Bible School. 25 Bible Schools participated in the Increase and Attendance Campaign this year, the largest number for many years, and possibly a record. During the campaign 1,303 new pupils were added, 274 left the district. 1,014 were removed by revision, leaving a net increase of 289. The numbers on the school roll are 372 teachers and 2,364 pupils.

The splendid work of the Women's Mission Bands received frequent acknowledgment at the Victorian Conference. For the past year they have raised £400/10/-, their highest contribution to date. On their behalf, Miss Ellis presented cheques to representatives of the different committees as follows: Home Missions, £200/5/-; Foreign Missions, £160/4/-; College of the Bible, £40/1/-.

This giving on the part of the women is an "extra," in addition to their gifts through ordinary channels. The Bands contributed £80/5/4, and a small quantity of rugs and other goods, to the Christmas gifts for Foreign Missions.

The Australian Student Christian Movement (together with the Movements of New Zealand and South Africa) is observing Sunday, May 7, as a special day of prayer for the students of the world—of all professions and of all nationalities; for the work of the World's Student Christian Federation and its constituent Movements; and in particular, for its own work in the universities, colleges and schools of Australia. The Movement seeks the active co-operation of all Christian congregations in the observance of this day, the representatives of various churches having expressed their sympathy with this request in the following terms:—"We commend to the Christian people of Australia the request of the Australian Student Christian Movement for co-operation in the observance of Sunday, May 7, as a Day of Prayer for students throughout the world, and for the work of the Australian Student Christian Movement and of all its sister Movements in the World's Student Christian Federation."

The Auditorium, Collins-st., Melbourne, was filled on Sunday afternoon, the occasion being the preaching of the Victorian Conference sermon by Bro. Reg. Ennis. W. H. Clay led a song service, and a combined choir under the leadership of Ernest Tippett rendered two anthems. Bro. Ennis spoke on "One Increasing Purpose," the text being Philip, 3: 13, 14. He delivered an able and impressive address which gripped the attention of the great audience. In the text he found three things. (1) A revelation of the dominant impulse in the life of Paul. The apostle declares here for an ever-increasing spiritual development and activity. Paul was 100 per cent. Jew; 100 per cent. persecutor; 100 per cent. Christian. (2) A call to ever increasing personal spiritual development on the part of all God's people. We should be largely oblivious of the past, and should be unsatisfied with the present. The preacher spoke words of cheer and exhortation to the discouraged ones, and urged renewed consecration on the part of those who might have slackened in their service. Be encouraged by the superlative value of the prize that is held before us—to receive eternal life, or (better) to stand in the presence of the Son of God uncondemned and to hear the "well done." (3) A ringing challenge for ever-increasing organized activity for God, especially for such amongst our own people. We need a renewed enthusiasm in evangelism. We have slumped with the times, and possibly beyond the times. There never was greater need or greater opportunity than now. The requirement is for a winsome presentation of the Gospel of Christ. We need great preachers. "We are living almost in a heathen land," the majority of people not having set themselves against God but being ignorant of God. The foreign lands demand more of us, particularly those territories allotted to our care, the inhabitants of which must hear the Gospel from our missionaries or die without ever hearing. Let there be "one increasing purpose" in the churches. An offering was taken up for the Preachers' Provident Fund.

## W. C. Craigie Honored.

The retirement of Bro. W. C. Craigie, from all Victorian Conference offices, has naturally led to heartfelt expressions of appreciation of his valued service to the brotherhood. The Executive Committee placed on record its great appreciation, and at the last meeting of the Home Missionary Committee for the Conference year a warm tribute was paid to him. At the Masonic Hall on Friday afternoon, Bro. J. A. Wilkie (Conference President) referred to his excellent work as Conference treasurer for 31 years, and spoke of him as "a man greatly beloved," and one "whose praise is in all the churches." As a token of esteem a handsome arm chair was presented to Bro. Craigie, who feelingly responded.

The great debt of gratitude which the churches owe to Bro. Craigie may be indicated in the following brief statement of the positions he has



W. C. Craigie.

long and capably filled. He arrived in Melbourne from Dunedin, N.Z., in 1884, linking up with Lygon-st. church. A few months later he was appointed deacon and presiding brother, and soon after, also a trustee. These positions are still held, and Bro. Craigie possesses the implicit confidence and love of the church. But our brother is esteemed throughout State and Commonwealth for the services rendered to the Brotherhood. He has been prominent in our Victorian work. Elected as a member of the Home Missionary Committee in 1891, he was appointed treasurer in 1894, continuing in that office till he was elected President of Conference in 1897. The late Bro. J. A. Davies then became treasurer and held office till his death. Immediately thereafter Bro. Craigie was re-appointed treasurer, and he has continued to act until his retirement at this Conference. In 1920 he again received the honor of being elected President of Conference. When the Church Extension Committee was formed in 1910, Bro. Craigie, Hardie, Lyall and Millis were the first members. Two of these have gone on before, and Bro. Craigie and Lyall still serve as members. Our brother has also been a member of the Advisory Board since the beginning.

Two important offices outside of our State work have been most capably filled by Bro. Craigie. Since the formation of the Austral Printing and Publishing Co. in 1892 he has been chairman of directors. Since the inception of the College of the Bible, he has been a member of the College Board of Management and treasurer of the College.



## News of the Churches.

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

#### Easter Meetings.

A development of recent years has been an united act of witness in the streets of Adelaide on Good Friday night. Two of these events have taken place, and another is due. It is conducted under the auspices of the Council of Churches and the Church of England Men's Society. An illuminated cross marks the purpose of the procession. We remarked last time that as the cross passed by it received a little idolatrous homage from men who raised their hats to it. An unheard minority led by the Church of Christ representatives protested against anything that would induce this false worship. The cross will appear again this year. Our fears were that not many steps separated the present performance from the more objectionable eucharistic procession.

More agreeable are the meetings which are planned for Mile End. We note with pleasure that the programme includes a more varied list of subjects than on some former occasions. It seems well to us that the whole octave of truth be played upon; the music is fuller and its sweet echoes linger.

The theme chosen for the Gawler meetings is "The Challenge of the Cross." The churches at Williamstown and Kersbrook will combine with the Gawler brethren, and it is expected that a number will go from the city.

Easter Monday stands in strange contrast with Good Friday in South Australia. On that day the largest race meeting of the year is held. We expect that the constituencies catered for are different.

#### Elections and Moral Questions.

There has been considerable competition for the seats in our State Parliament; 127 candidates offered themselves to fill 46 seats. The diversity of political views was in just proportion to the number of contestants; but with so many to choose from the electors were not satisfied—only about half of them went to the poll. We found it very difficult to get any of the candidates to promise very much support to such issues as Bible lessons in State Schools or Saturday afternoon closing of liquor bars. The leader of the Australian Labor Party told us there were great national interests to be settled which precluded attention to these minor and unimportant matters. He is defeated. Just what the new parliament will do with these matters is too early to forecast.

#### Loss of Preachers.

The weakening of our preaching forces of South Australia still goes on. It is expected that in a few days Bro. Allen Garland will be leaving Forestville for Victoria, and it is inevitable, owing to Mrs. Allan's continued illness, that in a little while we lose Bro. Ernest Allan. Both of these brethren have served the State exceedingly well. In presence, consecration and ability they are rich. Both of them are closely identified with our Foreign Mission work, and in that connection have done much to inspire the brotherhood to do its utmost for the furtherance of the gospel abroad.

It will be of interest to some of our readers to know that the successor of Dr. Henry Howard, at Pirie-st., Adelaide, Mr. Jenkins, who has been pastor at the centre of Methodism in this State for twelve years, will remove to Malvern. His

place will be taken by Mr. Dunn, a member of the South Australian Conference. I think this is the first time for a great many years that the pulpit has not been filled by an imported preacher.

Dr. Wright, after fourteen years at Stow church, the central church of the Congregational body, will go to Sydney.

#### Missions.

Bro. Hugh Gray will assist Bro. H. P. Manning with a mission shortly. Already even in anticipation of the effort blessing is felt. During the past two Lord's days six young people have come to Christ. Perhaps few churches enjoy a more painstaking ministry and a gentler pastorate than the church at Henley Beach. It is not to be wondered at that converts come to stay.

We have not had a visitor to conduct a mission since Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen was here about four years ago; this will enhance the pleasure of the visit of Bro. Fitzgerald in September-October next. Already Grote-st. has begun to prepare for the effort. We hope the blessing will reach far beyond the central church.

#### Back to Work.

Bren. W. C. Brooker and G. McKie have had quite a long term of sickness, but we learn with pleasure that they are both back at their work. These brethren are too conscientious to be careless of the slightest detail of their ministry, and the demands upon them are incessant. If Paul were writing this letter and he knew they would read it, while recognising that they take all necessary heed to the doctrine, he would still write "Take heed to thyself," with a little variation of meaning implied.

### Tasmanian News-letter. F. Collins.

#### Tasmania and Its Liquor Laws.

The partial repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment of the constitution of the United States of America is reflected here in Tasmania. Since the passing of the Tasmanian Licensing Bill of 1932, a spectacular movement, by the police, to prosecute persons found on licensed premises after 10 p.m., has been made. The hour of closing is still six in the evening, but certain persons are allowed on the premises until ten. After that hour the police get busy. Two practising solicitors were fined for being on the premises after hours, and were loud in their protests against the alleged injustice. They also complained that ministers of the Crown, and well-known politicians; were also there after hours and were allowed to go away without their names being taken. Later the Attorney General, and a well-known M.P., were summoned for the same offence. The Attorney General pleaded guilty, and was fined; but the other pleaded not guilty, and was given the benefit of the doubt. The excuse was that they had been invited there to a dinner, and were not aware that they were there out of hours. Dr. A. N. Lewis, a well-known lawyer and politician, and the son of a former Premier of the State, is bringing in a bill to abolish six o'clock closing and extend the hours of trading until ten. Meetings are being held in various parts of the State to protest against the change without a referendum. There seems to be a determined effort to discredit liquor restrictions just now, and Tasmanians and other patriotic Australians should let every politician see that tinkering with the will of the people means a loss of votes.

#### A Movable Feast.

Tasmania has two capitals and they are somewhat competitive. Launceston, though not the seat of Government, is the trading centre of the most populous part of the island, and calls itself the northern capital. Our membership is about evenly divided between the north and the south, therefore the annual Conference is held alternately at Hobart and Launceston. This year we go south for Conference. On account of the coming Federal Conference at Launceston in October next the numbers attending will be smaller this year, but the quality will be up to standard. H. Swain, well known to Tasmanians, though now resident in Melbourne, will be the chief speaker, and the younger preachers are being placed on the programme as special pleaders in the behalf of missions at home and abroad.

#### The Baptists of Tasmania

held their half-yearly conference in Launceston last week. We were honored with an invitation to the luncheon on Foreign Mission day. The problems they discussed are exactly like the problems of the churches called Churches of Christ. Their numbers are not much in excess of our own, although they are possessed of endowments and other vested interests such as we have not got. We noticed several among their home missionaries and ministers who, at one time, were connected with the "Disciples of Christ"; and knowing of an earnest desire on the part of some leading Baptists for unity between the two bodies, we could not but express the hope that the union for which Jesus prayed might be realised between two bodies who hold so much in common. Open membership is not characteristic of the Baptists of Tasmania; and while we do not think that the way to union is simple and easy, we do urge fraternal intercourse with a view to better understandings and co-operation.

#### Victoria.

Hampton.—Helpful services were held on April 16, Bro. A. McDiarmid speaking in the morning and Bro. K. Jones at night. The choir is giving good service.

Warrnambool.—Interest is maintained in all the church activities, with increased attendances. Interest in the C.E., which the change of meeting night has helped, has increased, as has the Sunday evening prayer meeting. Two decisions on April 2, and one young man came forward on April 9.

Frankston.—Encouraging services continue in High School hall each Lord's day afternoon preceded by Bible School. The work, conducted by Bro. Methven and Bro. Manning, is much appreciated. On Easter Sunday the address of Bro. Methven, senr., was much enjoyed. One more member was received into fellowship.

Drumcondra.—As Bro. R. A. Banks was absent at Conference on April 16, services were addressed by local brethren, messages from Bren. McKay and Patrick being appreciated. The Sunday School recently held a very successful concert. Several members who have been ill in hospital are making good recovery.

Pyramid Hill.—On April 16 Bro. and Sister J. Whittaker, of Wangaratta, and Ron. Lacy, of Bendigo, were present, the assistance at the organ by Sister Whittaker being much appreciated. The suggested series of addresses on first principles is proving helpful. Preparation is being made for the anniversary of the Bible School.

East Kew.—On the evening of April 9 an in memoriam service for Sister Mrs. Dennis was held, Bro. Ingham preaching on "The Translation of Life." Bro. Alan Searle, representing South Yarra friends, sang two solos. At the close of the sermon a young man came forward for restoration. On the morning of April 16 the church enjoyed fellowship with Bro. L. Trezise, and at night Bro. R. Banks. The messages of these brethren were greatly enjoyed, and the church was glad of the opportunity to renew fellowship.

(Continued on page 253.)

# Victorian Conference.

Practically all of this issue had to be in type before the holidays; hence we are unable to give reports of proceedings of Conference. Following are particulars culled from reports to be presented to the Conference.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The honored Conference and Home Mission treasurer, W. C. Craigie, having intimated his intention to retire from the post that he has held for thirty-one years, the Committee desired to place on record its great appreciation of his splendid service to Home Missions.

The statistical paragraph was less encouraging than usual. The churches have added 857 by faith and obedience, 401 by letter, 65 formerly immersed, 82 by restoration, a total of 1,435. The following losses are recorded: 418 by letter, 118 by death, 947 by roll revision, a total of 1,483. Net loss for the year 48. The church membership now stands at 13,370.

The work of the Christian Men's Association was reviewed and praised. Special mention was made of the assistance to the cause at Bentleigh and the opening of the chapel there at the beginning of the Conference year; also of the more recent help at Windsor, where as a result of a working bee on February 4 last, the building was renovated and made more attractive. The C.M.A. has accepted responsibility for all services there for six months, including Bible School and week night meetings; the Home Missionary Committee guaranteeing all expenditure other than for repairs to building, which is being borne by the Church Extension Committee. The treasurer's statement showed receipts as follows:—Credit balance, 1/3/32, £12/6/11; Conference fees, £84/5/6; calls from committees, £66/12/3; Refunds of Conference expenses, £53/2/2; Conference offering for Preachers' Provident Fund, £29/14/6; contribution from Home Mission Committee from legacy of R. Edwin Wilson, of Doncaster, £50; sundries and exchange, 4/6; total, £296/5/10.

The statement of expenditure included the following items:—

Conference expenses, £126/3/1; Federal Conference fee, £14; Council of Churches, £10; Conference Offering for Preachers' Provident Fund, £29/14/6; World Disarmament Movement, £2; printing and stationery, £8; postages, exchange, bank charges, telephone, £9/10/1; paid to H.M. Committee for services of organiser, office, etc., £39; total, £238/7/8; credit balance, £57/18/2.

## HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

Receipts for the year amounted to £2,497/14/3; expenditure totalled £2,172/14/11. The overdraft has been reduced from £446/15/11 to £116/4/4. Definite efforts were made to live within income. During the year the following bequests were received:—Miss Agnes Henderson (Swanson-st.), £90; Mrs. Wm. Cust (Glenferrie), £50; Mr. Joseph Wilson (Fitzroy), £33/3/-; Mr. R. Edwin Wilson (Doncaster), £200. The annual offering reached £802/10/3, which was a considerable advance on the previous year, and the first increase for a considerable time. The Women's Mission Bands contributed £188/11/-, and Endeavorers raised £27/4/7.

The outstanding work of the year was the placing of J. Methven at Hamilton. This meant the entry of Home Missions upon a new field. J. Methven commenced work there on Nov. 6. The first four months have been very encouraging. Six were received into fellowship on Feb. 19. Twelve other churches are assisted by the Committee. A difficult year has been experienced in nearly all the fields.

A recommendation was made to Conference, "That a committee of five be appointed to consider the question of the building debts of churches associated with this Conference and to present a report to next Conference."

## BIBLE SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE.

There are 13,040 scholars and 1,917 teachers reported in the statistical schedule. This shows a loss of 452 scholars and a loss of six teachers. During the year 422 scholars were added to the churches.

Receipts for the year amounted to £428/2/1; expenditure totalled £431/3/9. The debit balance of £25/4/- is a slight increase on that of last year. This year the Committee was able to pay £1 per week to the Home Missionary Committee for the services of the secretary.

The Committee greatly appreciates the generosity of Mrs. Thos. Mitchell, who presented during the year 22 gold medals to those who have completed ten years' unbroken attendance at Bible School.

By arrangement with the Home Missionary Committee the secretary has been made available to act as organiser of the department. He has been able to visit schools and societies in all parts of the State, involving several thousand miles of travel, often whilst on Home Mission and Conference business. H. J. Patterson, by the kindness of the Gardiner church, has continued as assistant secretary. He has lectured in numbers of country centres as well as in the metropolitan area, and is the director of the camp conferences. The two secretaries constitute the team that conducts schools of methods as opportunity presents itself. A three-days' Bible School Institute was conducted by them at Ballarat. Two very successful camp conferences were held, at Kyneton and Dimboola.

Two travelling libraries (town and country) have been in constant use during the year.

A new feature of the year's work was the organisation of an Elementary Division Auxiliary.

At the request of the Federal Conference Executive, the Victorian Committee accepted the position of Federal Bible School Committee, which has been relinquished by the Queensland Committee.

The department seeks to help country schools in selecting anniversary materials. Advice is given re books of dialogues, action songs, etc.

The excellent lesson material, specially prepared for our schools by our own leaders, was commended. This system is scriptural, safe and loyal to the Restoration Movement.

The Y.W.L. Auxiliary reports 64 leagues, with a membership of 1,760. The auxiliary keeps in touch with the leagues and arranges gatherings at suitable times. D. D. Stewart is the convener of the auxiliary. To date all the work has been financed by the Young People's Department.

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The work of the Federal Committee, in this year of "unprecedented difficulty," was reviewed. Fellowship with missionaries on furlough was enjoyed, the visits of Miss Vawser and Dr. G. H. Oldfield much inspiring the churches. Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes and Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Sandells were welcomed home to Victoria on furlough.

Appreciative reference was made to Queensberry-st. Chinese church and the splendid efforts of our Chinese brethren in Melbourne. Under great difficulties they have maintained their own local work, and extended their work in Hong Kong. Sister Miss Baker and Bro. D. E. Pittman have assisted them in their meetings. They are hoping that it will soon be possible for them to have the help of another Chinese evangelist. They recently held a memorial service to the late Bro. F. McClean, indicating their appreciation of his co-operation in the founding of the mission and in building it up in its early years.

Interesting data regarding Victoria's share of the finances were recorded as follows:—

The total receipts for the year were £2,207/16/6; the expenditure was £2,376/2/7. We finished with an overdraft of £136/0/2, the result of a charge of £151/7/- toward the end of the Conference year for guarantees for the overseas overdraft. This will become a credit to our funds on the Federal Board books.

The last annual offering was less than the previous year by £235, and the Children's Day offering was £17 less. On the other hand contributions from Mission Bands, C.E. societies, Bible schools and classes, and clubs have all increased. Much of these contributions was earmarked money, and therefore cannot be credited to our annual quota.

There was a slight increase in the amount contributed through the duplex envelopes. The Committee would welcome further, and more general, use of this means of giving to our work.

Women's Mission Bands gave £150/16/9. This was a slight increase on the previous year, and the greatest amount ever raised by the women. This more than provides the salary of their living link, Miss Vera Blake, in India. Special contributions totalling £109 were received for Christmas cheer. This money was forwarded in time for the last Christmas distribution on the mission fields. Women's Mission Bands gave over £80 of this amount, in addition to the living link money. The Committee places on record its admiration and appreciation of the magnificent support of the Women's Mission Bands.

Special bequests were received from the estate of the late Sister Mrs. Cust (£50), and the late Bro. J. Wilson (£32/3/-). These are very gratefully acknowledged.

## SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

It is just ten years ago since this department came into existence, and seven years since a

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full-time secretary and organiser was appointed. The wide range of matters covered by the department has included:—Trains and boats met. Board and lodgings found. Checked imposition. Arranged holidays in country and seaside for sick poor. Helped aged and invalids at Pensions Office. Assisted in house purchase problems—Government and private. Arranged loans. Provided legal advice and assistance. Placed poor children in good homes and arranged adoptions. Paid fines for the poor. Befriended foolish men and women. Attended police courts. Visited sick and cared for them. Distributed 3,000 rabbits and large quantities of fruit and groceries. Preached the gospel in both words and deeds. (The secretary preached nearly every Sunday and conducted special services.) Found employment for nearly 100 members, and helped in difficulties of all kinds.

Active interest has been taken in the Boys' Employment Movement. This has opened a very fruitful field for employment for boys under 19 years of age, in both city and country. The number of women and girls registered with us has often been unequal to the demand for labor. Men of all ages are still difficult to place. The coming winter is bound to be severely felt by many families.

A greater measure of co-operation was a pleasing feature of the last Christmas distribution. A united effort by all our churches would not only be more effective but would ensure fairer distribution. Two special efforts by our Women's Auxiliary, one at the Tea Rooms and the other at the home of Mrs. Gill, realised about £16 nett.

The Homes for Our Aged.—The depression and consequent lack of funds still give reason to defer any building project. By contributions and interest on investment the sum of £44/4/- has been added to the fund. Instances of the need for such a home as contemplated continue to come.

The tea rooms have not received the support expected. A midday meal for 1/- and morning and afternoon teas have been served throughout the year. A group of three members of the Committee have financed the venture, which shows a small profit that is transferred to Committee funds.

The Fellowship Rally was a great success. Many brethren and sisters contribute 1/- yearly to a "fellowship fund." This amount is due at Conference time.

The Committee has been actively interested in the work of the Victorian Prohibition League. In a paragraph entitled "Social Questions" the Committee reported as follows:—"Many minor issues have received the attention of the Committee. It cannot be claimed that we have been even moderately successful. The tendency of parliaments and municipal councils to disregard moral standards is becoming more and more marked. A large deputation waited upon the Minister for Railways to voice its protest against a further extension of Sunday trains to the country in connection with hikes promoted by the Railways Commissioners. Lord's day desecration with this government was a matter of little importance. The railways must be made to pay."

The statement of receipts showed that £879/2/8 had been received during the year. Payments amounted to £864/14/3. The overdraft on Feb. 28 stood at £150/12/11, being £22/13/7 less than that a year ago. The Homes for the Aged Trust Fund was reported thus: Amounts invested with Church Extension Committee, £644/5/-; private loan, £9; Bank balance, Feb. 28, 1933, £16/15/4; total, £670/0/4.

**CHURCH EXTENSION, PROPERTIES, TRUSTS AND BEQUESTS COMMITTEE.**

The treasurer, R. Lyall, presented the report of the Committee. The Committee acknowledges with appreciation the efforts of many churches which have done all possible to meet their obligations for interest and other indebtedness, while some could not make payment. The Committee is endeavoring to secure a reduction of

½ per cent. in rate of interest payable on loans in all cases possible. An appeal was made to members of the church for loans, so that the bank overdraft might be reduced, and all helpers are cordially thanked for the ready and liberal response made. Churches continue to ask the Committee to become trustees for their property, and where it is possible, their requests are being complied with.

The financial statement of receipts and expenditure was as follows:—Receipts: Amounts received to March, 1933—Repayments from churches on account of loans by committee, insurance premiums, and other charges, £300/4/3; loans to committee, £3,964/6/7; contributions, (annual offering, March, 1932, (£52/10/9, special offering, £50), £102/10/9; interest received, £893/3/6; College of the Bible, interest on bonds, £20/16/-; sundry receipts, 9/-; total, £5,281/10/1.

Expenditure: Balance from March, 1932, Bank overdraft, £3,002/14/-; payments to March, 1933—(loans to churches, insurance premiums and other charges, £833/12/3; loans to committee repaid, £479/16/5; interest paid, £804/6/6; College of the Bible, interest on bonds paid to College, £20/16/-; sundry payments, Conference Expenses, printing, exchange, legal charges, etc., £23/0/4), £2,161/11/6; total, £5,164/5/6; Balance in hand, March, 1933, £117/4/7; grand total, £5,281/10/1.

The amounts due for loans to the Committee were—on mortgage, £3,450; other loans, £10,817/11/7; total, £14,267/11/7. The amount due to the Committee by churches for loans is £16,135/16/7.

Conference in adopting the report expressed its appreciation of the work of the members of the Committee, who had assumed personal liabilities to make possible the carrying on of the work.

**ADVISORY BOARD.**

The Advisory Board, with A. W. Connor as chairman, and J. E. Shipway secretary, reported that it had before it several difficult matters in the past year, but it is believed that, after careful and prayerful consideration, the most satisfactory solutions were reached. Correspondence with preachers desiring a change of location has been received from most of the States of the Commonwealth, and also from New Zealand and America. Several churches also have made application to the Board for preachers. In each case careful consideration has been given, and men recommended who, of the preachers available, in the judgment of the Board, would best meet the requirements of the church. Very careful attention has been given to the granting of marriage licences, and the secretary has had several personal interviews with the Government Statist. The retirement of W. C. Craigie was regretted. He had rendered great assistance to the Board since its inception.

**CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.**

The committee reported added enthusiasm and increase of societies and membership. The records show one senior society, 66 young people's, 27 intermediate, 54 junior; total, 148; an increase for the year of 28 societies.

Continued interest is reported in missionary work. £24/8/6 was raised towards the "living link" at Wangaratta. The Federal Board of Missions having entrusted to the Endeavorers the organising of a fund to build a motor launch for the work in New Hebrides, the societies were asked to take up £1 shares. They have responded magnificently, £110 being received to date for this effort. The needs of India have not been overlooked. The amount of £11/12/6 for the Dhond Hospital has passed through the treasurer's book.

Fifteen new Young People's societies were formed during the year, the majority being in connection with country churches. The increase during the year of 80 per cent. in the number of intermediate societies was most gratifying. There are many signs in recent years of an increased interest in Endeavor work.

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Till further notice all general correspondence should be addressed to the acting-secretary, A. J. Ingham, 11 Gladstone-st., Kew, E.A. Phone, Haw. 1673.

Money should be sent to the treasurer, D. E. Pittman, Austral Co., 530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne.

## Victorian Conference.

[Space made available through delay of mails has enabled us to insert more Conference matter than we believed would be possible when preceding (first-forme) two pages went to press. The report will be concluded next week.—Ed.]

The Conference was held under delightful climatic conditions. Meetings in many cases were large and enthusiastic. The sisters had a great day on April 12, with crowded sessions. Some of the General Conference gatherings were also very large. The Friday afternoon and evening sessions in the Masonic Hall, the Saturday afternoon and evening meetings in Lygon-st., and particularly the great assembly in the Auditorium on Sunday, stood out. It was very gratifying to note the greatly improved attendance on Saturday afternoon, when Bible School and Endeavor work and Foreign Missions were considered. It was a pleasure to see the splendid representation of young people.

Three interstate preachers, all from South Australia, were welcome visitors. These were Bren. Will. Beiler, A. E. Illingworth and G. T. Walden.

An excellent spirit prevailed throughout. There were some good discussions, but the whole proceedings were most harmonious. The sound chairmanship of the president, Bro. J. A. Wilkie, whose capable guidance and urbane manner were marked by many, greatly contributed to this happy end. Bro. Wilkie's presidential address was also much appreciated.

The sisters once more made a great contribution to the success of the Conference by their provision of meals. This entails much self-sacrificing work, for which a sincere vote of thanks was recorded.

Many people work hard during Conference. This is particularly true of president and secretaries both conference and departmental. Others help as leaders of song. College students were constantly on duty, serving as ushers and being in charge of all voting arrangements.

The first session of General Conference was held in Lygon-st. chapel on Thursday evening, April 13, under the chairmanship of J. A. Wilkie, Conference President. J. W. Baker and R. Banks led in prayer, and the Scripture lesson was read by J. E. Shipway. Greetings from Federal and State Committees and others were conveyed by W. Gale. Delegates and visitors were welcomed by the vice-president, W. H. Clay. A solo was rendered by A. B. McDiarmid. The presidential address was an able treatment of the theme, "The Restoration Plea in Relation to Current Christian Thinking."

On Thursday afternoon B. J. Combridge presided over a large company of men, nearly all preachers of the Word. L. A. Trezise led devotions, and spoke of our Lord's agony and prayer of Gethsemane. The chairman welcomed Bro. R. J. Sandells, missionary from New Hebrides, the preachers from the country and three visiting brethren from South Australia, viz., Bren. W. Beiler, A. E. Illingworth and G. T. Walden. Responses were made by Bren. J. Methven and W. Beiler. G. T. Fitzgerald, preacher of Dawson-st. church, Ballarat, delivered an eloquent and much appreciated address on "The Preacher and His Message," for which he received the thanks of his brethren. The speaker stressed four requirements of the preacher; he must be (a) a lover of men, (b) a leader of thought, (c) an idealist, (d) a teacher. As to his message: (a) it must be an all-round one. The preacher must not play only one tune or note, but include all the great notes of the Gospel; (b) the message must be a vital one. The truth preached must pass through the crucible of the preacher's own experience.

Churches at Hamilton and Lower Heytesbury were accepted and welcomed into Conference.

Interesting reports were given of the work done by Bro. Payne, of Echuca, amongst the aborigines at Cummeragunja mission. Conference

recommended the mission to the favorable consideration of the Home Missionary Committee.

Bro. Craigie, treasurer, reported that the H.M. annual offering for past year was nearly 50 per cent. ahead of that of the previous year. The balance sheet was the most heartening presented for some time. The debit balance of £116/4/4 was much less than in recent years. The splendid contribution of the Women's Mission Bands (£188/11/- for last year, and £200/5/- for this) was referred to by the treasurer.

The H.M. Committee pays £35 per annum to the Joint Council for Religious Instruction in State Schools. The report of the Council indicates that considerable advances have been made—more schools have been entered and additional instructors have been secured. Religious instruction has been given in 1,946 schools, to 180,874 scholars, by 2,010 instructors. It is estimated that there are still about 55,000 scholars not receiving weekly religious instruction owing to shortage of teachers. 30,000 of these are in metropolitan schools. Many schools receive religious instruction by correspondence. Bro. Connor paid a tribute to the value of this work.



W. H. Clay,  
Newly-elected  
Victorian Conference  
President.

At Friday afternoon session, held in the Masonic Hall, J. Methven told of the establishment of the cause in Hamilton; L. Trezise spoke of his work with the church at Wangaratta; and C. Robinson reported on his commencement of his labors at Red Cliffs. N. Haddow contributed a solo which was much appreciated. As a token of esteem a handsome armchair was presented to W. C. Craigie, who feelingly acknowledged the gift. A. R. Main spoke briefly on "The College of the Bible." Inspirational addresses on phases of our Conference work were given by H. J. Patterson, M.A., representing the Bible School and Young People's Department, and W. H. Clay, on behalf of Social Service work.

The great Home Missionary demonstration, held in the Masonic Hall on Good Friday evening, began with a song service led by H. B. Robbins. The share apportioned to Home Missions by the Women's Mission Bands was the sum of £200/5/-. Miss Ellis presented a cheque for this amount, and Bro. Wilkie acknowledged the gift. An address was given by A. W. Connor on the subject, "The Task and the Way Forward." Bro. Connor was introduced as one of the earliest of our Home Missionaries. His message was a stirring appeal for entering into the labors which others have laid down. W. Gale made an earnest appeal for a liberal offering. The response (including the afternoon offering) was £204/11/4 in cash and promises. The new Conference President, W. H. Clay, was introduced by Bro. Wilkie. Bro. Clay then responded, and presented a Bible to the retiring President, Bro. Wilkie. R. L. Arnold spoke on the theme, "Messengers of the Master." He presented a vivid picture of Jesus in his gracious ministry, and showed that messengers of the Master must carry on the work through the power of the Spirit, speaking the truth in love. Anthems by the Conference choir, under leadership of Ernest Tippett, were enjoyed.

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

The following were elected to office:—

President, W. H. Clay.

Vice-president, H. B. Robbins.

Past President, James A. Wilkie.

Secretary, W. Gale.

Treasurer, Geo. W. Mitchell.

Assistant Secretary, J. E. Shipway.

Executive Committee.—The above officers and one representative of and from each committee in control of a Conference department.

Home Missionary Committee.—The officers of Conference and the following: J. McG. Abercrombie, H. M. Clipstone, A. W. Connor, Dr. W. H. Hinrichsen, J. Holloway, Dr. W. A. Kemp, T. R. Morris, T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., J. E. Thomas.

Advisory Board.—J. McG. Abercrombie, W. H. Clay, A. W. Connor, T. R. Morris, D. E. Pittman, H. B. Robbins, T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., and J. E. Shipway.

Foreign Missionary Committee.—T. A. Fitzgerald, Len. Gole, A. J. Ingham, A. A. Hughes, Dr. E. R. Killmer, F. Lewis, S. H. Mudge, D. E. Pittman, J. E. Thomas, Henry Watson. The following sisters, appointed by the Women's Conference, are also members of this Committee: Miss A. Baker, Mrs. A. J. Ingham, Mrs. D. E. Pittman and Mrs. T. H. Scambler.

Bible School and Young People's Committee.—R. L. Arnold, H. Campbell, E. J. Combridge, W. Gale, K. A. Jones, Bert. J. Kemp, Dr. W. A. Kemp, H. J. Patterson, M.A., R. T. Pittman, B.A., Dip.Ed., and D. D. Stewart.

Social Service Committee.—J. E. Austin, Reg. P. Clark, B. J. Combridge, W. G. Graham, J. G. Hare, H. L. Pang, W. W. Saunders, Dr. C. C. Sharp, J. L. Ward and J. E. Webb. The Women's Conference also appoints some members of this committee.

Christian Endeavor Committee.—T. A. Fitzgerald, A. J. Ingham, J. H. McKean, F. Meyer, Miss M. Milligan, Miss L. A. Murray, Miss R. Roberts, W. W. Saunders, Les. H. Withers, and Miss E. S. Woodgate.

Council of Churches.—R. L. Arnold, W. H. Clay, A. J. Ingham and B. J. Kemp.

Nominating Committee.—A. W. Connor, B. J. Kemp, D. E. Pittman, J. E. Shipway and J. E. Webb.

## RESOLUTIONS.

That a committee of five be appointed to consider the question of the building debts of churches associated with this Conference and to present a report to next Conference. That this motion be referred to the Executive Committee, with the request that they select five to act on that committee.

That the Home Missionary Committee be asked to consider further support of the work at Cummeragunja.

That the number of representatives to the Council of Churches be reduced from eight to four.

That for the sake of the young men themselves and for the best interests of the churches we recommend to the Board of Management of the College of the Bible that strong measures be taken to ensure that only the most suitable young men shall be selected to enter the College to train for the full-time ministry of the Word.

That we affirm the advisability of united action in our acceptance of men into the full-time ministry of the churches, and that as a consequence we should recognise our moral responsibility to provide employment, as far as possible, for those so accepted. That this resolution be referred to the Advisory Board and H.M. Department, with power to call others into counsel, and with further power to prepare a recommendation to be submitted to the churches in Victoria.

## News of the Churches.

(Continued from page 249.)

### Victoria.

**Brunswick.**—On April 15 a pretty wedding took place in the chapel, when Bro. George Atwell and Sister Gerlie Roberts were united in marriage by Bro. J. C. F. Pittman. On April 16 special Easter messages were given by Bro. Pittman. Attendances were good. Mrs. Veitch, formerly of Brunswick church, but now of Tatong, has been ill in hospital but is now home again.

**Cheltenham.**—Services on Easter Sunday began with a prayer meeting at 7.30. Eighteen were present. At morning service a tribute of love was paid to the memory of our late Bro. William Judd. Visitors included Mrs. T. B. Fisher, Mrs. Gordon, S.A., and Mrs. Cyril Woff, Q. Appropriate anthems were rendered by the choir at evening service, Bro. Brooke's subject being "Jesus Lives."

**Moreland.**—Good attendance at morning meeting on April 16. Several interstate visitors were present. Bro. Arnold addressed the church on "Dare We Go to the Sepulchre?" At gospel meeting two young people confessed Christ. The annual church business meeting was held on April 6. Reports from the various auxiliaries told of the work accomplished during the year. The board of officers were elected for the ensuing year.

**Kaniva.**—The Bible School anniversary was held on April 16. The special singing by the scholars was greatly enjoyed, as was Bro. Withers' message, "According to Pattern." Bro. J. M. Goldsworthy, superintendent, distributed the prizes. At the gospel service Bro. Withers again spoke to the children, and both messages were appreciated; several visitors were present. Bro. Don Williams and scholars contributed messages in song effectively.

**Oakleigh.**—There were splendid meetings all day Easter Sunday. Bro. Mudge addressed a large gathering at morning meeting, many visitors being present. The evening service was held in Oakleigh Town Hall. It was a choral service, anthems and other messages in song being enjoyed. Many people were unable to gain admission. Bro. Mudge preached. Services of the instrumentalists were much appreciated. Wonderful blessings are being experienced at the meetings.

**Bentleigh.**—On April 2 Bro. Way addressed the church. Bro. Morris, from Brighton, was the evening speaker. Bro. J. Holloway addressed the church on April 9, his theme being the cross. A great uplift was given to the church in the evening, Bro. A. A. Hughes being the speaker. Speakers on April 16 were Bro. Crowley in the morning and Bro. A. A. Hughes in the evening; the meetings were enjoyed by all. Good attendance at the Lord's table. The ladies' guild is doing good work. Sunday School is preparing for annual examination.

**Chelsea.**—At annual meeting on April 11 reports showed healthy activity in all departments. Y.P.S.C.E. work was most encouraging, and sisters' guild's efforts had been very successful. Bro. Warne having withdrawn from election, Bro. T. Murphy was appointed secretary. There were splendid services on Easter Sunday. Evening service was efficiently conducted by Endeavorers, two young ladies giving brief addresses. Bro. J. Methven, from Hamilton, gave a most inspiring sermon on "What the Cross Means to Me," and a Bible School girl confessed Christ. Many visitors attended throughout the day.

**Mildura.**—One confession on April 9. On Good Friday morning, at the united service held at the Presbyterian church, Bro. Macnaughtan was the speaker, his subject being, "The Forsaken Lover." In the afternoon, the Endeavorers, in conjunction with the Methodist societies, took flowers, etc., to hospitals in Mildura. A sacred recital by the choir, assisted by local artists and an orchestra, was given on Good Friday evening in the chapel, which was crowded, extra seating

provided being insufficient. A series of special services was commenced last Sunday. In the morning Bro. Macnaughtan spoke on "Scenes in the Garden," and at night on "Immortality." Parts of the sacred recital were repeated at this service. Attendances were good, the aim for the evening services during this special period being exceeded. In the morning a baptised believer was received by commendation from Bendigo Baptist church.

### Western Australia.

**Maylands.**—On April 2 a man was restored to fellowship and on the 9th a married woman made the good confession. This latter meeting was well attended despite heavy rain. Average at prayer meetings for March was 22.

**Perth (Lake-st.).**—Bro. Schwab, the preacher, has so far recovered as to be moved to his own home. Bro. F. D. Pollard is planned to take evening services during May and June, and it is proposed to make a special canvass of the district with distribution of our literature. A young lady, immersed on March 29, was received into fellowship on April 2. The Sunday School had an enjoyable picnic on March 18. The kindergarten classes held their picnic on April 1, at King's Park. Some Lake-st. members who reside at Victoria Park intend starting a Sunday School at Victoria Park East. A suitable building, previously used as a garage, is being rented for this work.

### Queensland.

**Albion.**—The Bible School anniversary was held on March 25. Bro. E. Buckley, of the A.I.M., was evening speaker, and a scholar confessed Christ. On March 28 the annual concert was held. Both services were held in the School of Arts hall. Lately there have been three additions by faith and baptism. Painting of chapel and hall has just been completed.

**Brisbane (Temperance Hall).**—Bright and helpful meetings continue. Since last report the various speakers were: March 5, H. Elvery; 12th, J. Swann; 19th, J. Saunders; 26th, A. Inglis; April 2, J. Swann; 9th, F. T. Saunders, of College of the Bible. On April 9 a visitor was present from Sydney. Sister Mrs. Ash is in hospital. The organist, Bro. Saunders, who has been confined to bed, and under doctor's care, resumed his duties on April 9.

**Rosewood.**—March 19 was a great day with the church. 63 broke bread. Bro. J. Larsen, from Toowoomba, son of the preacher, gave a very fine exhortation. At night Bro. Thompson and Westwood, from Ipswich, helped much with their beautiful singing. A man confessed Christ. This brother was baptised before morning service on March 26, and received into fellowship by Bro. F. T. Saunders, who also exhorted. All meetings continue to be well attended.

### New South Wales.

**South Kensington.**—Bible School rally has just ended, 30 new scholars being gained. An efficiency campaign is being organised. The school held a splendid picnic at Rodd Island. Some remarkably fine nights have been held in Men's Fellowship Bible class. A young worshippers' picnic was held at Boys' Home grounds on Easter Monday. Meetings are keeping up, Bro. Wakeley preaching effectively. One confession since last report.

**Grafton.**—Bro. Greenhalgh has resigned as evangelist to Grafton church, and has accepted an invitation to labor at Paddington. His resignation takes effect from May 28. Grafton church feels keenly the loss about to be sustained. Bro. Greenhalgh has been in the field there for five and a half years, and amongst other things has built up a church orchestra, of which members are justly proud. Grafton ministers' fraternal is holding a three-months' campaign with meetings every Thursday night. The results are very gratifying, as attendances at the churches are increasing. Bro. Greenhalgh gave the address on April 6, and spoke on "Repentance," and also gave the invitation.

### ADDRESSES.

D. S. Inman (secretary Oakleigh church, Vic.)—12a Bletchley-rd., Oakleigh, S.E. 12.

Elsie Leeson.—Government School, Kelaring, via Koonda, W.A.

T. Murphy (secretary Chelsea church, Vic.)—Donald-grove, Chelsea, S.15.

### KESWICK BOOK DEPOT. KESWICK BOOK DEPOT.

JUST OUT—"Consolation"—Devotional Daily Readings compiled by Mrs. Chas. N. Cowman, 7/6 (Companion Vol. to "Streams in the Desert"). "Way to Pentecost," by Samuel Chadwick, 3/- and 1/3. "Women's Warfare and Ministry," by John N. Anderson, M.D., 1/- and 8d.

\* 315-17 Collins-st., Melbourne.

### IN MEMORIAM.

**HOLLEY.**—In loving memory of my dear husband, George, who passed away at Ballarat, April 21, 1925. Late 24th Batt., A.I.F. Loving father of Hilda and Fred. (late 14th Batt., A.I.F.). Sadly missed and longed for.  
—Inserted by his loving wife, E. A. Holley.

**PITTMAN.**—In ever loving memory of our dear father, who fell asleep in Jesus on April 21 (Easter Monday), 1930.

"Only 'good-night,' beloved—not 'farewell,'  
A little while, and all his saints shall dwell  
In hallowed union, indivisible—  
Good-night!"

### THANKS.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnacle desire to express their appreciation to their many relatives and friends for their congratulations and visits on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. They also wish to thank the church at Camberwell, and the Conference Executive, for the very delightful social tendered to them, and for the beautiful memento presented on the happy occasion.

### COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 23.—Memorial Service to the late Mrs. Williams, at Gore-st., Fitzroy, 7 p.m. Preacher, Mr. R. Rough.

APRIL 23, 30 and May 2.—Brunswick Bible School Anniversary Services. April 23, 11 a.m., Bro. J. C. F. Pittman; 3 p.m., Bro. E. W. New; 7 p.m., Bro. T. Fitzgerald. April 30, 11 a.m., Bro. E. H. Killmier; 3 p.m., Bro. W. W. Saunders; 7 p.m., Bro. C. G. Sandland. Tea provided for visitors. Bright singing by scholars. Children's demonstration Tuesday, May 2, 8 p.m. All meetings in church building, Glenlyon-rd.

APRIL 30, MAY 7 and 11.—Gardenvale Bible School Anniversary Services. April 30: 3 p.m., Bro. T. R. Morris; 7 p.m., Bro. W. H. Clay. May 7: 3 p.m., Bro. Keith Jones; 7 p.m., Bro. W. J. Way. Special singing by scholars led by Bro. N. Haddow. Demonstration and prize distribution, May 11, Masonic Hall, Gardenvale.

APRIL 30 and MAY 11.—Chelsea, April 30, church's Ninth Anniversary; 11.15 a.m., Bro. Baker speaker. May 11 (please note alteration of date), Thanksgiving Birthday Social, Chairman, Conference President. All former members and friends are cordially invited.

MAY 7.—Footscray Church Anniversary. 11 a.m., Communion, Gratitude Gift. 3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon; Speaker, Bro. A. W. Ladbroke, B.A. 7 p.m., Bro. D. D. Stewart. Fellowship of former members solicited. Hospitality provided for visitors. Spend a happy day at Footscray.

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## The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

Monday.

Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.—1 Kings 11: 13.

For David's sake, that the promise made to him might be fulfilled, and for Jerusalem's sake, that the church (the new Jerusalem) might be established in the same land and the same city, the whole of the kingdom must not be taken away. In spite of Solomon's transgressions, "the line of the Messiah must be preserved," and the "old Jerusalem must be preserved in the hands of the tribe of Judah."

Reading—1 Kings 11: 26-43.

Tuesday.

Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.—1 Kings 12: 28.

To safeguard the throne to which he was raised Jeroboam adopted measures which, in addition to bringing calamity upon himself and his people "branded his name for ever with infamy." He would do his utmost to prevent the people from going up to Jerusalem for the celebration of solemn feasts, lest they should, in cleaving to their old religion, "go back to their old king."

Reading—1 Kings 12: 16-33.

Wednesday.

And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did David his father.—1 Kings 15: 11.

This record forms a striking contrast to the previous one. With a single eye to God's glory King Asa did much to remove evil and promote good. Though by no means faultless, his "heart was perfect with the Lord all his days."

Reading—1 Kings 16: 23-34.

Thursday.

And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth.—1 Kings 17: 24.

It is little wonder that the widow of Zarephath began to question whether Elijah was a man of God when her child died, but now that through his agency her child's soul came into him again all her doubts and fears vanished, and she was abundantly satisfied that Elijah was a prophet of Jehovah, acting and speaking according to the divine will.

Reading—1 Kings 17.

Friday.

And the King of Israel answered and said, Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.—1 Kings 20: 11.

A fitting answer to the threats of Ben-hadad.

and all boastful beginners. To be oversure of victory usually spells defeat. In this life we are simply girding on the harness; to boast as if we are putting it off is unseemly, and will probably end in defeat.

Reading—1 Kings 20: 1-21.

Saturday.

And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.—1 Kings 21: 19.

The awful law of retribution takes its course, though delayed. In consideration of Ahab's humbling himself, "the execution was suspended," yet the sentence was not revoked. If Ahab had genuinely repented, lamenting the sin he had committed, and not merely the punishment for it, God would have abundantly pardoned. For the complete fulfilment of the divine judgment see ch. 32: 38, and 2 Kings 9: 26, 37.

Reading—1 Kings 22: 1-4, 29-40.

Sunday.

But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord, that we may inquire of the Lord by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha, the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.—2 Kings 3: 11.

Throughout the ages there have always been people who first decided on a certain course of action, and then pleaded divine guidance. It would have been infinitely better if Jehoshaphat had enquired of the Lord before engaging in war. "Good men are sometimes remiss and forgetful, and neglect their duty till necessity and affliction drive them to it."

Reading—2 Kings 3.

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PRAYER MEETING TOPIC.  
(Continued from page 247).

kill true religion. The object, in part at least, should be to indicate to God the desire of our heart and show ourselves so ready for the blessing that it will come. Do not we often fail to realise the objective in prayer in that we are not ready to receive? God will withhold no good thing if we be ready, and it be a good thing, the best thing for us.

**Things for Which We Might Pray.**

Making sure that there is more of the publican and less of the Pharisee in us, let us ask God for the extension of the kingdom of God. Here is a vast field to be explored in prayer. For the salvation of men let us pray. For effort, individual and private, home and foreign, Sunday Schools and college, for students and teachers, and a thousand-and-one others. We must not forget our social welfare work, our brethren who are sick, those indifferent, or in trouble of some kind, those who may be thinking hardly of us, or who have hurt us. What a field! No marvel that Jesus spent so much time in prayer. No wonder he said, "Watch and pray." Read over afresh that wonderful example of prayer which he gave his disciples, and which he prefaced with the words, "After this manner therefore pray ye." Note the things Jesus had in mind for prayer. As we pray will folk note that we have been in the presence of Jesus?

TOPIC FOR MAY 9.—THE DEVIL AT WORK.  
—Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.**

The Victorian Department of Social Service gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following goods:—

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