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Bethlehem—House of Bread.

G. J. Andrews.

THE fact that from very early times it was set on a hill in the midst of corn-fields, and that as far back as the days of Jeremiah it was renowned for its inn, starts up some colorful fancies in regard to the naming of a small Eastern township some five miles south from Jerusalem.

Here, to the knowledge of well-travelled men, the providence of God and the providence of men seemed to unite perfectly for the production of the goodly fare. So the place came to be known as Bethlehem—"House of Bread." Strikingly enough this place which became a byword among hungry travellers has become a sign and an invitation to the whole world. As it was said of old-time, but now with a meaning and a certainty intensified by the years, we are constrained to say, "There is no bread like God's Bethlehem Bread!"

I.

Let us not doubt it, God's Bethlehem bread is sometimes

The Bread of Sorrow.

It was at Bethlehem that Jacob experienced his deep sorrow with the passing of his dearly loved Rachel in child-birth. Her grayé was there, but her memory followed Jacob through the succeeding years and influenced him to his dying day.

"Thou feedest them with the bread of tears!" says the Psalmist; or as Isaiah has it, "the bread of adversity." And without that bread no one ever really passes out of babyhood into manhood, no one becomes a full-grown son or daughter of God.

Show us the shallow, the flippant, the unsympathetic folk and we will say, "These have not yet had their bread of sorrow."

II.

But let us rejoice that

The Bread of Kindness

is supplied from the Bethlehem of God. Long ago, when poor, sad Ruth and em-

bittered Naomi returned from the country of Moab, it was because they had heard "how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread." And indeed, "they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest." But surpassing the barley bread was the bread of kindness—Ruth who had sown kindness now reaped kindness, and life was made all over again for Ruth and Boaz and Naomi. "Blessed be he of the Lord," sang Naomi, "who hath not left off his kindness!"

As Dr. John Watson remarks, "The good Samaritan is the proof of God, and the children of affliction learn that they have not been forsaken. There is no balm for sorrow, no reinforcement for faith outside the Bible like your neighbor's kindness."

Might we not turn our Christmas kindness into a daily habit throughout the year, and thus become distributors indeed of the bread of God?

III.

Then I wonder if we recognise the worth and meaning of our Bethlehem

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Bread of Youth.

Recall the stories of David, the shepherd son of Jesse, the Bethlehemite. It is rather remarkable to notice how the record brings out the value to be placed on boyhood adventures and youthful lessons in one's later years.

On the day when David stood face to face with the Philistine the memories of his earlier encounters with the lion and the bear greatly fortified his soul and filled him with faith and courage. Later on, when the warrior king rested during the lull of battle, boyhood memories and youthful blessings were again a refreshment to him. Indeed, the commonest blessings of his Bethlehem days took on a new meaning. Again, when the royal Psalmist penned his hymn of testimony and joyous faith, it was with a heart full of consecrated youthful days that he put together and sung his immortal words. The man was still feeding upon the bread of youth.

Oh, that we could bring home the lesson that consecrated youth is one of God's surest safeguards against a heart-hungry old age!

IV.

But God be praised for his pre-eminent Bethlehem blessing,

The Bread of Christ.

Even the hope of Christ was food to the soul of Micah the prophet, and the very humble coming of Christ was bread to the toiling shepherds, the studious wise-men, and the saintly Simeon and Anna, who were among the first to greet the Christ-child at the town on his birth. And thus the Christ of Bethlehem puts forth his reverent and loving appeal to this hungry-hearted world: "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live

by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me."

Christ abides the Bread of Life, and being denied this bread, or carelessly going without it, we humans grow into mere puppet men—the regimented creatures of a dictator state. Or else we become the poor deluded dwellers in a fool's paradise—waving a banner of "democracy," but having lost the liberty and righteousness of the children of God.

We are informed that in Central America a plant grows called the nardoo, which satisfies hunger, but is destitute of all nutritious elements. A party of Englishmen once perished of starvation while feeding daily upon it. It is not enough that we are "satisfied" as some folk are satisfied to-day, for without Christ there is only degeneration and death ahead of us. Are you feeding on the Bread of God?

Here is a New Testament picture of Jesus which becomes both a guide and a parable:

"The night in which he was betrayed
The Saviour of the world took bread!"

"Not spice-cake or sugar-plums, but bread!" as someone remarks. And our souls to-day are surrounded by sin's treachery as never before. Human society is menaced by destructive forces on every hand, and this is the challenge of the hour—"Take Bread! Take Bread! But it needs must be Christ, the Bread of Life!"

The New Year Bells.

WHEN New Year's bells are pealing
Glad music through the skies,
And God speaks forth to all mankind—
Then let our souls arise:
To him, eternal Father,
Lord of unfolding days,
Whose changeless love rules ages past,
O world, to him bring praise!
The bells for thee are ringing,
Creator of the years,
Thou only canst our spirits guide
Or banish crushing fears;
Repentant of our sinning
And humbled by thy love,
May all the world thy purpose heed
Like hoofs of light above!
The New Year bells are pleading
God's kingdom, to begin,
When holiness reigns o'er the earth
And love has conquered sin.
O man, now cease thy discord,
Let hate and strife be still,
In service free for brother man
Accept God's wondrous will!

—Philip L. Frick,
in "The Christian Advocate."

The Heart Toward the Highway.

A. B. Withers.

NOT infrequently we have to wait, unable at once to do as we desire. The time will come; we will have our desire, but for the present we must wait. It is also true that when there is nothing to prevent us we take no action. A bird can be caught and held a while, and when put down again will for a little while remain where it is, as though it were still being held. What the bird does for a few seconds we do indefinitely.

There is a poem of Jeremiah's which was meant, at the right time, to make the people active. It is the word of God to Israel in captivity. "Set thee up waymarks, make thee guide-posts; set thine heart toward the high way, even the way by which thou wentest; turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities." The captivity of Israel will be turned, and Israel will be able to turn again to her cities. Israel has hope for the latter end, and the captive children will come again to their own border, and the word of God is to set up waymarks, make guide-posts, set the heart toward the high way.

It is a command to leave the place of captivity, and start for the cities from which as a people they came. They are to set their heart toward the high way, to "bethink" them of it. The time to act has come. It is time for the captives to be starting for their own cities. "How long wilt thou go hither and thither, O backsliding daughter?" "How long will you hesitate?" "How long to drift hither and thither!"

Is Israel hardly conscious of freedom to return? Is she numb with long absence in Babylon? Is she afraid to turn homeward? "Set thine heart toward the high way." "Turn again, O virgin of Israel."

The time comes when the heart should be set toward the high way. There is nothing to hold us. Nothing hinders us. There is nothing for which to wait. The need is to set the heart toward the high way.

Jesus spoke of his hour not yet having come, and he did not immediately make the water wine; and John explains that the reason why men did not take Jesus was because his hour had not yet come. But this is written: "And it came to pass, when the days were well-nigh come, that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem." No man took his life from him, he said, but he laid it down of himself, and was loved of his Father for it. There was with him a setting of the heart toward the high way. In the garden he went forth to those who

came with lanterns and torches and weapons. In the temple it was asked, "What think ye? That he will not come to the feast?" But that was not the man Jesus was when his hour was come. "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name." This was Jesus when his hour was come.

Making a Start.

The word, then, is to set the heart toward the high way. The years have passed. The opportunity has come. We must go forth. "Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans." "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, ye that bear the vessels of the Lord." "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he-goats before the flocks." "Set thee up waymarks, make thee guide-posts; set thine heart toward the high way." What have we been waiting for so long to do? and now, when we could do it, we hesitate. There is a feeling of reluctance that ever overcomes us, and if it is not conquered we will not proceed with our task. The journey will not be begun. The word will not be spoken. The work will not be done. There must be a setting of the heart toward the high way. We must prepare to go. We must make a start.

We do not accomplish what we wished. There is, of course, such a thing as having to abandon what we intended to do, and having to reverse our decision. It may be impossible to do what we desired. We know not what will be on the morrow. "If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that." But aside from this, we do not accomplish what we wish. If we have not misjudged our ability, it is because the heart is not toward the high way. We have a lingering desire, but not the strong purpose to set us to work. If the heart is toward the high way, it is not set on it. We are not very near to making a commencement.

It is to this we must come. "Set thine heart toward the high way." It must not be just a long-felt hope when God calls to setting up waymarks, making guide-posts and setting the heart toward the high way. It is to action God then calls. The time has come. We must be moving. It is as when the people were leaving Egypt, and were to eat the passover with loins girded, shoes on their feet, staff in their hand; and in haste—ready to start, which they did once midnight had come.

Escape from Sin.

Escape from sin is in setting the heart toward the high way. We must take to the way of escape which is with every temptation. The hope is there. We can get away. It is now "Set thine heart toward the high way."

In his book, "Pleading with Men," a book on preaching, Adam W. Burnet says, "But do not take too long in beginning to note things down." It is a setting of the heart toward the high way, and as there is accomplishment of a task in the noting down of things, there is in beginning anything when the opportunity arrives. There is the period of waiting, and then the need to set the heart toward the high way. There are the years of hoping, and then the command to make ready to go; the time which is the acceptable time, and the day which is the day of salvation. And that may be now. "Behold, now."

Is there that which has long been delayed, we ourselves the cause of the delay? The heart should be set toward the high way. It is time to act. What is it Paul says of it being high time? "And this, knowing the season, that it is now high time to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer than when we first believed." The day was at hand. There was need of readiness for the day. The heart toward the high way! "The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in revelling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

No Doubt of Arriving.

The heart to the high way is of setting out. It leaves no doubt of arriving. If we are called and obey to go out, as Abraham, going and not knowing whither, we will arrive; but here the thought is of going in a well-directed way. "Set thee up waymarks, make thee guide-posts: set thine heart toward the high way." It is a call to be prepared for the purpose of God, and at the time, to act according to the purpose. We can do that with confidence.

"Christmas Is Here Again."

WHATEVER of burdens or blessing our lot,
Our hearts are tenderer to-day.
We pause in our pining for that which is not,
To joyous content giving way.
O may we endeavor from now on forever,
To join in the angels' refrain.
May love e'er unite us and not hatred sever,
For Christmas is here again!"

—Carl Nagel.

Who Couldn't Go to a Manger?

Wilkie Thomson.

THREE times in Luke we read of the manger in relation to the birth of Jesus. The first is in Luke 2: 7, when we read that Mary wrapped Christ in swaddling clothes and "laid him in a manger." The second is the sign of the Messiah's birth given by the angel who said they would find the babe "lying in a manger" (Luke 2: 12). The third mention of the manger is when the shepherds came to Bethlehem they found it, even as Mary had done and the angel had said, "the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2: 16).

One of the arguments used in rebuttal of the sceptics is that had this story been an invention of the shepherds they would have placed Christ in a palace. The very simplicity of the story witnesses to its truth. But the very humility of the birth of Jesus also witnesses to the purpose of his coming into the world, his life and his death. If Jesus had been born anywhere else the story would seem incomplete. (He was born in the place of beasts—as the perfect sacrifice he forever superseded the sacrifice of beasts.)

Supposing now that the angel had told the shepherds that the new-born Child would be found in a room in the inn. Even though the conventions of the Jews might not be as stringent as our own to-day, there would still have been difficulties about shepherds gaining admittance to see the babe. Of this we may be sure, there were no barriers to shepherds visiting a manger.

It is generally accepted, and we like to believe, that the wise men who carried with them gold, frankincense and myrrh went to that same manger. It cost them nothing to see the babe. Others could have gone, and would have done so, had they been as wise. Emperors and kings could have gone—Augustus Cæsar or Herod. The scribes, lawyers, teachers and students of Jerusalem could have gone. The highest in the land may go to the place of the lowliest, but it is not always possible for the lowliest to gain admittance to the highest. The only barriers that existed to bar their way were those of their own making. The pride of rulers, the deceit of riches and the conceit of man's wisdom may still be barriers to the adoration of the Lord Jesus. The manger was such a lowly humble place.

I'm sure there were mothers that went to that stable. Some from mere curiosity of womenkind and to pass an opinion on Mary's child, others from human sympathy and kindness. Some offered womanly adoration for a babe, others undoubtedly heard and believed that which the shep-

herds had to tell. All, I am sure, sensed they were in a holy place, and yet it was but the place of a manger.

I like to think that little children went there too. Where will we find little ones who are not thrilled to see a babe and will not reach forth fearful fingers just to touch the soft skin and clasp tiny hands. Even the children could go where the manger was.

And there is nothing to hinder us to-day from coming to the Lord Jesus. At least, any barriers that are raised come from within ourselves and not from God. Who couldn't come to a manger? Who cannot if they would come to Christ to-day?

"As with joyful steps they sped
To the lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat."

New Year's Resolutions.

THERE have been some wise things said, and perhaps some others not so wise, about the folly of making New Year resolutions. It is true that the days after January 1 have a disconcerting way of refusing to be very different from the days before that landmark of the years, and it takes something more than an easy-going resolution to make any very fundamental change in them. And yet the New Year does come to us with a suggestion of encouragement and hopefulness that we might not be altogether wise in turning away from. Whatever may happen afterward, to step into January First with an impulse toward better and braver things, and with a somewhat definite conviction that they can be realised, can hardly be without its helpful effect.

Because of its associations and suggestions, the New Year does come to us bringing with it what Wendell Phillips talked about, that feeling of the thing we ought to be beating beneath the thing that we are. Our only hope for the realisation of those better and braver things in our lives depends upon that feeling coming to us, buoyantly and courageously, suggesting that now is the time to begin to be and to do the things of which we have dreamed and for the want of which we have been dissatisfied and uneasy. He is a sorry individual, indeed, who has not many times fervently longed to be better. But we all find it very easy to put off the day of our beginning and to satisfy ourselves with the thought that the start will be much easier made at some later date. The New Year suggests immediacy, and that may be the suggestion that will turn idle wishing into high resolve. Notwithstanding the cynics, it might be well, after all, not to turn our backs upon New Year's resolutions. —"The New Outlook."

Your Saviour and Your Service.

A. W. Connor.

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own, zealous of good works.—Titus 2: 14.

THE text is a plea for a pure and noble life. It is in the nature of a climax. The background is a solemn detailed charge to various classes in the church, and to varied ages. The radiant purpose of the grace of God revealed in the incarnation is set forth. We behold Bethlehem and Nazareth, with the rugged cross and its dark shadow. At the other end we are gripped by the radiance of the "blessed hope," the "glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ." The picture of our Saviour Jesus Christ appeals to the heart. He is the Alpha and Omega of our faith. He is the centre and circumference of the gospel of God's grace. While we are uttering his holy name, and lingering in reverence, lost in wonder at the love that sought us, and the glory that shall be, we hear the challenge and call of our text that speaks of "your Saviour and your service," "my Saviour and my service."

Here I would have you ponder the revelation

The Passion of Our Redeemer.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ." Consider him. "Who gave himself for us." Behind this self-giving is the passion of a quenchless love. He gave himself for me. But why? There is an answer. We hear it in the passionate words of "the chief of sinners." "He loved me, and gave himself for me." We see it in the word concerning the church: "Christ loved the church and gave himself for her." We see it in a hundred ways as we seek to understand him who "humbled himself unto death." We hear it in the song of the finally redeemed: "Unto him who loved us." Not for any worthiness in us, but out of the passion of love as eternal as the being of God, as wide as the world's sin, and as deep as the abyss of the lost. The love of Christ that passeth knowledge. Is it a waste of time for us to stop and exalt the length and breadth and height and depth of the love of Christ? Is it "neurotic"? Is it sentimental? Nay. To understand this and to feel its power is to find the supreme motive in service for God and man. The cost of redemption to him who "gave himself" will be the power to inspire to service for the souls of men, and to a giving of time and money that will enrich the world. We are stingy and dwarfs in our giving both of service and money, because we do not know fully the grace of the Lord Jesus who gave himself, and in whose "self-giving" the cross was involved.

It is no waste of time, but a salutary exercise to consider the passion of the love that redeemed by the cross.

The Purpose in His Self-giving.

He gave himself "for us." Let us not divide over whether "for us" means "in our stead" or "for our advantage." To give full force to all the scriptures that speak of this great theme, we must make room for both. Poetry or prose the saved soul knows that "he died for me." Let us fill that word "Redeem" with all its fulness of meaning. The New Testament writers all felt that Christ had done for them something so transcendent, and that surpassed all power of language to express. Surely they learned this from him who said that he came to "give his life a ransom for many." Surely we who know him feel that in his self-giving there was the satisfaction to the claim of

violated law. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We dare to believe that "It was for us he hung and suffered there." The nemesis of guilt was met in the sacrifice of him who was "wounded for our transgressions." We see him dealing with the power of the devil, and delivering souls from the fear of death. He "gave himself." He "died for our sins." This involved the incarnation, when he took a robe of flesh. He entered the field of human bondage and limitation. He took on him "the form of a servant." He humbled himself "even unto death, the death of the cross."

And so we read, we say, we sing, "We have been redeemed by the blood of Christ." Love to the uttermost. And the purpose of it all is that we might be "a people for his own"—the purchase of love. Let us say it with a deeper thoughtfulness, and with a heart that responds to such love. "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price." We have been redeemed with the "precious blood of Christ." Oh, the love that sought us, the love that bought us. "Ye are not your own." What then? The writer tells us. We are to be a "people for his own."

The Purchased People.

Three things are in our text. It tells us that this people are "saved from iniquity," they are a "people for his very own," and as such are "zealous of good works." This life begins in our acceptance of the sacrifice of Christ, and the surrender of life to the Saviourhood and Lordship of Christ. In Paul's language we are "crucified with Christ." We die with him to the old life, and in the solemn symbolic ritual of baptism. This great spiritual experience is proclaimed as a fact. We rise with Christ to a new life. Though we died, we live. Nay, "Christ liveth in me," is the believer's exultant confession. That being so, we are to manifest a character that speaks of the power of Christ to transform and inspire. High ideals of conduct, nobility of as-

piration and a genuine piety are to be ours. We are to remind ourselves often that we are a "peculiar people," that is, a "people for his own." We are to share his purposes and his passion for the saving of the lost. Service for him and for his church, service of time, of thought, of money, will be given not in measured terms, but bountifully, because we are "his own," and my gifts are for my King.

It is as we follow the teaching of our text that we realise the weakness of our service and the poverty of our gifts. We know not the "more blessedness" of the giver because we do not appreciate what great receivers we have been. And lest we ever forget it, and lest its pull on our souls should weaken, there is the table of the Lord, where we eat, drink and remember. Oh, the tragedy if we eat, drink, and fail to remember—lest we forget."

One thing more in our lesson to-day. Too big for more than a word.

The Crown of Redemption.

The apostle names it. "The blessed hope"; "the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ." So we are back where we began, standing face to face with Jesus Christ. The cross is in the foreground. But it is no longer the cross alone that fills our view. We see Jesus crowned with glory and honor. We are "his own." It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that "when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." The love of Christ constrains us. The cross of Christ subdues the soul to adoration. The coming glory of Christ challenges us to live for the crowning day. We are a people for his own. Let us then rise from the minimum of a formal service and a conventional church membership to the maximum of an overflowing devotion to him, "who died for us," "who gave himself for us."

"How can I, Lord, withhold
Life's brightest hour
From thee, or gathered gold,
Or any power?
Why should I keep one precious thing
From thee
When thou hast given thine own dear self
For me?"

Hamilton Mission, Vic.

THANK YOU.

HAMILTON mission is over and the missioner is impelled to say, Thank you.

First to God. Only those who were present can begin to imagine what he has done.

Then to some wonderful people who really prayed down a remarkable victory. No human being left to himself could have done anything worth while in Hamilton.

Then the "Australian Christian" is a tremendous source of help in that so many people read and then pray; others pray and then read to rejoice in results.

Mildura district must not be overlooked. Because of liberal giving and large vision they will, when their thankoffering is in, help Hamilton to the extent of £100 or more. If the missionaries had not had that amount behind them they would not have dared to stay the extra period. The mission then would not have been half so successful.

The H.M. committee, too, deserves a word. Knowing the field would be difficult any suggestion made was readily responded to. Keen interest as evidenced by Bro. Gale's letters was an inspiration.

Bro. Oarland, the preacher, must not be

overlooked. What a difficult task he had! All things considered, not many have had a harder one. He worked very hard to give us a good start and managed to have 39 at our first meeting. Not all of these were always available to help him, as some car loads came many miles. Every preacher throughout the year has shown that same delightful cooperative spirit.

The surrounding churches did what they could to help. Horsham being the nearest, 85 miles distant, was very interested and loaned their preacher, Bro. Methven.

The missioner hoped to get 120 to break bread on the last Sunday. More than that were present, and almost that number partook. On the Sunday and Monday nights there were more than 20 other decisions. Hence there will be a church with about 150 members meeting in that new building. Is the day of miracles past? The last week was spent in the new building to get the people in the habit of going there. On the last Sunday night the church, school hall and both vestries were filled. There were 97 decisions, amongst them at least 30 husbands and wives. Look at the picture of the men

In this new church, all of whom are in good positions, some of them public men; then try to understand why so many men and others think the matter through, and then before hundreds of people acknowledge their faith in Christ.

gospel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The prayers of the church here will follow the future work of Bro. Hinrichsen with more earnestness as a result of their knowledge of the work which he is able to do through the power of God.—A. Garland.



Groups Photographed at the Hamilton Mission.

All of these decisions and a thank-offering which will relieve the committee of any financial obligation cause Christians to say, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."—E. C. Hinrichsen.

Hinrichsen-Morris at Hamilton.

WE have just come to the close of the outstanding experience of twelve years of full-time ministry. The experience of the past nine weeks will live in the memory as a spiritual mountain peak. From the time that Bro. Hinrichsen and Morris arrived in Hamilton at 10 a.m. on Oct. 8, they took the reins into their hands, and soon had a smooth-flowing organization at work preparing the tent for the meetings of the following day, and distributing the handbills which, to many people, were the first intimation that a mission was to be conducted. By night every car in the street and every house in the town had received a notice that the mission would commence next day, and the marquee was prepared for the meeting. On Oct. 9 the campaign commenced. 39 broke bread during the day, and 115 were present at gospel service. Then every night, Saturdays only excepted, for nine weeks the evangelists proclaimed the gospel by song and by story, until on Dec. 11, 111 broke bread and the average gospel service had grown to 270 for the ten Sundays.

A wonderful time of reaping was experienced, with many fine people, including a remarkable number of husbands and wives, coming to confess their faith in Christ. Very few of those who have been baptised in this campaign have been young people, while the number of people over 40 years of age who made the confession is probably above the average. The church will be left with a very fine group of thoughtful people.

The mission proved a time of inspiration and spiritual uplift for the older members of the church, and many will work with a greater zeal in the future because of the effort.

We look forward to the future with confidence, because of the wonderful uplift which has come through the simple preaching of the

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Walden.

PRO. G. T. WALDEN sends the following account of his golden wedding celebration. Further references to the function appear in our "S.A. News-Letter."

The church gave us quite an ovation on the Sunday morning. We had a telegram from S.A. preachers and messages from a large number of churches and individuals. My military brigade sent a greeting, and so did the Military and Naval Masonic Lodge. We had messages from all over Australia, and our Indian missionaries sent a cable and Miss Wawser gave a message from India. Mr. W. C. Brooker spoke for the State of South Australia. Mrs. Phil. Verco, nee Hazel Clark, and Marcus Clark's daughter, for New South Wales. Alf. Gard, a cousin of mine, was appointed to speak for the Walden clan. Victor LePage spoke for Victoria and Mrs. P. A. Dickson and the absent Victorians. I was very glad to receive a message from Lygon-st., and most of the Lyall family sent good wishes and congratulations. Of course, the entire Rofe family sent messages, and Mr. Rofe a cheque.

The great event was the arrival by plane of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Dickson on the wedding day. Alex. was my best man at my wedding. Mrs. Walden's bridesmaid, nee Mamie Santo, now Mrs. Joe Messent, supported Mrs. Walden, the bride of 50 years ago. I spoke as the half-century bridegroom, and Mrs. Walden gave the speech of the evening; this was the general verdict of our guests. Mr. Lindsay Johnston spoke for our mother church of 50 years ago. My daughters and son-in-law, Mr. Claude Bennett, were the banquet managers, and did their work well. Mr. H. R. Taylor, B.A., spoke for Unley church. The Bardsley family sent us a large box of flannel flowers and Christmas bells from N.S.W. We closed with the doxology and benediction. The advent of P. A. Dickson, my dear chum for 62 years, was a joy we shall never forget. God has been good to us throughout the fifty years and crowned his goodness by giving us the happiest evening of our lives. To all our many loving friends we tender our heartfelt thanks. "Best be the tie that binds us all in Christian love."



Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Walden on their Golden Wedding Day.

Mission at Hollywood, W.A.

THE church at Hollywood is not yet three years old; it is a small work in a growing district. In this important centre Bro. Roy Raymond, the newly-appointed State organiser, has just completed a month's mission. The tent stood on the church block from Nov. 13 to Dec. 13.

Almost every week some of our metropolitan preachers gave a day to visiting the homes of the people, inviting them to hear the gospel, and seeking opportunities of introducing Christ to men and women. The church at Harvey graciously released its preacher to devote himself to this work for a week.

Whilst some of our meetings were small others were large and inspiring. Eleven souls publicly owned Christ, and the church has been greatly blessed.

The clear and faithful preaching of the Word by Bro. Raymond led all to realise the importance of the things of Christ. The plea of Churches of Christ was given its due emphasis. Many have been convicted and many instructed.

Bro. Jefferson Gordon rendered appreciated service as song-leader. His personality born of his devotion to the Lord endeared him to all.

We are grateful to many in sister churches who supported the meetings by regular attendance and their prayers, and to all who helped with music and special messages in song—L. G. Burgin.

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

A HINT OF LIFE.

DON'T look for the flaws as you go through life;

And even when you find them
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind,
And look for the virtues behind them;
For the cloudiest night has a hint of light
Somewhere in the shadows hiding.
It is better by far to hunt for a star
Than the spot on the sun abiding.

The world will never adjust itself
To suit your whims to the letter;
Some things must go wrong your whole life long,
And the sooner you know it the better.
It is folly to fight with the Infinite,
And to go under at last in the wrestle;
The wiser man shapes into God's good plan,
As the water shapes into a vessel.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

GOSSIPING ALONG THE HIGHWAYS.

THE period of greatest growth in church history was in a day when the sword of persecution hung over the church. Then mass meetings were impossible, but the world was evangelised, by the slave whispering to the slave, the baker telling the tanner, the merchant relating the gospel to the sailor. Religion can only be spread successfully when Andrew brings Peter and James tells John.

It has been well said: "The gospel must be gossiped along the highways of commerce and throughout the bazaars and market-places of the world. If every Christian accepted his missionary responsibility and sought to bring his friend and neighbor to Christ, within two years the membership of the Christian church would be doubled. That would be revival! That would be a revival which would not only stand the test of time, but would receive the commendation of Christ himself."

For he who follows Christ must not expect promotion, money, glory, ease, delight;

"But poverty, reproof and self-neglect,
Disgrace, tears, hunger, cold, thirst, scorn,
despite,

Friends, father, mother, brethren, children,
wife,

Must be foregone, yea, lands, and goods, and
life."

"Christ's whole life," said Thomas a Kempis, "was a cross and a martyrdom, and dost thou seek rest and joy for thyself?"—Selected.

WHEN NOT TO TALK.

THE best of us talk too much. "The essence of power is reserve," said a man who knew. Many a reputation has been built on silence. Many a one is spoiled through rushing prematurely and volubly into speech.

It is safe to be silent when your words would wound. "Faithful are the wounds of a friend," says the old proverb, but one wants to be mighty sure one's friend needs the wounding and that we are qualified to administer it.

Keep still when your words will discourage. It is infinitely better to be dumb forever than to make one fellow-being less able to cope with life.

Keep still when your words will incite to anger or discomfort. An incredible amount of breath is used in the evil practice of trying to make our friends dislike their friends.

Never speak when what you have to say is merely for the purpose of exalting yourself.

Shut your lips with a key when you are inspired to babble incontinently of yourself—your ailments, accomplishments, relations, loves, hatreds, hopes and desires. It is only to the choice, rare friend that one may speak of these things without becoming a fool.—Selected.

AN AUDIENCE OF ONE.

I ONCE went three miles through a storm to a meeting," said Dr. Torrey. "Only one other person got there—that was the janitor, the caretaker of the building. The devil said to me, 'Don't have a meeting. Nobody is here but you—the preacher—and the caretaker, who had to come.' I said, 'I've come three miles to have a meeting, and I'm going to have a meeting.'

"I had a meeting. That caretaker was a backslider, and a very bad backslider. He was brought back to God that afternoon, and now he is a preacher."

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

STEP lightly, step softly, he's breathing his last,

His long reign is over, his glory is past;
He's on his deathbed and we're waiting to greet

A little newcomer, cherubic and sweet.

There are tears for the Old Year and smiles for the New,

The Old Year is dying, his moments are few;
The hopes and the dreams he inspired now are fled,

He has laid down his sceptre, the Old Year is dead.

Ring in the New Year with your laughter and shout,

Ring! Ring merry bells, ring the dying year out!
The New Year is standing without in the cold,
His hand grasps the sceptre laid down by the Old.

Ring out, merry bells, let the waning year die,
As he dashed out our hopes, dash the tear from your eye:

Let us welcome the New Year with song and with shout,

Ring in the glad New Year, the Old Year ring out.

—Bertha Hornung.

A LADY!

Skittles, though good-natured enough, was very out-spoken when her temper was roused. Dining with an admirer one evening, a clumsy waiter splashed some gravy over her dress. "I'd like to smack your face, you infernal lout," said she; "you may thank your stars you happen to be waiting on a lady."—From Ralph Nevill's "London and Paris—Past and Present."

POLITICIANS ONLY.

Lord Frederic Hamilton, in "Here, There and Everywhere," writes: "I confess that I have never seen an ostrich bury his head in the sand to blind himself to any impending danger, as he is traditionally supposed to do. I fancy that this is a libel on a fairly sagacious bird, and that in reality the practice is entirely confined to politicians."

Senior.—My, that's a sad-looking library?
Junior.—Why? Because it has panes in the window?

Senior.—No, because the books are in tiers.

The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

TOPIC.—"FISHERS OF MEN."

Monday, December 26.

GO rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.—Matt. 10: 6.

The disciples, like their Lord, were first commissioned to minister to the Jews, but later commanded to go everywhere and preach to everybody.

Reading—Matthew 10: 1-15.

Tuesday, December 27.

From henceforth ye shall catch men.—Luke 5: 10.

These honest fishermen were called to a similar but more important work. They were now to be fishers of men, work requiring similar skill and wisdom, willingness to face perils and endure hardships, and steady perseverance in the pursuit of their efforts to bring human souls to the shore of life eternal.

Reading—Luke 5: 1-11.

Wednesday, December 28.

Go out into the highways and hedges, and constrain them to come in, that my house may be filled.—Luke 14: 23.

An exhortation as fitting to-day as then, and more so in certain instances in which congregations gather and sit snugly whilst they feast upon spiritual food, never putting forth the slightest effort to induce others to come to God's house. If only all Christians were as eager to win souls as tradesmen are to get new customers, the empty or half-filled church building problem would at last be solved.

Reading—Luke 14: 12-24.

Thursday, December 29.

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.—Mark 16: 15.

The imperative order, "Go ye" shows that "we have no right to wait for sinners to come and hear the gospel; we must carry it to them." Whether at home or abroad, we must go to the people. The almost invariable practice to-day is to wait for and bewail the non-appearance of "strangers." The commission reminds us of our duty to mingle with the people, tell them the gospel message, and urge them to accept its claims.

Reading—Mark 16: 14-20.

Friday, December 30.

Lo, we turn to the Gentiles.—Acts 13: 46.

The gospel must be preached to all, yet when men deliberately reject it, preachers must needs "turn their efforts towards others; a man will not long labor on a rocky, barren, sterile soil, when there is near him a rich and fertile valley that will abundantly reward the pains of cultivation."

Reading—Acts 13: 46-52.

Saturday, December 31.

I could wish that I myself were anathema from Christ for my brethren's sake, my kinsmen according to the flesh.—Rom. 9: 3.

This does not mean that Paul was willing to be damned that his kinsmen might be saved, but probably signifies that he would willingly offer his life, foregoing all worldly pleasures and enduring much suffering, even martyrdom, if by such means he could save his countrymen.

Reading—Romans 9: 1-5.

Sunday, January 1.

Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.—Mark 1: 17.

The miracle just wrought was a picture or type of still greater occurrences. Probably Jesus had in mind the great in-gathering of souls at Pentecost and on other occasions. Not all preachers experience such wonderful results, yet none toil in vain, for God gives the increase.

Readings—1 Kings 5: 1-12; Mark 1: 16-28.

"Redeeming the Time."

Ephesians 5: 15-21.

Prayer Meeting Topic for December 28.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

I UNDERSTAND that this word "redeem" means "to purchase" or "to buy up" from the possession or power of anyone. To have it may mean to recover our time lest it be wasted. We must buy up our opportunities. Dr. Moffatt renders it "Make the very most of your time, for these are evil days."

These are Evil Days.

They always have been and will be till Christ reigns supreme. There may be a Nero on the throne or Jerusalem may be besieged; vandals and huns may pour down from the north upon a civilised world; Europe may become dead spiritually, and the voice of a Luther be needed to gather the dead bones and make them live; England may well lose faith, and infidelity be rampant; these are evil days following on the great war, for has there not been a weakening of the ties that bind to God and man's individual worth is esteemed of less value. "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world," is not to be sung by the man who knows even the half of the story of man's sin. All's not right, and never has been since the fall way back in the garden of innocence.

The Time.

For a child it seems a very languid stream. One birthday is far removed from another. For the man of middle life it is a swiftly flowing river, and there seems to be none left in which to provide for old age. For the aged it is a rushing torrent, and it will soon mingle with the ocean of eternity. It is a dream or a vapor. It appears for a little while and is gone. As the grass of the field so it flourisheth and is cut down. And in the course of this something we call time life's opportunities presented never again will return.

Buying Up Opportunities.

Of what kind and for what? Opportunities for making a little more money, of adding to our wealth or opportunities of developing friendships, it may be of enjoyment and pleasure. All kinds of opportunities present themselves.

The best are opportunities of service for the kingdom of God. "Seek ye first the kingdom." We are almost at the end of another year, and as we review it are we satisfied that we made full use of the opportunities as they presented themselves? Yes, we went to church on Sunday morning. Why? To get something good? I am afraid that with many there has been too much the idea of getting instead of using. Unless the sermons had an entertainment value we were not much interested. Perhaps you failed to go to prayer meeting or Christian Endeavor because you would be expected to give rather than to get. You did not think of redeeming the time or buying up the opportunities presented by and in such meetings. You said, "I am so tired and my business is causing me so much anxiety." And you missed the opportunity of replenishing your soul. A friend came to Carey one day and said he wished to speak seriously with him, and Carey said, "What is it?" The friend replied, "By your going about preaching as you do you are neglecting your business." "Neglecting my business!" said Carey. "My business is to extend the kingdom of God, and I only cobbler shoes to pay expenses." Opportunities for service for the kingdom of God. It's no use praying. "Thy kingdom come" unless we are prepared to help bring it in.

TOPIC FOR JANUARY 4.—"I AM THE WAY."—John 4: 1-12.

Our Young People.

Conducted by Keith A. Jones.

The First Christmas.

A Service of Worship for a Junior Department.

Leader: We have spoken of the hopes of the Jewish people for a coming Messiah, and of the prophets who had expressed these hopes. Let us listen to the words of the prophet Micah and his idea of the Messiah or Christ.

Junior: (reads Micah 5: 2, omitting word "Ephrathah.")

Hymn: "O Come, all Ye Faithful" (first two verses).

Leader: As you may imagine, many a Jewish woman looked at her baby in his cradle and hoped he might be the Messiah. It would indeed be a wonderful thing to be the mother of the hero upon whom all the nation had set their hopes. The woman who was chosen as the mother of the Christ was named Mary. We will listen to what she said when the news was announced to her that her son would be the long expected Saviour. His name was to be Jesus.

Junior: When Mary knew that she was the one chosen to be the mother of Jesus she was very happy. I shall read Mary's hymn of praise. Reads Luke 1: 46-55.

Junior: Joseph, Mary's husband, had to go on a journey to Bethlehem—the city of David. He took Mary with him. While they were in Bethlehem the baby Jesus was born (reads Luke 2: 7).

Leader: The baby Jesus was the Messiah or Christ. Every year we remember his birthday, and call it Christmas. That first Christmas day God sent a wonderful gift to Mary. But the gift was not for her alone; it was sent to the whole world.

Junior: (Reads John 3: 16.)

Hymn: "Silent Night" (first two verses).

Leader: There are stories of two groups of people who came to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, the wise men and the shepherds.

Junior: This is the story of the wise men (reads Matt. 2: 1-12).

Leader: The rich wise men came a long way to see Jesus; but some poor folk who lived near Bethlehem were favored just as much. They were shepherds. Let us hear the story.

Junior: three with parts: (Read Luke 2: 8-20.)

Hymn: "While Shepherds Watched."

Prayer: Father, we thank thee for the great gift to all the world on the first Christmas day. We thank thee that, as the rich and the poor, the great and the humble, were welcome at the manger of Bethlehem, so thou dost welcome all of us, thy children, into thy heart to-day. May thy love be born in our hearts, so that we may truly love those we meet, and be of service to someone every day. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

[The scripture readings should be prepared with the supervision of an adult. The preparation needs to be thoroughly done, so that the reading will carry forward the spirit of worship and not hinder it.]

ON Christmas day the Child was born,
On Christmas day in the morning;
He trod the long way, lone and lorn,
He wore the bitter crown of thorn,
His hands and feet and heart were torn,
He died at last the death of scorn.
But through his coming death was slain,
That you and I might live again.
For this the Child of the maid was born
On Christmas day in the morning."

WELCOME, DR. OLDFIELD!

WITHIN a few days Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Oldfield and their two boys, Bill and Ron, will be arriving at Fremantle, and then making their way to Melbourne and Sydney. They are returning for furlough after their second period of six years at Dhond, India. Dr. Oldfield went to Dhond 13 years ago to establish medical mission work on our Indian field. Before entering upon this work he secured the financial support of the young people of Australia. Many organisations and individuals have been most consistent in their support of Dr. Oldfield's medical-evangelistic work. We hope others will join in this most effective method of spreading the good news in "Our India."

A most remarkable development has been made under the doctor's able leadership. A fine dispensary and hospital ward block, together with quarters for missionaries, and Indian nurses, hospital attendants and native evangelists has been built. Money has been given recently for a church building. This is urgently needed as the growing church has long found the waiting room of the hospital too small for services. After meritorious service our workers return home to build up their strength for further work. Our young people in all the churches in each State will give them the heartiest of welcomes, and listen with lively interest to their stories of great victory for Christ at Dhond. As the Oldfields return, let us not forget in prayer or support Dr. and Mrs. Lindsay Michael, who carry on the great work at Dhond.

At the moment—welcome, thrice welcome, Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield, Bill and Ron!

TENNIS ASSOCIATION BANQUET.

A VERY happy company of 90 young people gathered at Thornbury, Vic., on Dec. 10 to join in the first annual banquet of the Churches of Christ Northern Suburbs' Tennis Association. Dr. E. R. Killmier, president of the association, was in the chair, and he was ably assisted by Mr. Ray Anderson, vice-president. The social secretary, Mr. Ray Ellis, and his committee provided a wonderfully fine spread. The merriment and obvious enjoyment of the meal hour indicated the fine spirit of fellowship which had been fostered during the past season. Seven teams had participated in the competition, these being Fairfield, Ivanhoe, Moreland, Northcote, Thornbury ("A" and "B"), West Preston.

Mr. Trevor Howe, secretary of the association, outlined the work of the association from the beginning, and paid tribute to individualism and the teams who had worked hard to make the competitions so enjoyable. Special mention was made of Mr. D. H. Butler, foundation president, now of Wagga, N.S.W. Everybody was sorry to hear that Mr. Butler is at present in hospital. A message of goodwill and sympathy was sent to him.

Mr. Keith Jones, representing the Young People's Department, congratulated the teams on their excellent sportsmanship, and presented the trophy to the winning team—Thornbury "A." Northcote were runners-up. The players in the Thornbury team were Messdames Hammett, Killmier, Misses M. Stone and G. Harvey, and Messrs. G. Argo, R. Booth, W. E. Jackel and Dr. Killmier. Representatives of the competing teams extended congratulations to the premiers. Dr. Killmier gave a brief message on the aims and ideals of the association, stressing the fact that its chief aim was the fostering of Christian brotherhood.

Here and There.

A HAPPY Christmas and a bright New Year to all readers. May 1939 be full of service and crowned with blessing.

"Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee."

As mentioned before, this will be our last issue for the year. Will church reporters note that our next number will be published on January 4, and that we request that not more than one report be sent from any church between this date and January 2.

This would be a good time for new readers to begin to receive "The Australian Christian." Preachers and secretaries would oblige us and help the work by recommending members to take our one weekly paper regularly. Copies may be secured through the local agent or direct from Austral Publishing Co.

We regret to announce the death on Wednesday, Dec. 14, of Mrs. Simpson, an esteemed member of the church at Swanston-st., Melbourne. She was a sister of Bro. Robt. Lyall, chairman of directors of Austral Co. and College Board. To all those who sorrow for the time because of the parting with a loved one, sincere Christian sympathy is tendered.

The Rationalist Association of Australia Ltd. has been having unhappy times. Mr. J. S. Langley, secretary and lecturer, made an appeal to the courts that the company be wound up on the ground that its business could not be properly carried on. Some remarkable evidence, showing internal trouble, was tendered. The court refused to make an order for the winding up of the association.

We regret to learn that Miss Gwen Mitchell, daughter of Bro. and Sister Geo. Mitchell, of Malvern, Vic., met with a serious accident last week. With a fellow teacher of Maffra school, Gippsland, our sister was motoring between Sale and Maffra. It appears that a cyclonic wind must have overturned the car. Her companion was killed, but Miss Mitchell escaped with injuries. She is now at her home.

Bro. Larsen (Rosewood) conducted an eight-days' mission with the church at Ma Ma Creek, Qld. There were five confessions and one re-consecration. A new field of work has been started at West Haldon, about 20 miles from Ma Ma Creek. Fortnightly meetings are held by Bro. Miller, and a Sunday school has been started with ten scholars. Bro. Miller has been re-engaged for a term of twelve months with an increase in salary.

Dr. Jan. Cook was well known to a great number of our readers. His work in Bendigo, Vic., during the early days of the establishment of the cause in that city is held in grateful remembrance. For some years our brother was in retirement. We regret to report that he passed away on Sunday morning at Geelong, where a little time ago he underwent an operation. Mrs. Cook and her loved ones have the sympathy of many Christian friends.

At annual church business meeting at Lidecombe, N.S.W., on Dec. 14, reports from secretary, treasurer and auxiliaries showed steady work maintained. A resolution was carried instructing officers to have trust deeds put in order in accordance with Property Management Act, also authorising church to be responsible for new building at Carramar. Bro. H. E. Le Cornu was re-elected secretary and Bro. E. A. Stevenson treasurer. Bro. W. Armstrong was elected Bible school superintendent for twelfth year. All other officers were re-appointed. The meeting agreed to endorse officers' recommendation that a circuit be formed with Lidecombe-Bankstown and Carramar. Bro. Crossman addressed both services on Dec. 18.

In announcing the new address of A. R. Main, editor of this paper, viz., 35 Scott-grove, Glen Iris, S.E.6, Vic., we wish to remind readers that all literary matter for "The Australian Christian" should be forwarded to him, care of Austral Publishing Co. Will correspondents please note that letters regarding the work of the College of the Bible should not be addressed to A. R. Main, but either to the organising secretary (F. T. Saunders, 99 Queen-st., Melbourne); or, if intended for College principal, to T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip. Ed., who will shortly be in residence at the College.

Christian people are remembering in their prayers the World Missionary Conference being held at Madras, India, from Dec. 12 to 29. The delegates, numbering 450, come from sixty countries. Half are from the younger churches, and it is desired that one-third be under thirty-five years of age. A number of our American brethren will be present. China is sending sixty; Japan, twenty-five, including Kagawa; Australia has sent five members. Dr. John R. Mott has been chairman of the International Missionary Council since its inception. He has visited almost every country in the world, and is, perhaps, the foremost leader of missionary thought to-day.

The Chinese Mission, Queensberry-st., Melbourne, concluded its year's work with a social on Dec. 15. Bro. D. Gow, secretary of the church, gave a talk, and stated that five members had been added during the year. One of the scholars conveyed thanks to the teachers for their help. An offering of £1/12/- was made for relief of Chinese suffering through the war. A Christmas treat was provided for children of the Bible school on Dec. 17. Bro. T. Hagger gave a very helpful address to the church on the 18th. It was more than twenty years since his last visit. Attendance was larger than usual. The mission will resume teaching on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

We wish to thank all who have helped us so well during the past year. Particularly we mention those who have conducted regular departments of the paper—Bren. H. J. Patterson, M.A.; K. A. Jones, W. W. Saunders, J. C. F. Pittman, G. J. Andrews and W. H. Clay—and writers of State News-Letters. We are grateful also to the many writers who have supplied useful articles for the benefit of our readers. Their help, and that of others, will be appreciated in the new year. The valued help of church reporters and our faithful agents is gratefully acknowledged. Lastly, we express thanks for the unflinching kindness and courteous assistance of our publishers, the manager and all employees of the Austral Publishing Co.

Bro. H. Hargreaves, preacher of Echuca church, Vic., writes: "The value of our Social Service Department was demonstrated in a practical manner in this town a few days ago. Because of a serious objection raised, two children, orphans, were removed from the custody of the grandmother. The charges laid had been withheld from the children's guardian and no information was available. Our Brother Clay was able to confer with the Children's Welfare Department, and the case was re-investigated, with the result that the children have been returned to their home. Both children are Junior Christian Endeavorers and Bible school scholars. There is real joy in one home at least over a very serious act of injustice which has been righted."

With a view to solving some problems peculiar to the church at Boondall, the Northern Suburbs Circuit Committee, Qld., has arranged for Bro. J. Larsen to have the oversight of the church for several months from Dec. 18. He will do most of the preaching, and the secre-

tarial work. Arrangements have been made by the home mission committee for Bro. K. A. Macnaughtan to hold a tent mission at Kedron from first Sunday in March to the first in April, 1939.

W. Gale writes: "The president of conference, Mr. T. R. Morris, and the writer conducted an induction service at Maryborough on Saturday night, Dec. 17, marking commencement of the ministry of Mr. C. Cole. Mr. Morris delivered his address on "Stewardship" at morning service, after which the party returned to Melbourne. Up to Tuesday, Dec. 20, 94 churches had reported offerings in connection with the home mission annual appeal, totalling £932/11/4. These same churches last year gave £1054/5/10."

Following on the Legislative Council's carrying an amendment moved by Mr. Chandler to the Night Trotting Bill that betting be not allowed, the government has announced that the bill will be dropped. An unsuccessful attempt was made by Mr. Beckett to have the night sale of liquor permitted, and another to allow tote betting even if ordinary betting were not permitted. The strenuous attempts by the liquor and gambling fraternities to further their business should arouse advocates of reform to greater efforts.

ADDRESSES.

J. Larsen (preacher Boondall church, Qld.).—Eildon-rd., Windsor, N.3.
A. R. Main (editor of "The Australian Christian")—35 Scott-grove, Glen Iris, S.E.6, Vic.

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THANKS.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Walden wish to thank the many kind friends for their much appreciated letters, telegrams and flowers, and for their good wishes and congratulations on their golden wedding, December 12, 1938.

COMING EVENTS.

JANUARY 11 (Wednesday).—Lygon-st. chapel, 8 p.m. Brotherhood welcome to Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Oldfield and family. Make this a gathering worthy of our representatives. Young people's organisations especially urged to come and hear the story of Dbond Hospital.

WANTED.

Kind person, preferably in country, who would care for girl (11) for part or whole of school holidays; special circumstances. Apply Social Service Dept., 241 Flinders-lane, Melbourne.

SORRENTO, VICTORIA.

To let, house, furnished, diningroom, breakfastroom, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, every convenience, garage, close front beach. "Earlsden," Kerferd-rd., Sorrento. Phone, WX 2248.

VISITORS TO FRANKSTON.

The Church of Christ invites you to the services each Lord's day at 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Cordial welcome to all. Preacher, R. V. Amos.

CHURCH OF CHRIST BLANTYRE AVENUE, CHELSEA.

Service 11 a.m. Worship; 3 p.m., Bible School; 7 p.m., Gospel Service.

Visiting members and friends cordially invited.

News of the Churches.

TASMANIA.

West Hobart.—Since Bro. Bate's return to New Zealand, the speaking has been done by Bro. T. Street, a missionary home on furlough, and the local brethren. Meetings have been well attended. Home mission offering is £8/13/6. Work is in a healthy condition. An increase campaign for the school is being planned.

Launceston.—Attendances and interest have been maintained. During absence of Bro. Lowe in hospital the platform on Nov. 27 was filled by Messrs. P. J. Byard and A. Menzies (city missionary). Bro. Lowe has fully recovered after operation. Bible school increase campaign resulted in 25 new scholars for school and the same number added to cradle roll. Average attendance at school is 100. Bro. van Herde addressed morning meeting on Dec. 4, when members of home mission committee were visiting churches in the State. Home mission offering, £18 (incomplete). Sisters K. Skirving and T. Neilson are still in hospital. On Dec. 18, in the morning, an "every member present service" was held. 138 were present, and 154 broke bread during the day. Bro. Lowe gave a splendid message on "Filling the Gap." Visitors included Miss Munro, Fairfield Park, Vic.; Miss Ballard, N.Z.; Mrs. Hillhouse, Lane Cove, Sydney. Offerings for the day were for organ fund. A Christmas service was held at night. The choir rendered splendid music. Bro. Lowe delivered a fine address on "Jesus, the Messiah." A baptised believer was received into fellowship. On Dec. 17 the kindergarten were given a Christmas tree and party.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Collie-Kwington.—Bible school has contributed toward the Christmas tree for the natives and the State young people's work. Both C.E. societies have assisted the work of evangelising the natives.

Northam.—Meetings continue good. Bro. Bamford giving the addresses. Dec. 4 was celebrated as youth Sunday, and Dec. 7 as youth night. Both proved a great success. Nov. 27 was Loyal Orange Lodge Sunday, and a march and service were held.

Perth (Lake-st.).—Meetings continue to be helpful. There have been several confessions recently. The church expresses deepest sympathy to Bro. J. Ewers and family in the sudden call home of Sister J. Ewers. Bro. J. Stone is still seriously ill. Several members are steadily regaining health after illness. Aged Sister Silvester is no longer able to meet with the church, and several members have fellowship with her around the table set up at her home. Bro. and Sister Dean are back from Africa. Church regrets having to accept the resignation of Bro. Allen Brooke, who has accepted a call to Ann-st., Brisbane. The church appreciates the action of the H.M. committee in allowing Bro. Raymond to help with part-time service until a successor to Bro. Brooke is appointed.

QUEENSLAND.

Rockhampton.—The C.E. held a successful social recently. S.S. children were entertained at a social evening, and a Christmas tree brought joy to kinders. A memorial service to late Bro. G. Cooke was well attended on Dec. 11. The church has suffered a serious loss in the passing of four of its members during last six months. Bro. H. Watson gave an appreciated address at morning service recently. Mid-week prayer meeting recently had 38 present. Home mission offering showed a considerable increase over previous years.

Gympie.—The Bible school anniversary was celebrated on Dec. 4. On afternoon of 11th Bro. Vanham conducted an open-air baptismal service at Goomborian, when three were bap-

tised. On the same date he spoke both morning and evening at Monkland, when the anniversary of the Bible school was celebrated. Bro. C. S. Trudgian spoke at Gympie on "The Divine Arithmetic." Bro. Vanham will terminate his ministry on Jan. 29 to take up the work at Bounah. The church sympathises with Sister Blackburn and family in the passing of Mr. W. Blackburn.

Toowoomba.—On Nov. 26 and 27 Bro. Macnaughtan, State evangelist, visited Toowoomba for S.S. anniversary. The women's mission band organised a welcome fellowship tea, which was followed by S.S. concert and prize-giving. On morning of Nov. 27 Bro. Macnaughtan spoke on home missions. He gave a children's talk in the afternoon at the kindergarten and cradle roll session. Mrs. Macnaughtan and Ruth were also present. After three years' ministry with the church, Bro. A. W. Ladbrook has intimated that he will not be available for re-engagement when his term expires early in 1939.

Annerley.—Bro. P. C. D. Alcorn, B.A., spoke on home missions on Dec. 4. Offering to date is £11. Bro. F. and Sister Collins spoke to guild on Dec. 6, and received tokens of appreciation for past helpful fellowship. At church Christmas social on Dec. 7, a useful wedding gift was presented Sister Betty Robinson, an excellent Bible school teacher. The church's sympathy is extended to Sister Keogan at the passing on Dec. 9 of Bro. P. J. Keegan, forty years a member in far north. Sister Ethel F. Elvery and Mr. Kenneth Foster were married in the chapel on Dec. 10. Bro. N. G. Noble officiating. On Dec. 11 the preacher immersed a young woman who had confessed Christ at Bro. Macnaughtan's mission service at Stone's Corner.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Victor Harbour.—A number of members have sent Christmas gifts toward our needed church home. Local interest is growing, and the erection of our own building will be a tremendous advantage to the work.

Dulwich.—Baptistery railings, provided by Mrs. Morrow as a memorial to Bro. W. Morrow, form a substantial improvement to the chapel. The baptistery has been renovated. Bren. A. Anderson, C. Schwab and Bensley have assisted church since departure of Bro. Norris. Tennis club has begun a series of socials to raise money for court improvements.

Walseley.—The church anniversary was held on Dec. 11 with good attendances. Bro. Russell's afternoon message was on "The Church Described in the Book"; evening, "Seeking a Bride." Vocal and educational items were appreciated. On Dec. 15 the Sunday school children had a happy time at Christmas tree in the institute, provided by teachers and parents.

Owen.—Three members of the Alma church, now closed, have been received into fellowship. In the mission at Gawler Bro. McDowell was a very practical helper, and others attended meetings. At annual Christmas party on Dec. 17, every S.S. scholar received a gift. A united Christmas service was held in Institute Hall on Dec. 18. Anthems were rendered by united choir under baton of Bro. W. J. Marshman. Bro. W. W. McDowell was preacher.

Hindmarsh.—On Dec. 18 Bro. A. Anderson brought the church appreciated "Christmas Meditations." At night a Christmas song service was held for Hindmarsh Town Mission, choir rendering special anthems. Bro. J. Holden sang a solo and two visiting young ladies a duet. An offering was received for the mission Christmas cheer. After Bro. W. W. Saunders' message a girl from Bible school, Ethel Weeks, made the good confession.

Seamphore.—On Dec. 18, 80 broke bread. Choir rendered five Christmas anthems and carols.

At a special church meeting it was decided to raise the preacher's salary 10/- week. Sisters' guild gave an afternoon to elderly folk on Dec. 14. Kindergarten held its Christmas tree on 17th with splendid attendance of mothers and children. Miss Gwen Tirrell is the successful superintendent. She is also church organist. C.E. societies held combined social on 17th.

Bordertown.—Since jubilee celebrations, services have been well attended and work in all departments well maintained. Bro. Neville, organiser of Protestant Children's Home, on Dec. 11 gave an address at gospel service. On Dec. 18 Bro. Harold Howell exhorted, and Bro. Russell preached at night. Bro. and Sister Russell are commencing their fifth year of ministry with the churches of Bordertown district circuit. Sister Evelyn Veitch was received by transfer from Balaklava on Dec. 11.

Henley Beach.—Work is progressing favorably. Bro. Jones is doing good service among the young people. On Nov. 22, a sacred concert was held in aid of Sunday school picnic, £2/10/- being raised. The picnic was held at Long Gully on Dec. 3. Phi Beta Pi gave junior Red Cross children a Christmas party on Dec. 10. Each child received a gift from the tree and later had tea. Bro. A. Lawrie is in hospital, and recovering slowly. Sister J. R. Lawrie has had the misfortune to break her leg, which is mending slowly.

Port Elliott.—Breaking of bread services, commenced in local court house on Dec. 18, at 9.45 a.m., will be continued through the holiday period and may be permanently. An after-church service at 8.30 p.m. was attended by forty people, including three car-loads from Goolwa. Mr. Darbyshire rendered a solo, and after an address by Bro. Manning a young lady made the good confession. Bro. W. L. Ewers congratulated the churches represented on the united effort, and brought a happy day to a close by thanksgiving prayer.

Queenstown.—On Dec. 11 Bro. Brooker gave the exhortation, and at night preached on "B.C." On Dec. 10 the sunshine club held their last meeting for the year. The children received ice creams and sweets. About 100 adults and children were present. On Dec. 13 the girls' wattle club gave their Christmas social to older members, about 40 enjoying the evening. On Dec. 14 the kindergarten met for a happy Christmas tree party. Christmas services were held on Dec. 18. Mr. Saunders, from Hindmarsh, addressed the young people at 10 a.m., and exhorted the church, when building was packed. At night Bro. Brooker's subject was "The Birth of Christ." Choir rendered Christmas music. The building was crowded. Bro. J. Challenger collapsed on Dec. 15 and is very ill. Bro. Owen Hall has had to be taken to Adelaide Hospital. During the last fortnight three members have received the home-call—Sister Dowling, a great sufferer for several years; Bro. Dowsett, after having spent the last twelve months in Keswick Military Hospital; and Sister Belton, at the age of 85, a member for 68 years, having been baptised at the age of 18 years by Bro. Judd at Stirling East. Sympathy goes to those who mourn.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rockdale.—Meetings are well attended. Several visitors were at gospel service on Dec. 18. A married lady made the good confession. Kinders were given Christmas party on Dec. 17.

Carramar.—At a Christmas tree on Dec. 17 a large number of scholars and friends were present. The school is now meeting in the new building under superintendency of Bro. E. A. Stevenson. Evening services will commence on Jan. 1.

Albury.—C.E. gave a free concert and supper on Dec. 14 which were splendidly conducted. Mrs. and Mr. Chivell were presented with a Christmas hamper on behalf of Endeavorers by their superintendent. There were three decisions during past month.

(Continued on page 812.)

Foreign Missions.

Conducted by
A. Anderson, 261 Magill Rd., Trammere, S.A.

OVERDRAFT REDUCTION.

FOR some time past it has been felt that the deduction of 10 per cent. on general income was not achieving any good purpose. When the emergency financial conference met in 1932 and formulated this policy its aim was twofold:

1. That 10 per cent. be deducted from income and a sinking fund be created; its objective being to wipe out the overdraft in about ten years.

2. That the States would endeavor to raise sufficient funds to enable us to carry on the work and enable this sum to be set aside.

For over five years the 10 per cent. was deducted from general income, but the overdraft was not reduced because the tax of 10 per cent. was too high to stand the strain. In other words, the sinking fund credit only grew at one end and drove the overdraft up at the other. At the end of 1933 the overdraft stood at £2843, but at the end of 1934—probably the worst year in the history of our overseas enterprise—the overdraft stood at £4895. Since this time a gradual increase in income allowed for expansion in India and the New Hebrides, but was not adequate to make any reduction in the overdraft. At the end of this financial year the overdraft stood at £4868, a slight decrease on the preceding year. The position reveals that during the past four years we have nearly held our own, since the net overdraft only increased £63 during this period. The State committees have stood loyally behind the Board during the period outlined, but realised some change was desirable. During Federal Conference representatives of the States and Federal Board met and agreed that general income be not subject to a deduction of 10 per cent., but that some adequate plan be substituted to bring about overdraft reduction and meet current liabilities. The State F.M. committees have now agreed to the Board's proposal that 5 per cent. interest be paid on endowments, and that this money be paid into the sinking fund. As this interest charge must be met out of general account, it will be seen that income must meet all current liabilities or the scheme will result in failure. There are three ways in which the brotherhood can help us in the matter of overdraft reduction.

1. By liberal and generous giving throughout the whole year so that Board will be enabled to pay current expenses and meet the interest due on endowments.

2. By giving a definite sum for endowment. Endowment money could be given during one's lifetime or by bequest. The endowment fund is helping us in our aim to consolidate No. 2 A/c., and by our new procedure will, at the same time, help to reduce the overdraft. During the past six months the sum of £566 has been given to this fund.

3. By a special gift earmarked for overdraft reduction. Some prefer this method, as instanced by the fact that over £260 has been thus given.

Since the beginning of the depression no time has been more favorable than the present for an advance move. This new year should be the beginning of a new era. The No. 2 A/c. is in a better position than it has ever been; the China overdraft of £540 has been cleared off, and a loan of £260 paid, and last year, despite extra heavy commitments, our general account nearly balanced its budget. Thus we have confidence that the brotherhood will help us in our endeavor to place our finances on a sound footing, and carry on our overseas work in an aggressive manner.

PRAYER PARTNERS.

OUR missionaries have felt that in a more definite way the homeland should be linked with our mission fields. It gives courage and inspiration to our workers to know they are remembered and God will bless their efforts when the people of the homeland are earnest in prayer. All our State committees are behind this effort and commend it to the churches. Prayer partners are asked to pledge themselves to pray every day for overseas work. For guidance the following items are suggested:

1. That we may catch the vision of the untouchables of India, and others, for Christ, and having caught the vision be used of God to help others catch it.

2. That every avenue and opportunity of service may be explored and carefully followed in the winning of these people for Christ.

3. That there may be a steady flow of income into the treasury for the maintenance of our overseas work, without interference with other brotherhood interests, and that wisdom be given in the using of these gifts.

4. That God in his mercy may help us to remove the necessity of any overdraft or loan for our overseas work.

Right at the commencement of the new year let us dedicate ourselves afresh to his service and lift up our hearts in prayer for the missionaries and the work to which they have devoted their lives.

BAPTISM AT DHOND.

THE last chapter of Matthew has just been read, with its closing words uttered by the Master, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," and there comes to mind the picture of an Indian woman having owned Christ as her Lord, publicly obeying him in baptism. It is not in a baptistery, nor in a church building. It is on the mission compound at Dhond. The day is Wednesday, and the hour shortly after 5 p.m., when the mid-weekly prayer meeting is held. There is yet no chapel at Dhond and no baptistery. A group of people are standing out in the open around a small "haud." This is a small censored well, only about four feet deep, commonly used out here by the gardeners as reservoirs for their water. Men, women and children are standing around, mostly Indians. Some are church members. Some are interested spectators. The folk are provided with hymnbooks, and our Indian preacher

takes charge of the service. The singing and speaking is all in the Marathi tongue, and the service is conducted on very much the same lines as a baptismal service in Australia. And so because of the support of the brotherhood in Australia and their obedience to the great commission of our Lord, in "Our India" in this garden "haud," and before many witnesses, another woman follows her Lord.—L. J. Michael.

EVANGELISTIC SURVEY.

NEW eras demand that changes be made in methods. The past few years in India have been of real heart-searching to mission leaders because of the mighty challenges presented to them. It would not be unexpected now if whole masses in India were literally swept into the kingdom. The stirring among the masses has called for a greater spirit of co-operation, and no efforts are being spared in conserving all available man-power and machinery to a well-directed and united effort to win India for Christ. To this end evangelistic survey parties are moving around in special areas. The strength and weakness of any field is thus portrayed. Our people in the homeland will rejoice to know that these advisors stress above all the dominant note of evangelism. This survey party have been in our area, and whilst their report is not to hand, Dr. Oldfield has told something concerning their visit.

Last week we had a visit from the evangelistic survey party appointed by the National Christian Council. I am sure that we have greatly benefited from the visit, for the party have examined the type of work we are doing and, at our request, have made a number of criticisms of it and suggestions for re-alignment on certain lines. The survey has been started with the idea of finding out just what sort of evangelistic work is being done by the various missions in this part of India and finding out what is the reason that we do not get the large number of converts that are obtained in some other areas. It is well realised that differences of environment and general conditions mean a great deal, but it is also suspected that different methods would make a difference in results. It has come to us at the psychological moment, when our attention is so much concentrated on the evangelistic side of our work, and the suggestions that have been made will be of great use to us. The survey party think that we are doing a good work, but that the value of the work can be improved if we have a little more concentration on the places which are showing response. They think we are trying to do too much with the staff that we have available. They were especially pleased with the work among the Criminal Tribes at Baramati, and think that with careful handling we should be able to convert the whole of these tribes in this area. Following on Dr. Pickett's talks, the visit has been most helpful to us.

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Our Book Table.

THE GOSPEL OF THE DAWN.

The name of Alexander Frazer is well known to many of our readers, who recall with pleasure his visit to Australia some years ago. He has been in great demand as preacher and convention speaker, and his work has blessed many. In one volume there have been gathered seven Gospel addresses, five convention addresses, and three special addresses, the themes of the last group being "Address to Christian Workers," "An Evangelistic Campaign Before and After," and "The Observance of the Lord's Day." The whole volume is interesting, and readers are sure to be stimulated by a reading of such addresses as "What Shall the Answer Be?" "Christ Crucified the Power of God"; "Fed Up"; "The Challenge of Christ"; "Lying to the Holy Ghost," etc. The author has a forceful message and a gift of illustration. Some may find in the book the secret of Mr. Frazer's successful ministry. The price of the volume is 3/9, posted 4/-.

"EVERGREEN."

"Evergreen and Other Near-East Bible Talks" is the title of a book of Bible talks given to oriental Christians by Mr. A. T. Upson ("Abdul Fady," or "Servant of the Redeemer"). An interesting selection of Mr. A. T. Upson's outlines is given in this readable volume. The author and his work are praised highly by Dr. S. M. Zwemer. Amongst the themes treated are The Deity of Christ, The Fruit of the Spirit, The Holy Spirit, The Problem of Guidance. The price of the volume is 3/-, posted 3/3.

The above books are from Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd., of London.

"DAILY STRENGTH."

Faithful Thornton's booklets of verse are now so familiar to our readers that it will suffice to state that her newest booklet, "Daily Strength," published by Pickering and Inglis, Ltd., of London, maintains the high level of its predecessors. There is a text with a poem for every day for a month. The book breathes a beautiful spirit of faith and devotion. It gives, as it professes to do, "messages of help and strength for life's work." The price is 9d., posted 10d.

"WITH CHAINS OF GOLD."

Miss Naomi Collins, whose earlier booklets of poems—"The Twilight Hour," "Face to Face" and "Home Links"—have previously been mentioned in our columns, has just issued another collection of verse bearing the title "With Chains of Gold." The little volume of 82 pages is very attractively produced by the Spectator Publishing Co. The poems are pleasing, and there is a strong religious faith running through all. It is a pity that the price (caused doubtless by smallness of edition) is so high; 3/6, posted 3/7.

Queensland News-letter.

H. G. Payne.

A New Record.

THE first Golden Casket winner to refuse to take a prize has materialised in the person of Mr. Reg. Kirkgarde, of Manly, who as a Christian refuses to have the £1000 prize of a 1/- share in the casket. He had done a service to a Wynnum resident, who in gratitude bought a ticket in his name. He has given £500 to this lady, and £250 each to the Wynnum Ambulance Centre and the local sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers' League.

The Norman Stuart Miller Memorial.

A representative committee of citizens, convened by the officials of St. Andrew's Presby-

terian Church, has inaugurated a fund by public subscription to commemorate the services of this notable leader.

Over and above the question of an immediate gift to Mr. Miller's family, the committee hopes to raise a fund sufficient to establish a scholarship at both the Brisbane Boys' College and the Somerville House School for Girls, which will be held by Mr. Miller's children for the period of their educational life, and thereafter be open for public competition, and tenable at the colleges of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association.

In addition it is hoped to establish an annual prize for a thesis on a subject connected with the History and Ideals of the Reformed Church.

Columbarium at Brisbane.

What is believed to be the first place of sepulture for the ashes of the cremated has been completed at Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Woolloongabba, and was dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 20. A brick crypt 30 ft. by 26 ft. has been converted for this purpose, and has 950 niches for the depositing of urns holding ashes. The steadily increasing popularity of cremation probably will lead to the establishing of other columbaria.

A Birthday Gift.

Two years ago Mr. Geo. Marchant, who is famed for his philanthropy, gave to the Central Methodist Mission the garden settlement for old people at Chermide. To celebrate his 81st birthday he is erecting nine new homes there. His total benefactions to the settlement then will be over £16,000, while the C.M.M. has put £2000 into the homes. There are 21 women and 24 men, whose ages range from 67 to 90 years, living in the neat little cottages which dot the settlement amid lawns and flowers. On Nov. 23 the Governor of Queensland sent the first ball down a bowling green which he declared open. A croquet lawn for the ladies is envisaged.

"They shall mount up with wings as Eagles."

Dr. G. Albery is the Australian Inland Mission flying doctor at Cloncurry. In the past four years his medical service has covered an area as large as N.S.W., in which he has flown a distance equal to six times round the earth. Not only are treatment given and operations performed by direct contact, but by wireless, pedal wireless sets being used by the out-back people. Diagnosis by questioning and treatment by instructions include minor operations, such as infected wounds.

Bro. F. Collins.

Bro. Collins leaves for Adelaide on Dec. 26, after a successful ministry at Ann-st., which began under difficult conditions and ended with the church in an excellent position in every sense of the term. Not only has he left the church indebted to him for its progress, but he leaves material monuments of his ministry in the interior of the chapel which has been beautified and transformed. The brotherhood loses by his going, for he has held important conference offices, including that of president. The church life of Brisbane is also at a loss, the sense of which was very aptly expressed in word and deed by the Council of Churches, when our brother was presented with a volume expressive of their good wishes, and in appreciation of his fellowship and help. Bro. Allen Brooke, of Perth, W.A., will succeed him at Ann-st.

Greetings.

Queensland wishes the other States and New Zealand a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Still as the day comes round,

For thee to be revealed,

By watchful shepherds thou art found.

—John Keble.

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News of the Churches.

(Continued from page 809.)

Dumbleton.—On Dec. 11 Bro. O'Connor baptised a sister who was received into church membership on 18th. Annual Christmas tree for kinders was held on 17th. All services and auxiliaries are well supported, and a good spiritual tone is evident.

North Sydney.—On Dec. 18 Bro. Larcombe addressed morning meeting and Bro. Nance-Rivell preached at night. Gratitude was expressed for presence of Bro. Paternoster after nine weeks' absence through a painful illness. Help given by visiting speakers has been greatly appreciated. Sister Mrs. McFarlane has also returned home from hospital, but Sister Mrs. Aupince is still an inmate in hospital at Manly. Junior Endeavor society conducted a well used gift and mail box.

Broken Hill.—Bro. Arnold gave two very fine addresses at Wolfram-st. on Dec. 11. At night two young Bible school scholars made the good confession. Bro. A. Clark exhorted the church at Railwaytown. The C.E. society held a social evening to conclude the year's activities on Dec. 13. On Dec. 15 a spiritual rally was held at Wolfram-st. Mr. Edgar Arnold, of Sulphide-st. Methodist church, was speaker. Mr. E. Arnold conducted the meeting preceding the address.

Marrickville.—Good meeting on morning of Dec. 18. Bro. Alcorn was speaker, and visitors were present. Marks awarded to those who sat for fourth division of Bible school examination were made available; Marrickville added two more prizes to its long list. At monthly Bible class tea in afternoon, guests of honor were Bro. and Sister T. H. Lewis, who gave good messages. At an unusually large meeting at night, Bro. Wakeley gave a fine message on "The Incomparable Christ."

Bangalow and Circuit.—Doreas society's parcel for summer months has been despatched to headquarters, and sisters are congratulated on the fine collection of 160 garments. At quarterly business meeting of Bangalow church on Dec. 5 Bro. K. J. Keevens presided. It was decided to open a building fund for the church at Bangalow, donations being purely voluntary. It was also decided to hold a Christmas tree for Sunday school scholars on Dec. 19. Bro. Weir has returned from his monthly visit to Tyalgum district.

Moosman.—On Dec. 11 G. E. Burns exhorted on "Go Forward"; at night he preached on "The Holy Feast." On 18th, in absence of Bro. Burns and family on holidays, W. J. Caldecoat officiated the church on "King of the Jews, Sovereign of the World"; his evening gospel message was "Paul's Paradox." Ladies' aid concluded year by entertaining the deacons, when church treasurer was handed £10 for building fund and £5 for renovation work. The report indicated many other activities, including support of home and foreign missions and boys' home. Mrs. Burns was presented with a clock in recognition of her leadership.

Paddington.—During Bro. Greenbald's absence conducting a week's mission at Hurstville, Bro. J. Rosser and T. Newbury conducted evening services, enjoyed by good attendances. Bro. Greenbald on 18th addressed very good meetings. At night the Bible school children rendered special music, and prizes gained in re-examination of Bible school young people's division were presented. Keith Larcombe is dux of Bible school this year. All passes were very good, with some Federal prizes. C.E. society held a Christmas break-up last week, and kindergarten and cradle roll department had a tree and party on Dec. 17 with attendance of parents and children of about 100.

VICTORIA.

Gardenvale.—On Dec. 10, Endeavorers visited homes of aged sisters. Mr. McCullough spoke at all services on Dec. 18 to good meetings. On 19th a social was held by Endeavorers and Y.P. club to get toys for Cumeroogunga mission.

Northcote East.—The church has been encouraged by the confession of a lady who has been attending for some time. Others are not far from the kingdom. On Dec. 18 Bro. McLaughlyn gave a fine gospel message on "The Only Name."

Ivanhoe.—Bro. Hayden McCallum spoke at both services on Dec. 18 on themes appropriate to the season. Kinders with their mothers spent a delightful time on Dec. 17 at a Christmas tree entertainment arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Smith.

Ascot Vale.—There were good meetings on Dec. 18, when Christmas services were held. Clubs held suitable evenings to wind up for the year. Ladies' auxiliary held first birthday party on 13th; they have been instrumental in raising £59/10/- during the year.

Red Cliffs.—The C.E. held first social on Dec. 9. On Dec. 11 Bro. Lloyd Brown was evening speaker. Children's tea and Christmas tree were held on Dec. 13. Bro. J. K. Martin gave thoughtful addresses on Dec. 18. Sympathy of the church is with Bro. A. L. Martin in his bereavement.

Dandenong.—The church appreciated two helpful addresses entitled "Homely Precepts" and "Glad Tidings of Great News" from Bro. Lewis on Dec. 18. Kindergarten scholars presented a Christmas tableau to their mothers at Sunday school on Dec. 18. Sunday school has closed for a fortnight.

Fitzroy (Gore-st.).—On Dec. 18 Bro. Streader spoke at both services. At night he also conducted song service in absence of Bro. Will Mildern, who was indisposed. Y.P. conducted nice meeting on Dec. 14. Bro. Streader being speaker. Several donations have been given for kinders' Christmas tree.

Middle Park.—At gospel service on Dec. 11 a young lady was baptised. She was received into fellowship on Dec. 18, when Bro. Robinson spoke at both services. There was a special Christmas service at night. A duet by Sister G. Annear and Bro. R. Tromp was enjoyed.

Horsham.—Keen interest has been shown in a series of addresses by Bro. J. Methven on "The Second Coming of Christ, Its Relation to Present World Conditions." A kitchen tea was tendered to Sister Ray Leng on Dec. 14. During the 12 days' assistance by Bro. Methven at Hamilton mission, services were taken by local brethren.

Oakleigh.—On Dec. 18 Bro. Mudge addressed both services. There was a parade of K.S.P. and P.B.P. clubs at night. The choir rendered three carols and an anthem. On Dec. 12 the K.S.P. and P.B.P. clubs gave a concert and supper. Sister Mrs. Brown, sen., received the home-call on Dec. 18. Members extend deep sympathy.

Ormond.—On Dec. 15 the P.B.P. and K.S.P. clubs wind-up social was enjoyed. Bro. C. L. Lang gave a very fine message on morning of Dec. 18. 88 broke bread for the day. At gospel service 91 were present, when Bro. Lang gave a Christmas message. The choir, under baton of Bro. N. Waters, rendered two anthems, and Sister Mrs. Loring sang a solo.

Doncaster.—On evening of Dec. 11 Bro. J. E. Allan conducted the service. Bro. Connor spoke at night on Dec. 18 on "The Earthly Life of the Lord of Glory," illustrated by lantern slides. A piece was sung by four girls from Bible school. After long illness Bro. Herb. Petty passed away on Dec. 17. Sympathy is extended to the wife and family.

Essendon.—During last week two weddings took place, when Miss Burke and Mr. Glover and Miss Cheal and Mr. Taylor, all active young folk in the church, were married. Bro. Illing-

worth officiating. Special items at evening meeting on Sunday made an interesting and helpful service. Bro. Illingworth gave appropriate messages both morning and evening.

Canfield (Bambra-rd.).—Splendid attendances marked Christmas services on Dec. 18. Chapel was crowded at night, when Bro. Clipstone spoke on "The Unspeakable Gift." Anthems were rendered by choir, with Mr. Val. Wolf soloist. Choir held final meeting for year on Dec. 14, when presentations were made to conductor, Bro. Machin, and organist, Mrs. Verity.

Ararat.—On Dec. 11 a farewell presentation was made to Bro. and Sister Chivell, who are leaving for Cashmore, near Portland. Sister Mrs. Pearce was welcomed into the fellowship of the church. On Dec. 14 a Christmas party was held, when all Bible school scholars received a gift from the Christmas tree, this being arranged by the ladies' guild and the Bible school.

Chelsea.—There were good attendances on Dec. 18. Bro. Watson closed his ministry with the church after over three years' faithful service. At close of gospel service Bro. W. T. Burrows presented Bro. Watson with an envelope containing a cash gift from the members, and thanked him for his service. Bro. H. A. Hunt will take up week-end services from Jan. 8.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—On Dec. 18 Bro. Wilkie (Dawson-st.) gave the church a helpful address on "Temptations." 102 were at Sunday school, when the children were given a Christmas present from the school. At night Bro. Randall's address was on "Jesus the Saviour." Mr. Fred Furlong rendered a solo. A young man was immersed. Sister Mrs. Leach was welcomed back after illness.

South Yarra.—The wedding of Bro. J. H. Phillips to Sister Jean Butt was celebrated on Dec. 10. Bro. Candy officiating. The church tendered a kitchen tea to the couple during previous week. At a young men's service on evening of Dec. 11, Deep Sea Rover Scouts from R.M.S. "Mooltan" assisted. Mrs. Candy is visiting her parents at Colac. Kindergarten Christmas tree was held on Dec. 14.

Montrose.—After a year of faithful service with the church Bro. Nixon has returned to his home State (W.A.) for College vacation. His addresses throughout were of a high standard. During vacation Bro. J. McDiarmid and W. Hart are filling most of the appointments. The church appreciates their help. Attendances at Sunday school are increasing. A Christmas tree is causing much interest.

Mitcham.—Bro. Jackel is continuing with the church for a few weeks, and great benefit is gained through his presence. Two sisters were received into fellowship on Dec. 18, and two young sisters were baptised at night. This meeting aroused considerable interest, as it was the first baptismal service to be conducted here. Bro. Jackel began a series of chart addresses to make clear God's plan of the ages.

Maryborough.—Our new preacher, Mr. C. Cole, was welcomed at an induction service held on Dec. 17, conducted by conference president and secretary. Mr. T. R. Morris stirred all with his message on "Christian Stewardship" at morning service on Sunday last. In the evening Mr. Cole preached his first sermon to a large meeting. The church will greatly miss Mr. Leslie Stevens, who has been transferred to Melbourne.

Surrey Hills.—Christmas services on Dec. 19 were largely attended and inspiring. In morning, when the order of service was specially arranged, Bro. Nankivell spoke on "Unto us a Child is Born." There were 60 young people present at fellowship tea. Bro. John Turner, of East Kew, gave a challenging message. Junior choir, men's quartette and others assisted in evening service, when the Christmas message was presented in song and story.

Camberwell.—There were exceptionally good services on Dec. 18. In the morning Mrs. and Miss Scambler and Master John Craig were received into fellowship. Young people held fellowship tea in the afternoon, followed by a talk by Bro. T. Hall. At evening service the address was given by Dr. Minnie Varley. Carols were sung by choir. On Dec. 14 the choir rendered a Christmas concert. Bro. Williams gave a recital from "Scrooge."

Warragul.—On Dec. 14 the Sunday school concert was a great success. Prizes were distributed, and a most enjoyable evening spent. On Dec. 19 the ladies' aid provided a Christmas tree, every scholar in school and all friends present receiving a gift. Bro. Snow faithfully proclaims the gospel at Warragul and each fortnight at Moe, where the work continues splendidly. Our aged Bro. Cornish has for some time been laid aside through illness.

Thorbury.—Splendid meetings continue. One Bible class member was immersed and another made the confession on Dec. 18. Building fund appeal for 1938 closed with nearly £70 by direct giving. H.M. offering closed at £17/8/3. Tennis club was successful in winning the premiership in North Suburban Church Tennis competition. Kindergarten hall was crowded on Dec. 17, when Father Christmas visited members of Kindergarten and cradle roll departments.

Baywater.—On Dec. 17 the Bible class held a successful Christmas tree for the Sunday school. A presentation was made to Bro. Don Finger on the occasion of his marriage. The ladies' mission band report good progress, and recently collected ten dozen eggs and an amount of biscuits for the Christian Guest Home. Church business meeting on Dec. 8 revealed the church to be in a satisfactory position, and the work progressing well. Home mission offering, £2/11/-.

Hampton.—The girls' physical culture classes completed work for the year with an excellent display in the Memorial Hall on Dec. 7. J.C.E. conducted Christmas mail on Dec. 18. At night Bro. Stephenson was preacher, and special recorded Christmas music was enjoyed. An offering for social service was taken. A party visited the Christian Guest Home on Monday and entertained the folk there. Our aged Sister Mrs. Austin shows some improvement after serious illness.

Stawell.—The ladies' aid society held annual Christmas tree on Dec. 14, when there was a large attendance. At explorers' club banquet on 16th a happy time was spent. K.S.P. and P.B.P. chapters have gone into recess for two months. A new member was initiated into P.B.P. at final meeting for year. Bro. L. Smith is home for holidays after a successful year at the University. Attendance at Sunday services is very fair. Bro. Tharrowgood's messages are very helpful.

Berwick.—Bro. Wilson is in N.S.W. visiting his home and conducting services at Canley Vale during vacation. Services at Berwick are being conducted by preachers and others from sister churches, great help being given by young men of Gardiner. On Dec. 18 the C.E. young men of Dandenong Endeavourers, a happy paid a visit to Dandenong Endeavourers, a happy time of fellowship being enjoyed. Services on Dec. 18 were conducted by Bro. McRoberts and Fergus, of Gardiner. Morning topic was "The Victorious Life and its Reward."

Preston.—A Bible school scholar was welcomed into fellowship by faith and obedience on Dec. 18. Bro. Young delivering the morning exhortation. At gospel service the choir rendered the cantata, "The Nativity of Christ," to a full congregation, at close of which a lady responded to the appeal. The mothers' club concluded the year with a successful outing to Belgrave. Kindergarten Christmas tree was held on Dec. 17, and in the evening the Y.W.L. held a social. The resignation of Bro. Keith Cock-a social. The resignation of Bro. Keith Cock-a social, as superintendent of the league, has been roft, as superintendent of the league, has been received with regret.

Hamilton.—A social on Dec. 14, to enable old and new members to meet, was a pronounced success. At church and Sunday school anniversary services on 18th, Bro. J. Wiltshire, of Ballarat, was speaker. In the morning a number who confessed Jesus during the mission were received. 118 broke bread, and at night the building was full. Bro. Wiltshire spoke in morning on "Unto Perfection"; afternoon to the scholars on "A Treasure Hunt"; at night on "The Crowns of Jesus." The school sang splendidly under baton of Bro. Garland.

Echuca.—On Dec. 5 Bro. G. R. Giles, B.Sc., B.Ed., gave a talk to the Joy Club, and later gave a helpful address in a conference with S.S. teachers. On Dec. 11 Bro. Hargreaves gave an instructive address on "Prayer." At night Bro. Muddford delivered a splendid address entitled "Life's Greatest Question." Bro. Hargreaves continued his addresses on "Prayer" at worship on Dec. 18, and at night gave an appreciated message on "Christ, the Soul-winner." Sister Jean Bullied was in fellowship again after long illness. H.M. offering, £3/15/6.

Gardiner.—At the invitation of Mrs. A. R. Main, the women's mission band held an enjoyable garden party at College of the Bible on Dec. 7; 83 sisters were present. Bro. Hagger spoke at morning and evening services on Dec. 11 to good attendances. Morning speaker on Dec. 18 was Bro. K. A. Jones. At night a special Christmas service was held. Bro. Hagger's theme was "What shall we find at Bethlehem?" Appropriate music and solos were well rendered by an augmented choir, and Mrs. B. Hunt and Messrs. W. McDiarmid and P. Whittington. An offering for social service amounted to £4/17/3.

Geelong.—The kindergarten hall was re-opened on Dec. 10 by Mrs. F. E. Brownhill, M.L.A.; a fine musical programme followed. On Dec. 14 a linen tea was given to Miss Jean Barnes by members and friends in view of her approaching marriage with Mr. F. Gason, of Brisbane. Splendid meetings were conducted by Bro. D. Stewart on Dec. 18. In the morning feeling reference was made to the passing of Dr. Cook after a severe operation. At the evangelistic service Bro. Stewart chose for his theme "The Bread Question." Misses E. and J. Barnes rendered a duet. Prayers of the church are with Sister Mrs. E. Bauer, who is dangerously ill after operation. Sister Mrs. Stead has been indisposed for some time.

South Richmond.—On Dec. 11 Bro. C. Cole closed a two-years' ministry with the church. At night a brother who confessed Christ the week before, and a sister who made the confession during the mission, were baptised. The teachers had a fellowship tea and made a presentation to Bro. Cole. On Dec. 14 the church and friends met for a farewell social, and presentations were made on behalf of church, C.E., tennis club and Y.W.L. On Dec. 18 the church was exhorted in the morning by Bro. Whitmore, and at night the preacher was Bro. Crossfield. Women's mission band held a picnic on Dec. 13 at Botanic Gardens, and boys' club had a break-up social at which a presentation was made to Bro. C. Cole.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—There were good meetings on Dec. 18. Mr. Baker's morning subject was "The Star over Bethlehem." One was received in by letter. Splendid attendance at Bible class in afternoon. The piano recently purchased by the class was formally presented to the church, the gift being acknowledged by church secretary and treasurer. After a short address by Mr. Baker on "Gifts," each member of Bible school and staff was presented with a Christmas gift from the Bible class. A choral service was held at night, when the choir, led by Mr. N. Maddow, rendered a number of anthems, soloists being Miss Winnie Lee, Miss F. Haines, Miss B. Fordham, Mr. John Simpson, Mr. C. Haines and Mr. L. King. Amongst visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Furber, from Adelaide, and Mr. Morris, from Epping, N.S.W.

Brighton.—On Dec. 18 there were good meetings. The Christmas service at night was exceptionally well attended. The choir, under Bro. David Plemmer, gave fine interpretations of Christmas hymns and carols. These were interspersed with readings from the sacred records. On Dec. 17 the Y.P.S. held a Christmas party at which 65 young men and women were present. In some respects this has been a record year, the spirit of unity and liberality being most marked. All offerings increased, both for local and brotherhood work. College, hospital and home mission appeal all called forth a generous response, the last named receiving £72.

Coburg.—On Dec. 6 the girls' gymnasium club gave a successful display as a result of their training during past year, and on Dec. 10 the junior boys' club gave an enjoyable callisthenic display assisted by instrumental and vocal artists. Kindergarten Christmas party on Dec. 17 reflected the efforts of teachers in its brightness. This was followed at 6.30 p.m. by a combined C.E. fellowship tea at which Bro. A. White was guest of honor and speaker. J.C.E. Christmas mail was a feature on Dec. 18, more than 1350 letters and parcels being handled. Opportunity was taken to present the church in reduction of building debt—£10 from sisters and £5/10/- from P.B.P. The latter auxiliary entertained all mothers on a recent evening. Giving of over £10 has enabled all needy church members and friends to be given a donation towards Christmas cheer.

St. Kilda.—On Dec. 11 Bro. Holman, from Camberwell Baptist church, presided in the morning. Gospel service took the form of a reunion of past members of K.S.P. and P.B.P. clubs. A basket tea was followed by prayer meeting and song service. Bro. F. V. Brown presided at gospel service and gave a talk to the children. Bro. W. Andrew gave an address entitled "Youth and the Church." The meeting was well attended. On Dec. 13 the last meeting of the boys' club for the year was held. The girls' club break-up was on 19th. Both clubs have proved popular with the children. On Dec. 16, at half-yearly business meeting, reports showed the church to be making steady progress. Sister Mrs. Tullis was elected deaconess. Bro. Lowry, from Camberwell, presided on morning of Dec. 18. At night Christmas hymns were sung, and Bro. C. P. Hughes gave an enjoyable address. On Dec. 17 the tennis team visited Prahran church tennis courts and many games were enjoyed.

Ringwood.—On Dec. 11 Bro. T. R. Morris addressed the church on "Stewardship." Bible school anniversary services commenced in the afternoon. Bro. K. Jones brought an interesting message on "Crowns." Over 25 sat to a fellowship tea. At night the children again sang beautifully under leadership of Bro. Maxgrove. Bro. L. Brooker interested with his illustrated address entitled "Building a House." On Dec. 14 the ladies catered for the scholars' tea meeting. Over 60 sat to tea. Items were given later by scholars and friends, followed by distribution of prizes by Bro. Brooke. On Dec. 17 the men formed a working bee to clean up the church grounds. In the evening a social was held at which Bro. Taylor (past preacher) was presented with a study chair from the members. A boys' club and girls' fellowship have been formed, also mid-week prayer meeting. The final meeting for ladies' guild was well attended. All other auxiliaries are in recess until after holidays. Bro. and Sister Brooke and many members have been laid aside with influenza.

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South Australian News-letter.

H. R. Taylor, B.A.

Golden Wedding.

A HAPPY gathering of friends of Bro. and Sister G. T. Walden was held in the kindergarten room of the Unley church on Monday evening, Dec. 13, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the wedding day of the esteemed couple, who were able to enter heartily into the spirit of the occasion. They were married by the late Bro. T. J. Gore, M.A., in the old Grote-st. chapel just prior to the beginning of Bro. Walden's ministry at Lygon-st., Melbourne. The bridesmaid, Mrs. J. B. Messent, and the best man, Mr. P. A. Dickson (who, with Mrs. Dickson, had flown to Adelaide for the function), were in their places by the side of the bride and bridegroom. Felicitous speeches were made by Mr. W. C. Brooker, representing the South Australian churches; Mr. W. L. Johnston, old Grote-st. members; Mrs. P. R. Verco, early Enmore friends; and Mr. A. V. Le Page, Victorian churches. Bro. Walden was in a reminiscent mood and described interesting features of his married life and his work in the gospel. Mrs. Walden was the recipient of bouquets and sprays of choice flowers as an expression of love from her friends, and after the toast of the bride and bridegroom had been drunk with musical honors, she was able to say a few warm words in appreciation of their kindness. Over fifty telegrams were received by Mr. and Mrs. Walden during the day, including a cable from the missionaries in the Indian field. The whole of the Australian brotherhood will join us in praying for the health and the continued happiness of our beloved brother and sister.

Liquor Bill Defeated.

It was with a sigh of relief that those concerned with the social welfare of the people of the State received the news of the defeat of the liquor bill in its second reading in the House of Assembly by the narrow majority of one vote. The bill, which had been passed in the Legislative Council and was then sent on to the Lower House early in the session, provided for an extension of bar trade in hotels from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., and also contained a provision to allow trading in hotel lounges between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. This section was changed as the debate proceeded into another to permit the sale of dry wines with supper in licensed premises and registered clubs from 10 p.m. till midnight. The vote which threw out the bill was taken after an all-night sitting of the House. The W.C.T.U. and "S.A. Alliance" have put up a splendid fight. Women occupied the gallery in the Assembly throughout the debate, and some spent the whole of the last night listening to the speeches of members. On leaving the House they sang the Doxology on the marble steps. The liquor forces claim a "moral victory." They contend that the closeness of the voting shows that the trend of Parliament is definitely toward liberalising the Licensing Act. The president of the L.V.A. said, "We know this by reason of the continual demand which comes in this State from business men and overseas visitors." He did not make the mistake of saying, "from the people," who, we are glad to say, have the final word under a democratic government.

Drunken Motor Drivers.

An appalling tragedy occurred recently on the north road, not far from the city, in which four men lost their lives in a collision between a heavy motor lorry and three private cars. In the doctor's evidence at the inquest it was stated that the driver of the lorry was under the influence of drink. Cases where fatal accidents are traceable to intoxication of motor drivers are becoming very frequent.

The Betting Bill.

At the last meeting of the Council of Churches it was resolved to express indignation and disappointment at the treatment meted out in both houses of Parliament to the Betting Bill which incorporated the findings of three highly-esteemed gentlemen who were appointed on the Betting Commission by the Government on account of their perspicacity and balanced judgment to inquire into the betting legislation and offer guidance to the legislators in handling the present intolerable situation. The main proposal of the Commission was to close the betting shops on race days from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. This would have made the business of off-the-course bookmakers unprofitable, and one by one the shops would have been closed. This and other proposals have been rejected. From the wreckage of the bill one decision emerges, viz., to allow the government to appoint the Betting Control Board, which has the power to reduce the number of betting shops and change the hours of shop betting. In debating the bill some of the legislators admitted that the weight of public opinion was against the shops, and if a referendum were taken the system would disappear. Yet sectional interests have been allowed to unduly influence the members. The people of the State have been treated as children with whims and fancies which the wise fathers in the legislature have the right to airily dismiss. State finances will benefit considerably from the heavier taxes levied on the betting fraternity. Legislators have been reminded that the people have long memories.

Christmas Greetings.

Your correspondent takes the opportunity of wishing his readers the compliments of the Christmas season, with the prayer that the reign of the Prince of Peace may be extended in the coming year.

Obituary.

Mrs. Alice Ward.

THE church at Surrey Hills, Vic., and many other brethren and friends, are mourning the passing, after a brief illness, of Mrs. A. Ward at the age of 76 years. Almost 50 years ago, with her husband—Charles Phillip Ward—Sister Ward joined the Lygon-st. church by transfer from the Collins-st. Baptist church. About three years later church membership was established in the infant church at Surrey Hills. Since that time Mrs. Ward and her family have filled a large and worthy place of leadership in this congregation. From its organisation in 1914 until early in the present year, except for one or two years of rest, our sister was president of the ladies' guild. Under her inspirational leadership this organisation had notable achievements. On her final retirement this year opportunity was taken to pay a fitting tribute to her splendid leadership. Mrs. Ward was an ardent worker amongst the women of the community, and widely esteemed for her ministries of benevolence. For years she was a delegate to the executive of the Victorian Women's Conference. Sister Ward was loved most of all for her Christian graces. Beneath her quiet, unassuming, gracious manner was an unshakable strength of Christian purpose and character. In the face of repeated blows of bereavement and sorrow she maintained a poise of soul that was an inspiration to all. On rare occasions was her seat in the church services empty, and her presence will be sorely missed. Sincere sympathy of the church has been extended to her daughter, Mrs. Florimel Gordon, of Surrey Hills, the sole surviving member of her family. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."—W.F.N.

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"FOR CHRIST'S SAKE"

Some years ago I was preaching in a town in the east coast of Scotland, and I was the guest of a retired naval officer. He was a genial companion, and as downright and nobly simple in his faith as all sea-going men are. When we came to the hour of family worship he handed me the prayer-book he used, telling me he was not able to utter himself in prayer before strangers. I turned over its pages and found that he had scored through with two firm lines in red ink the words, "For Christ's sake." These words closed most of the prayers. He caught my surprise as I looked upon this crimson obliteration, and he explained that his idea of God was that he did not need to be coaxed to forgive sinners. To him, he said, the matter was simple. He went to God, and he owned up his wrong-doing and God forgave him, and there was the beginning and the end of it.

After worship we sat down and spoke together. As the hour grew late the talk became good. I spoke first of all about sin, the faults and errors that crowd every day, the repeated wilfulness that shadow the soul, and of the sins of our youth, which had corrupted other lives and grieved our dearest. I then spoke of God and his holiness, and of his care for the sanctity of law and the moral of the world. I spoke of God's love in its anger, and there is no anger like the anger of love, and I asked him if he dared to bring that life of his, and with a few penitent confessions ask God to forgive him his past. The good old man listened in silence. His memory went back to the ways of his wild youth. He remembered a deed which no penitence could repair and no confession amend. As I spoke to him of Christ and of Christ's wearing our flesh and both facing and feeling our sin, and of his identifying himself with us and with them, and of his offering to God his perfect repentance, and suffering his sacrifice of atonement, the old man meekly said, "That is a better gospel than mine." We knelt down and gave thanks that "God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven us." He had now received the atonement.—W. M. Clow.

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DEATHS.

COOK.—On Dec. 18, 1938, at a private hos-
pital, Geelong, Dr. James Cook, the dearly loved
husband of Bessie Cook, of Torquay, and for-
merly of Bendigo, and devoted father of Morna
(deceased), Myrtle, Wilson, Verosa (Mrs. J.
Blackie), Beryl, Gordon, Raymond (deceased),
aged 70 years.

SIMPSON.—On Dec. 14, at her residence, 313
Pigdon-st., Princes Hill, Barbara Isabella, dearly
beloved wife of the late Frederick George Simp-
son and much loved mother of Horace, Henry
and Stanley (deceased). Loved mother-in-law
of Amy and Grace, and loved grandma of Gwen,
Joan, Lyall and Barbara. Aged 80 years.

SIMPSON.—On Dec. 14, at her residence, 313
Pigdon-st., Princes Hill, Barbara, loved eldest
daughter of the late Henry and Eleanor Lyall
and loved sister of Eleanor (Mrs. F. G. Dunn,
deceased), Robert, Elizabeth (Mrs. W. H.
Renton), Alex. Rea (deceased), Isabel, Henry J.
(deceased) and Minnie (Mrs. C. G. Lawson). At
rest.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

I HAVE not far to go to find him,
For over every path of duty is
an open heaven and the bright
shining of the star which, if fol-
lowed, always leads to him.

—J. Stuart Holden.

IN MEMORIAM.

BEER.—A loving tribute to the memory of
our late member, Mrs. Agnes Beer, who passed
away on Christmas Day, 1937.

—Inserted by the Kyneton Ladies' Aid.

BROAD.—In loving memory of my dear hus-
band and our father, Arthur Albert, who was
suddenly called home on Dec. 30, 1937.

Gone from us, but leaving memories

Death can never take away;

Memories that will always linger

While upon this earth we stay,

Parted, yes, but not for ever,

God will call us by-and-bye

To meet again, dear father,

In a home prepared on high.

—Inserted by his loving wife and children,
Sutton Grange.

MOYSEY.—In memory of our beloved parents,
who were called to higher service on Dec. 26,
1926, and Nov. 14, 1924; also our dear brothers,
Syd, called home Feb. 3, 1934, and George,
May 19, 1932. Our treasured memories.

STEWART.—In loving memory of Roy, who
passed away on Jan. 1, 1932.

While he lies in silent sleep

His memory we will ever keep.

—Inserted by his loving wife and daughter
and parents.

TIDD.—In fond and loving memory of our
dear son and brother, Ernest, who was called
to the higher life Dec. 27, 1929.

At the gates of heaven he is waiting

With that same sweet, loving smile;

We are only parted, Ernie dear,

Just for a little while.

—Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and
sisters, 24 Llanest-st., Malvern.

WARD.—In loving memory of Mrs. Alice
Ward, past president of the Surrey Hills Ladies'
Guild, whose association with it reached back
over a period of 24 years. Her Christian char-
acter and gracious leadership were an example
to every woman in the organisation. Resolute,
yet gentle and ever loving. We thank God that
she touched our lives and left her impress
there.

—Inserted by those who loved her dearly and
knew her true worth—the Surrey Hills Ladies'
Guild.

Thank You!

The Board of Management, and
the Organising Secretary, desire to
thank all those who have helped
loyally the work of the College
during the year by their gifts.

We trust that all will have a very
happy Christmas season, and enter
on a New Year enriched by the fel-
lowships with the Lord's work and
workers.

A Reminder.

The financial year closes on Dec. 31.
Will all brethren and sisters who
can help, send before that date?
Remembering that one's giving has
to be sacrificial to be wholly accept-
able, that we may know the fulness
of the promised blessing.

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