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Can We Still Promise Peace?

CHRISTIANITY brings to men a message of peace and goodwill. Would it be wrong to say that the promise of peace is the best thing that is offered in the Gospel?

At Christmas season we have been wont to ring the changes on peace. The familiar texts have been passed on, reiterated and illustrated. As we thought of the on-coming Christmas and the world situation which confronts us twenty years after the signing of the Armistice which made the nations delirious with joy, and more than nineteen centuries after the coming to earth of him whom we call the Prince of Peace, the questions obtruded themselves: Can we still appropriately and with assurance pass on the promise of peace? Or have we to confess disappointment with the fulfilment of the promise, and failure with the Gospel plan? These are certainly important questions worthy of more detailed treatment than we now attempt to give.

The horror of war and the fear of an extension are affecting all peoples. We cannot escape the evil and depressing influence. The feverish rearmaments deemed advisable in the Empire and in America, as well as elsewhere, bear witness to the dread alarms of statesmen. Many speak as if war were inevitable, and the others as if in armaments lay the sole means of escape. In book, magazine and newspaper, in public speech and radio message, we are being warned and exhorted. However great the need of this, and however excellent the motive, the psychological effect must in great part be evil.

In Saturday's paper we had a paragraph from Spain appealing for intervention to end the bombing of civilians, and referring to the "barbarous and inhuman warfare" which is being waged. The same column contained the following horrible para-

graph: "The wartime assistant director of gas attack at British headquarters in France, Mr.

H. A. Sissons, lecturing at Newcastle, suggested that the military authorities should experiment with the dropping of meningococci in thermos globes attached to small parachutes. This would cause a spread of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

"The globes could be arranged to eject their contents from a spray near the ground and infection would be spread from coughing.

"As people's susceptibilities varied, it might be better, he said, to include pneumonic, diphtheria, anthrax and tetanus germs. Mr. Sissons also suggested that a plague of infected fleas could be used."

We might continue to give quotations which emphasise the dreadful condition of the world and the way in which the future is darkened for us. Enough has been given to give point to our question, "Can we still promise peace?" The answer is, of course, Yes, if we abide by the Lord's promise, and not by the things men have read into it.

There is, so far as we know, no promise or assurance that now, in our lifetime, or till the Lord come, there will be a cessation of war and conflict. In spite of turmoil and national upheavals, however, the disciples had the promise of peace.

The angels' song is frequently misquoted and misunderstood. Even if we followed the reading of the Common Version, "on earth peace, goodwill to men," there would be no necessity of turning an ideal, or a design of peace, into a promise for all men, irrespective of their acceptance of the Saviour or their doing of the will of God. Unconditional promises are rare. The Revised Version, with its "peace among men in whom he is well pleased" (or, margin, "men of good pleasure") shows the kind of people to whom the peace would be given. Those who in their lives please God will have his peace in their hearts.

At the end of his earthly life, as at its beginning, our Lord's gift of peace was declared. The Saviour himself, the night before he suffered on the cross, said to his disciples (who were men "in whom he is well pleased"): "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you." But he also said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation." There was an inward peace which could not be disturbed by war or evil in the world; as he had overcome the world, the world's tribulation could not destroy the peace in the heart of the disciple. The Lord's peace can neither be given nor taken by those of this world. Let us get this thought established in our minds.

Our Lord has promised us such a comfort, assurance and sense of security as can garrison the hearts of Christians and keep them from the corroding care and anxiety which fret the hearts and mar the lives of worldlings. In Sydney a few days ago, a doctor, giving evidence before the Royal Commission on medical fees under national insurance, was reported as saying that psychomatic illness (bodily sickness arising from mental worry or stress), if dealt with carefully, would save approved friendly societies in Australia £500,000 a year, and would mean £5,500,000 a year in wages earned. That is, the man whose mind is freed from

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page.
Can We Still Promise Peace?	785
Sub-leaders	786
Keep Christ in Christmas	786
Bethlehem the Exalted	787
At the Manger a Cross	788
Christmas	789
Home Circle and Family Altar	790
Our Young People	791
Here and There	792
News of the Churches	793
Foreign Missions	794
Open Forum	795
Obituary	796
Prayer Corner	799

VOLUME XXI, No. 54.
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anxious care is a better man and a better workman than the unsecured individual. Think of the securities of the Christian and the insurance he has! The peace of God guards his heart and mind.

Yes, we can still promise peace on earth. All who fulfil the conditions will enjoy it. And in proportion as men do so, prejudice, antagonism, distrust, ill-will and war will pass. But the rejection by the many of God's provisions in Christ will not frustrate the purpose or promise of God in the case of those who do accept. "He is our peace," and also "in his will is our peace."

The Angel Hymn.

*THOSE voices from on high are mute,
The star the wise men saw is dim,
But hope still guides the wanderer's
foot,*

*And faith renews the angel hymn:
Glory to God in loftiest heaven!*

*Touch with glad hand the ancient chord;
Good tidings unto man forgiven!*

Peace from the presence of the Lord.

—Robert Stephen Hawker.

Lots of Drink, but No Petrol.

IN introducing a deputation representing churches and temperance organisations which waited upon the Victorian Chief Secretary last week, Mrs. Weber, M.L.A., said that it was desired to protest strongly against any hasty legislation on licensing. Democratic control of the liquor industry had to be maintained, the way to the ballot-box must be kept open, and equality of treatment must be secured to all sections of the public. State-wide licensing polls should be retained, and should be liberalised. The local option provisions of the act of 1920 should be restored, and the right to vote in favor of the reduction of liquor licences in any electorate or subdivision. The Chief Secretary promised that the ministry would do nothing hastily, and that during the recess it would consider what action it would take.

The Moderator of the Victorian Presbyterian Assembly (Mr. Karl Forster) stated that what was wanted was democratic control. He pointed out that motorists who now travelled into the country on Sunday and found that they had run out of petrol could not get it. However, if anyone travelled 20 miles he could get as much liquor as he wanted. That was an amazing anomaly. The work of the Licensing Board regarding reductions of licences is now coming to an end, he added, "Many of us feel, however, that it is tending to become a Licences Increasing Board."

Night Trotting Bill.

WE may approve the declared desire of the Victorian parliament to improve the breed of horses and to eliminate some of the evils of dog-racing. But we regret that the Night Trotting Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly would increase gambling facilities and so be harmful to the community. In the Legislative Council, the bill was carried, but by 15 votes to 14, a proviso was added that gambling at night trotting meetings be prohibited. Mr. Chandler, who moved the amendment, said that it would test the sincerity of those who were said to be advocating night trotting simply to improve the breeding of trotting horses and to give people greater facilities for harmless amusement. The Minister for Education (Sir John Harris), who was in charge of the bill, said that neither horse racing nor trotting could exist profitably without betting. The amendment, he declared, was designed to "wreck the bill." Our sympathies are with Mr. Chandler. We have little faith in the plea that a desire to improve horses is the real purpose of the bill.

Is Your Firm Limited?

I SAT in the office of the manager of a very important firm. He was going to give a talk to the Rotary Club, and had prepared a talk on "The Firm I Work For." He thought he would have a practice on me. He talked; I listened. I realised it was a big firm. It was world-wide. I forget how many millions of capital they had at their disposal. I really think he thought that I might break the tenth commandment and wish I had his job. After he finished, I began. I talked about my firm, or rather the firm I work for. He became very interested. In fact, he asked me for a prospectus (a New Testament, in modern language).

Then we placed our firms side by side. I said, "Now this firm you work for is a good firm. So is mine. But my firm is a bigger firm than yours. Your firm is XYZ Limited; mine is GOD unlimited. Yours, my friend, is a limited firm. Mine is unlimited. He sat and looked at me for a few moments and then he said, "That is a very good way of putting it."

Remember, fellow Christian, our firm is unlimited.—G. H. Newell.

Keep "Christ" in Christmas.

W. W. Saunders.

A WRITER once declared that we treat Christmas abominably. If he were a cartoonist, he said, he would draw a double-panel picture at this time. There would be a picture of one of those simple, weather-beaten, Bethlehem shepherds, sitting at the camp fire. His cloak would have fallen from his head and his uplifted face would be all lit and listening. The other picture would portray a modern man lying on his back, like a big Babe in the Wood, almost snowed over with Christmas cards, geese, turkeys, invitations to parties, crackers, parcels, and, of course, bills.

What a contrast! Which picture would represent us in our attitude to Christmas? The shepherd picture, typical of those who pause in the midst of the feasting, fun and frolic to consider the inner meaning of Christmas and hear the heavenly message? Or the modern man picture, typical of those who allow familiarity with this recurring season to blind them to its central reality and who lose the real meaning of Christmas in devoting all their attention to the symbols? J. H. Jowett well warns concerning the dangers of familiarity. It has a deadening power. The commonplace things, the things we see or hear about very often, lose their power to touch and move us, and we end by ignoring them altogether.

So with Christmas! We can become so thrilled by the unusual celebrations that

accompany it that we may make them the be-all and end-all of Christmas, and forget all about him who was born at Bethlehem, about whom we have heard since childhood and who is with us every day. Yes! we may miss altogether the Christ and the Christmas message of love, peace, goodwill, salvation from sin, joy and brotherhood among men, amid the Christmas symbols.

"In earthly birthdays interest centres round
The person who is born—the day is sought.
But Christmas comes, and then 'tis often
found
The day's the thing, the Person gets no
thought."

Lest that be true in us, who are professing followers of the Christ, with the result that the Christmas season will pass without our having been brought once again face to face with the purpose of Christ's coming into the world and without there having been a consequent producing in us of a new urge to do all in our power to bring about a fulfilment of that purpose, let us approach Christmas with a determination. Determine that, for a time, we will leave the outer court where we eat, drink and be merry, and will visit the inner shrine wherein we see and meet him whose entrance into earthly life Christmas celebrates. Remember! "Unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Bethlehem the Exalted.

Randall T. Pittman, B.A., Dip. Ed.

ON a bleak ridge five miles south of Jerusalem stands the town of Bethlehem. The names which have been given to the place in its long history speak of fruitfulness and prosperity. Its modern name means "house of flesh"; "Ephrathah," a name which helped to distinguish from a less known Bethlehem in Zebulun (Josh. 19: 15) has the meaning "fruitful"; and the familiar "Bethlehem" means "house of bread." "The ridge upon which the town stands descends steeply in terraced slopes of vine and olive to deep valleys on the north and south, and falls away to a broad plain or plateau on the east."

While the Old Testament references to Bethlehem are not numerous, some of them are very significant. Here it was that Ruth, the brave young woman of Moab, made her home with Naomi and became a gleaner in the fields. And as

"She stood breast-high amid the corn,
Clasped by the golden light of morn,"

she found favor with Boaz, who later married her. Ruth became an ancestress of David, and of the Messiah.

When Samuel, directed by the Lord to anoint a successor to Saul, set out on his mission, it was to Bethlehem that he went. When the sons of Jesse passed before him, his own choice was overruled, and David was selected, for "the Lord looketh on the heart." This was the youth who had kept the flocks on the hills about Bethlehem, guarding them from the lions and bears which then preyed upon the animals, as wolves and jackals do to-day. Amid pastoral scenes his mind received images which found expression in many a psalm. As king, exercising prophetic and priestly functions, he established "the throne of David," and in due time there came of David's line Jesus, the Messiah, Prophet, Priest and King.

Bethlehem was not blessed with a great water-supply, but there was a well by the gate which David remembered during a trying experience of his outlaw life as a fugitive from Saul. The town was in the hands of the Philistines, but David was desperate, and cried, "Oh, that one would give me water to drink of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" Thereupon three of his mighty men broke through the host of the Philistines, and fetched water to their leader. Overwhelmed by this brave and kindly act, David would not drink, but consecrated the water to the Lord.

It seems that Bethlehem fell into obscurity, but a sudden prophetic gleam again brought the little town into bold relief. Micah, a prophet of the country at the time when Isaiah was prophet at

the court of Judah, stood up as champion of the people. He denounced the crimes of the nobles and false prophets, and predicted the fall of Jerusalem. Nevertheless, in the latter days, there would be peace and prosperity for the house of the Lord. Especially would Bethlehem be exalted, for out of the little town would come the Messiah (Micah 5: 2).

And so the light of sacred story shines upon Bethlehem. With the birth of Messiah, the lowly town becomes the focal point of history and prophecy. Other strangers, coming from a region more distant than Moab, lay their gifts before Jesus, "King of the Jews," as if to signify the Gentile world's acknowledgment of the Saviour. Other shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem guarded their flocks, and their minds were filled with a psalm not their own as they listened to the heavenly host "praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased." Thirsting souls in all generations could learn that

"There is a well in Bethlehem still,
A fountain, at whose brink
The weary soul may rest at will,
The thirsty stoop and drink:
And, unrepelled by foë or fence,
Draw living waters freely thence."

Not all the eyes directed to Bethlehem at the time of Messiah's birth were friendly, however. Herod, the King of Judea, was troubled when he heard of One born "King of the Jews," and instigated a massacre of the infants of Bethlehem. Although his evil design to murder Jesus was thwarted by divine intervention, Bethlehem experienced a period of barbaric cruelty, and the land was filled with lamentation and mourning. Matthew associates this with a remarkable passage in Jeremiah 31. Jeremiah pictures Rachel as weeping over the captivity of her descendants. Rachel had died at the birth of Benjamin, and was buried "in the way to Ephrath." "The evangelist pictures Rachel's grief reawakened by the slaughter of the infants at Bethlehem." With reference to this incident, P. Whitwell Wilson, in "The Christ We Forget," wrote: "Not once in later years did Jesus refer to the crime which, at Bethlehem, was aimed against him. So far from denouncing the Herods, he was ready to suffer in their stead. He did not attempt to avenge the innocent children who had died in his cause, by stirring up insurrection against the ruling and guilty house." It is of interest to note that, so far as the record tells, Jesus never again entered the little town where he was born.

Another ruler who turned hostile eyes toward Bethlehem was the Roman Emperor of Spanish birth, Hadrian. During his reign (A.D. 117-138), he proved himself a man of great ability, an able ruler, a lover of literature and philosophy, deeply imbued with Greek culture. He travelled much, and visited many parts of his empire, including Britain, where he built a famous wall which bears his name. But Hadrian was a pagan, and added to the list of infamous deeds perpetrated by the opponents of Christianity. It is on record that Hadrian, "imagining that he could kill the Christian faith by defacing the place, consecrated an image of Jupiter on the site of the Passion." He also devastated Bethlehem, and set up there a sacred grove to Adonis. Incidentally, this act shows that Bethlehem was regarded as a hallowed spot at that time. The efforts of Hadrian and other emperors to stamp out the Christian faith utterly failed, and two centuries later Constantine pulled down the temple of Adonis, and erected a basilica over the cave-stable which tradition pointed out as the scene of the nativity. H. V. Morton says, "Beneath the church is a warren of underground passages. In one of them, a dark rock chamber, St. Jerome conducted a number of his keen controversies and translated the Vulgate." Thus the message of good tidings again was heard from Bethlehem. Since that day Bethlehem has remained a centre of Christian worship, and now it has been found possible, by means of radio, for the bells of the Church of the Nativity to be heard in earth's remotest bounds:

"They speak to me of princely Tyre, that old
Phoenician gem,
Great Sidon's daughter of the North; but I
will speak of Bethlehem!"

"They speak of Rome and Babylon; what can
compare with them?
So let them praise their pride and pomp,—but
I will speak of Bethlehem!"

"They praise the hundred-gated Thebes, old
Mizraim's diadem,
The city of the sand-girt Nile; but I will
speak of Bethlehem!"

The Living Bread.

TO feed on Christ is to get his strength into us to be our strength. You feed on the cornfield, and the strength of the cornfield comes into you and is your strength. You feed on the cornfield, and then go and build your house, and it is the cornfield in your strong arm that builds the house, that cuts down the trees, and piles the stone and lifts the roof into its place. You feed on Christ, and then go and live your life, and it is Christ in you that lives your life, that helps the poor, that tells the truth, that fights the battle, and that wins the crown.—Phillips Brooks.

At the Manger a Cross.

Ethelbert Davis.

CHRISTMAS is much more than a Babe in a manger. In the earth-life of Jesus the manger is inseparably linked with the cross; the incarnation with the atonement. Bethlehem and Calvary, though separated by time, are related as only divine wisdom could relate them. That familiar picture of the shadow as of a cross cast upon the wall of the carpenter's shop at Nazareth, as the boy Jesus stretches himself in the open doorway, does not go back far enough. The shadow of the cross fell athwart the manger of the infant Christ.

There was joy among the angels; there was joy among men on earth on that first Christmas day. But every utterance made, and every detail given of the Saviour's nativity, transferred to the understanding heart the joy from the mere birth of the Babe to what that Babe was destined to accomplish. In the dimming light of the star the cross took shape.

The Cross and God.

Can we speak of God's cross? The incarnation brought God in touch with man, as he had never been before. The Christian gospel invites man to believe that there was a point in time when the condition of the world was desperate, when sin was steadily and surely conquering the race, when philosophy, and even religion, had lost their purifying and preserving savor. And at that time when

"On that ancient world
Disgust and secret loathing fell,
Deep-seated weariness and lust
Made human life a hell,"

God, in the person of his Son, was manifest in human flesh, and in the person of his Son, brought man back to himself through the cross. Thus the Father suffered every pang the Son endured.

The Cross and Christ.

"Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins," fixed Christ's destiny to the cross. Since God had fore-ordained before the foundation of this world that redemption was not to be purchased with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot, the cross could never be entirely absent from his experience. At what point in his earth life Christ came to a knowledge of the cross is a matter of vain speculation, but it commenced in his experience when he laid aside the glory he had with the Father before the world was, and came into this world virgin born.

Dedicated by the Incarnation to a cross, God's well-beloved Son steadily pursued the road that led to Calvary. Aply the poet has said it—

"Trace we the Babe who hath retrieved our
loss,
From the poor manger to the bitter cross."

The Cross and the Jews.

At the manger there was a cross that proved a stumbling block to the Jews. They soon recognised that he who was "born King of the Jews," was cutting clear across all their cherished hopes. A King born in a stable made no appeal to their imagination; indeed, such a thing was repugnant to their expectations. A Deliverer of royal David's line born in a manger outside of David's city

was sufficient to make him an object of suspicion to the Jewish rabbis.

"They all were looking for a King
To slay their foes and set them high.
Thou canst a little baby thing
That made a woman cry."

A palace and a throne would have caught the imagination of the Jews, with their national aspirations, but a manger and a cross totally misled them.

The Cross and Man.

To man, and in relation to man, the manger, with its supernatural birth, the incarnation, is an enigma, an event in time which has no parallel, and which has no purpose and no meaning, unless its purpose be the atoning sacrifice of Calvary. Christ's vicarious sacrifice upon the cross is the only thing that can make the incarnation intelligible. To understand the cross we must look beyond the manger to where Christ took upon himself the form of a man, to the cross where he died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God. At the manger there were voices which spoke of a cross man was to bear. There was the prediction of a cross on a mother's heart, and of a sword piercing a mother's soul. There were tears that could not be stayed in the eyes of a mother who, because of the coming of the Christ-child, had been robbed of her

children. There were breaking of ties made necessary by the flight into Egypt, and fears in a father's heart of an enemy's hand.

One is led to wonder if at the manger there were any indications that the cross of Calvary would transform man's cross into a yoke that would be easy, and into a burden that would be light.

"The Dayspring from On High."

Luke 1: 78.

CHRISTMAS comes again with gladness,
Wak'ning joy within men's hearts;
Banishing all thoughts of sadness,
Wiping tears and healing smarts.
Where he comes all grief and sorrow
Fly before his joyous face;
From him none can sadness borrow,
For he comes all ills to chase.

Christmas comes amid the hurry
Of the world's unceasing roar,
Calling man from care and worry,
Bidding him rejoice once more.
Here, he comes as ever bringing
Plenteous stores within his train;
Gifts around him he is flinging;
His indeed is no dull reign.

As he comes the same old story
Comforts every burdened one;
Christmas comes a ray of glory
Caught from heaven's eternal sun;
Christmas comes! oh, let us never
Then forget that Christ has come!
May he dwell with us for ever
In our hearts, and in our home.
—Fairelie Thornton.

"My Grace Is Sufficient For Thee."

Ira A. Paternoster.

HOW very complex life has become! The past decade has seen some remarkable happenings. The civil war in Spain, the slaughter of the Abyssinians, the destruction in China, the persecution of the Jews—these are but a few of the great crises through which the world has been or is passing. All this has had a great effect upon the neutrality of the human race, and has led to a feverish speeding up of war preparation. Never were such steps taken for the destruction of human life. For it is well known by every thinking person that to prepare for war means that sooner or later men will fight, and when they do the destruction that will follow is unthinkable.

What is there for the believer in this hour of civilisation's death-throes? Is he to fall into step and shout, Prepare! Prepare! Is he to urge the flower of our youth to enlist and so help to ensure peace? Is he to continue the spirit of criticism—well-deserved criticism, no doubt—of Germany for persecuting the Jews, of Japan for murdering the Chinese, of other nationals for their deeds of barbarism? We do not presume to dictate, but there is surely need to-day for the full exercise of the Spirit of Christ in the face of these things.

The rock foundation facts of our faith are by no means shaken by what is happening around us. If our life is hid with Christ in God nothing can move us. Paul lived in a day of cataclysmic changes. Wars and rumors of wars, famines and pestilence, religious persecutions and social unrest were not unfamiliar to him. Yet in the midst of it all he could write: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers,

nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The very uncertainty of things from the political point of view should bind us closer to the One who never changes. For over the years we have been able to prove his power to keep. No human friend would ever put up with the way we have treated him. So often must we have disappointed him, and his heart must have bled for us time and time again. Yet here in our hour of need he has been with us day and night. Yes, for often the nights have been so long and so lonely. A hospital ward of over thirty beds, each containing some sufferer in deep pain, one in the next bed just now breathing his last breath, is not the most inspiring place to spend night after night. Yet day and night he has been near. Never once have we looked up, even in the darkest hour, without seeing his face. It is good to hear him say to us, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Let us not lose heart in these days, but because of the uncertainty of the hour let us press on with our God-given task of preaching the everlasting gospel of his grace.

Look up, the hour is not so dark
But through the gloom his face doth shine;
In simple confidence we say,
"Thou, Lord, art mine."

Though foe assail and friend desert,
And all the powers of nature fall,
With glad assurance we repeat,
"He doth avail."

He closer is than hands and feet,
'Gainst him no power on earth can stand,
And so I walk with him, my Friend,
Hand in his hand.

Christmas.

Sermon Preached by Pastor M. Ronner, Berne, Switzerland.

Translated from German by Lionel Johnston.

(Abridged.)

Behold, what a love has the Father shown to us, that we should be called God's children. —1 John 3: 1.

IN a remotely situated village, that lay embedded at the foot of a wooded slope, the following events are said to have happened. The inhabitants of that village were accustomed at the Advent time to ascend the wooded height to fetch from about there the little fir trees for their Christmas celebration. Now, there came once a crowd of God-forsaking people of that village with the intention to embitter to the pious people the Christmas joy with the little fir trees. As the Christmas time drew near, they ascended that wooded height and felled all the little fir trees which could have served as Christmas trees and marred them so that the branches and trunks lay around in destruction. All this happened secretly. As the pious villagers, now, as they were accustomed, went in search after little fir trees, they, to their amazement and horror, discovered the destruction. The malicious act had succeeded. The village celebrated this time Christmas without fir trees, for the remoteness of the village and the depth of the snow fall did not permit the bringing of fir trees from elsewhere. But now the following event is said to have happened, calculated at the Christmas eve as a retributive answer of God: There formed through a trifling cause in the wooded height a small avalanche, but which, because the protecting underwood of the little fir trees was absent, had a clear pathway, and with swift increase at last as a mighty avalanche descending upon the village, a section of the houses were entirely overwhelmed.

This story is at the same time also a parable which says: Men, remove the Christmas-tree joys and there will come execration and adversity upon you as, under a choking avalanche, the best graces and virtues of life will become smothered. But the parable also says: Men, celebrate Christmas, multiply and produce all that makes Christmas joy, and there will come over you and your children new, grand graces and virtues of life.

Yet we ask ourselves: What is, then, the blessing and bounty of the Christmas mystery? Are they indeed only the human embellishments to our Christmas celebration, the dear mother-hand which has knowledge to adorn the tree so beautifully, the many lights which shine so clear, the gifts which people mutually present? No, all these human embellishments, full of love and beauty, bring near to the true Christmas joy, but they are not the true basis of the Christmas blessing. Herein lies the happiness, blessing of the Christmas mystery founded—that there once has been one Christmas for all time when God gave us his own dear Son, when the clear godly light of the kingdom of heaven shone down into the dark world—that through Christ, and through him alone, the promise has become true: Behold, what a love has the Father shown to us that we should be called God's children.

If the Christmas joy in Jesus Christ is able to drown both our sorrow and our deadly sadness, it is not so really indeed with us in spite of this statement, that we are called God's children. Ah, in the things of this world we are so completely interweaved therein that we cannot in fairness just claim for ourselves the name "God's children"; but much more, in just the reverse, the name "Children of this world" suits us. We often resemble the

children who scuffle outside on the street and who, when the father of the house opens a window and kindly calls, "Come home, children," yet do not go home, but turn away and stay on the street.

Men stand in a twofold peril of not grasping this Christmas felicity. Some feel too great and haughty for it, and the others too little and low. Some say: "I need not all this divine blessing. I am rich and mighty and wise enough to bestow around my life the true prosperity. And these men then observe their Christmas celebrations perhaps with outward show and rich presents: And yet that is by no means Christmas. Then, in the motive of

They Hear the Song.

"PEACE on earth," sang the joyful bells,
And a city passed to hear.
"It will come to my home," breathed a hurt,
worn heart,
And she dried a straying tear.
"It will banish war," and a mother's lips
Moved in thanks, while a youth who heard,
Suddenly felt an upward sweep
To his aims, like a soaring bird.
"God will toward men," they will let me in,
Sighed the wandering one, and lo,
She leaned no more toward the sense's thrill
For the angel message low.
"It means all men," and judgment passed
From the thought of an eager girl.
"Even the publicans love their own,
Christ love is the priceless pearl."

Wherever the bells sang the old, old song
Each foot more lightly trod;
And a city sent back the whole glad theme,
"Glory, glory to God!"
—Lena M. Hall.

things they allow by the light of the heart only their own ego to shine forth.

And others say, "This divine Christmas felicity is not for me. I am too wretched, too vile, too poor, too reprobate." No, Christ has come for all. Before him no one needs to stand back and to hide himself.

You who are poor and wretched
Come hither, fill freely
Your faith's hand;
Here are all good gifts
And the gold; there you shall
Your heart also refresh.

Let us observe Christmas in this manner indicated by God to us. But let us also celebrate this true Christmas in the splendor, known to us, human conventional form. I like my Christmas with the dear Christmas tree. Yet of the Christmas tree we might say a few things: Many of you will be surprised to hear that there were Christmas celebrations with candle illuminated fir tree, as we are accustomed to observe them, first about 170 years ago. There occurred, indeed, already before isolated Christmas celebrations with fir trees, but still without candles. Yes, still greater, perhaps, is the surprise among you when we relate that the observance of the fes-

tival with a tree was not, originally, something Christian, but is of pagan origin. The celebration of Christmas as known to us has first a Christian sanction when we give it a clear Christian sentiment. That is, when we upon all which stands in connection with the Christmas tree bestow the sentiment which points us toward Jesus Christ and his work of redemption. When we do such the fir tree can be to us in a fivefold way for a Christian symbol.

1. The green fir tree reminds us in its living freshness in the time when all else in nature is dead, bare and dying, thereby that Jesus Christ alone is the true tree of life. Without him all is dead, waste, cold; without faith in Christ we are dead while yet alive.

2. The branches of the fir tree are wide and broad underneath and thereafter above always become smaller, discharging themselves in a point at the last. This fir tree has, when viewed as a whole, the form of a pyramid, pointing up. In this pointing up lies, again, a genuine Christian symbol. We should at all times look upward, thither, whence God sent his Son to us, and where Christ after his death and his resurrection has returned again. Strive after that which is on high, and not after that which is on earth.

3. In the fir tree the branches are always directed crosswise. Here we think of the cross of Christ. Yes, near the Christmas crib stands the cross. That is, the way of redemption by Jesus Christ has begun in the Christmas night, but has conducted our Lord further, always deeper down, till he reached the cross. He descended in the depths of human suffering, sin and death, and he at the cross has taken away from us on himself all these dark powers. In his death there is for us alone the source of the true, eternal life.

4. We are wont to adorn our Christmas trees with every kind of ornament. The children rejoice at the sight of the splendor of the ornamented tree. It appears to them as something which not quite exactly belongs to this world. Friends, this truly is not only for the little children, but for all God's children! The Christmas tree with its lovely embellishment may be to us as a feeble defective image of the future heavenly splendor and glory to which we have access through our Lord and Saviour.

5. On the fir tree are many lighted candles. We all are called to be burning lights—lights on the tree of life, which Jesus Christ is called. Light is a symbol of truth, concerning which we pray that Christ's Word and Spirit may lead us into all truth. Light is also a symbol of purity. Thus would Christ lead us always more to the purification and sanctification of our life. Where light is there is also warmth—there must all cold vanish. Oh may the Lord who has always loved us, also kindly in us a true love, that all cold lovelessness in us and around us may be obliterated. And still a last thought: When the candle burns it so consumes itself till it becomes extinguished. That is also a resemblance of our life-work. But we are not permitted by Christ to consider the sparing and preserving of our life; but there is use to us for all the gifts which the Lord has given us to give out to our neighbors.

That will I write for me in heart and mind,
That I am not on the earth for myself;
That I, loving, pass on to another
The love by which I live.

So let us celebrate Christmas. May a ray from the eternal penetrate downward and make known to us that we are permitted to be called God's children through our Lord and Saviour out of unmixed grace to extol such majesty. He awakens in us a joy for the time to come, when we once shall fully become God's children for us to rejoice in eternal Christmas joy. Amen.

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

WHAT MAKES IT CHRISTMAS DAY?

NOT all the feasting and the song
That speed the merry hours along;
Not all the gifts, and love, and mirth,
That circle round the happy earth;
Not all the holly berries gay,
Can make a Christmas Day.

What makes it Christmas Day?
The Gift of gifts from heaven on earth,
The holy Child, whose wondrous birth
Brings to each heart its message still,
"Glory to God, to men good-will!"
This is the angels' joyous lay;
This makes the Christmas Day!

—Selected.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

TWO boys, who were in hospital, attracted the attention of the nurses by a delightful exhibition of the Christmas spirit. One of them was given a dose of particularly obnoxious medicine to take, and he felt as miserable as any small boy would do under the circumstances. The other boy's sympathies were aroused, and waiting until a favorable chance presented itself, he stole up to the victim, who was gazing at the nauseous mixture with loathing. "Say," he whispered, loud enough to be overheard, "I'll take it for you. It's Christmas!"

Probably the hard-hearted doctors would take a stern view of the case, and would fail to understand how the vicarious cure could be wrought; but everybody felt better for it. "It was the loveliest exhibition of the Christmas spirit I have ever seen," said the nurse who related the incident. "I don't think friendship could be strained to greater limits, for the medicine certainly did taste vile!"

I wonder how many of us are ready to take another's medicine—for we get very different kinds of medicine as life wears on. Doubtless some of this medicine is for our own good, and nobody can take it for us; but even to offer to help to take the taste away has a great curative value for the sufferer sometimes. There's a medicine for hurt minds as well as for sick bodies, and sometimes we are very prone to administer the wrong physic for such wounds. The sympathetic touch is what is required; and if we did not apply the balm at any other time of year, at least we should try to do it now. Let us try to make this a happy Christmastide in memory of One who did not break the bruised reed nor quench the smouldering flax.—Selected.

THE SUPREME JOY OF CHRISTMAS.

HOW full the world is of things which have no useful function in the lowest use of the word. Why was the rose created? Why are there dawns and sunsets? Were precious stones only placed in the earth to raise envy and pride in the hearts of rich women, or to be hoarded as portable riches by avaricious men?

Will you think of these things? And if you are tired and worried, if you are poor and needy, then remember that he hath made everything beautiful in his time. Our acts of giving and receiving can become things of beauty if they are performed with his grace.

We all need the gift of a loving spirit if we are to enter fully into the supreme joy of Christmas. First we must realize that all good things come from God, and that it is his good pleasure to give us of his infinite store. We, in our turn, must give freely and graciously, with-

out stint, if we are to act as God's children. This Christmas-time, therefore, let us give generously and wisely towards Christ's work.

We should try, if we can, to be less rushed in our giving than in previous years. The calls of work and business are heavy on many of us, but by planning our time carefully, we can make much better use of it.

This year we want a peaceful, happy Christmas, so that, however poor we may be in worldly goods, we can bring to Christ the gift of a loving spirit.—E. R. Appleton in "The Sunday Companion."

HER SECRET POWER.

F. W. ROBERTSON explained the secret of the subtle power for good exercised by many people. He said:

"What was the secret of such an one's power? What had she done? Absolutely nothing, but radiant smiles, beaming good humor, the tact of divining what everyone felt and everyone wanted, told that she had got out of self and learned to think of others; so that at one time it showed itself by sweet words; at another by soothing an invalid's pillow; at another, by soothing a sobbing child.

"None but she saw those things. None but a loving heart could see them. That was the secret of her heavenly power. The one who will be found in trial capable of great acts of love, is ever the one who is always doing considerate small ones."

NOEL.

THE carolling of one small bird
Upon a poor man's window-sill
Is quite enough of heaven to move
The shadows of all care and ill.

And were there nothing else to tell
That Christ's Nativity was here,
But that faint echo of Noel,
'Twere quite enough to bring good cheer.

Long may such messengers of grace
Pause in their flight to aim swift darts
And breathe the breath of trackless space
In sorrow-laden human hearts.

—C. Walker Chandler.

ROWS OF EWES!

AN old Sussex shepherd had never a day's illness in his life. When at last he did take to his bed, it was quite obvious that he would never leave it again. The vicar of the parish visited him almost daily to read to him. The old man always begged the clergyman to read him the hymn, "The roseate hues of early dawn." At the tenth request for the reading of this hymn the clergyman asked him what it was in the lines that made such an appeal to him. "Ah, sir," answered the old shepherd, "here I lie, and I know full well that I shall never get up again, but when you reads me that beautiful hymn I fancies myself on the downs again at daybreak, and can just see 'Them rows of ewes at early dawn.'—From Lord Frederic Hamilton's "Here, There and Everywhere."

A party of American lynchers had made a mistake and killed the wrong man. They felt that some explanation and apology was due to the widow, and a deputation was appointed for the purpose. The leader addressed the widow in these terms: "We must own, marm, that you've the laugh of us this time."

The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

TOPIC.—GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

Monday, December 19.

YET have I set my king upon my holy hill
Of Zion.—Psa. 2: 6.

The first of the psalmist's messianic prophecies. Later the mission and passion of our Saviour are foretold, but first is given the assurance of final triumph.

Reading—Psalm 2.

Tuesday, December 20.

He shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The
Prince of Peace.—Isa. 9: 6.

Such unique titles indicate unique offices and work. Incomparably greater is Jesus than the greatest of this world's leaders. He is raised to the very highest position that he may accomplish the greatest work that ever was or ever could be wrought for mortal man.

Reading—Isaiah 9: 6-21.

Wednesday, December 21.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all the things that they had
heard and seen, even as it was spoken unto
them.—Luke 2: 20.

The shepherds probably "passed to their reward during the thirty years which Jesus spent in seclusion prior to entering upon his public ministry. But the rest of their commonplace life was now filled with music of praise, and their night watches lit by the glory of God, which could never entirely fade away."

Reading—Luke 2: 15-20.

Thursday, December 22.

And when they saw the star they rejoiced
with exceeding great joy.—Matt. 2: 10.

The re-appearance of the star was an assurance that the wise men would be safely led to the object of their search. The star faded, but the Sun of Righteousness arose with healing in his wings, which shall shine forever, and cause millions to rejoice with exceeding great joy.

Reading—Matthew 2: 1-12.

Friday, December 23.

Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord,
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.
—Luke 2: 29.

"To one who has Christ in his arms and salvation before his eyes, the world looks poor indeed, and the loss of it appears gain." Simeon contemplated an early departure from this life, yet he is satisfied now, "since he had seen that for which God had kept him alive. He represents himself as a sentinel who, seeing the rising of the day-star which is the signal that his watch is relieved, knows his weary waiting is at an end."

Reading—Luke 2: 25-35.

Saturday, December 24.

She (Anna) departed not from the temple,
worshipping with fastings and supplications
night and day.—Luke 2: 37.

No doubt Anna loved God's house, and its services, and it is highly probable that her prophetic ability had secured for her the right to dwell permanently therein; and there she worshipped night and day, and there she spake to all whom she met of the wonderful Saviour who had appeared.

Reading—Luke 2: 36-40.

Sunday, December 25.

I bring you tidings of great joy which shall
be to all the people.—Luke 2: 10.

The acceptance of Christ brings present joy and gives the hope of joy everlasting. Well might the shepherds rejoice and the multitude of the heavenly host sing their song of praise, for now had appeared him in whom salvation for a lost world and everlasting peace is alone to be found.

Readings—Isaiah 9: 1-7; Luke 2: 8-20.

No Room for Jesus.

Luke 2: 8-20.

Prayer Meeting Topic for December 21.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

NINETEEN hundred years ago the world's greatest and most amazing event was chronicled. At the time there were no newspaper headlines and no stir in the high places of the earth. The day after was much the same as the day before, and men went about their business in the self-same way. An old prophecy had foretold of one who was to be born in Bethlehem Ephratah. When? Most people did not know, though many were interested. And God came to earth to live with men and be an example and reveal the real heart of the Father. He came in the form of a little child and was named Jesus, for he was to save his people from their sins.

The tragic thing the day Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem was that there was no room for them to lodge. Joseph was anxious and Mary worn and weary. Herod's palace offered no hospitality nor did they expect it. The town of Bethlehem could give none in spite of expectation. Their only shelter was a stable, and there Christ was born. Man did not know of the event or the importance of it, and Jesus was born outside of any dwelling fit for human habitation. It foreshadowed what was to be.

When he commenced his public ministry thirty years afterward and returned to the town in which he had lived long years, he was rejected. There was no room found for him in the local synagogue. When he came to Jerusalem they were ready to stone him. You see, he preached things that were contrary to their own little notions. "He came unto his own and his own received him not." They took him finally and crucified him. But he was nevertheless the Saviour of the world and still lives.

The world is what it is—full of war and rumors of war, full of covetousness and vain pleasure and sin—because there is no room for Jesus.

1. In the community. Suppose he had called at your house the other day or that evening when you were holding that party. Would you have invited him in gladly? Suppose you had seen him in the street and asked him to go to the theatre with you. Do you think you could have found room for him? Or if you saw him at the door of the business house you own or where you are employed. Could you invite him in to share with you the experiences of the day? I venture to think that many a business house would have no room for Jesus. And on the Lord's own day there are very many who could find no room for him and no time to give him.

2. In the national life. Could we ask Jesus to help us in our building up of armaments? He would wish to know what it was all about, and I don't think he would find any place in such programmes with which we are so familiar to-day. Would he find place in the national life, where the individual is forgotten and the state made everything? Our nation is not Christian.

3. In education. The education of our youth shall be free, secular and compulsory. There is not much room found for Jesus in such an attitude as that. No, it's not pagan, but it's not Christian.

There is no room for Jesus to-day save in the hearts of those who love him. Jerusalem found no place for him and suffers. Let us learn the lesson and give him increasing place in our hearts, homes, community and national life.

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER 23.—REDEEMING THE TIME.—Ephesians 5: 15-21.

Our Young People.

Conducted by Keith A. Jones

Camps With a Purpose.

FOR thousands of people Christmas time is camp time. The beaches, hills and lakes will be thronged with crowds who seek a change from the ordered routine of the daily round. Large groups of young people are planning to be "under canvas" during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Church groups are arranging to spend their holidays in this way, under the leadership of their preacher or some trustworthy person. For social fellowship and physical recuperation much can be gained.

Leadership Camps.

It is of interest to note that in every State of the Commonwealth the young people's departments have been alive to the possibilities of training for Christian leadership through the agency of the camp conference movement. It would be difficult to compute the value of this activity in the lives of hundreds of our young people who have, on one or more occasions, been in attendance at such camps. In New Zealand, under the leadership of Bro. W. R. Hibbert, hundreds of young people gather annually. During the next four weeks and over the Easter holidays hundreds of our best young manhood and young womanhood in Australia and New Zealand will be associated in Christian leadership camps.

The Stimulus of Fellowship.

Whilst it may be argued that a single church camp group may be of some practical value, it is rarely sufficiently extensive in fellowship or instruction. In the round of the year in a local church young people are closely associated in one or more of the groups. It may be that often the horizon of their thinking or working does not reach beyond the narrow limits of the home church. A parochial spirit is likely to grow up. The larger camps of the brotherhood, gathering as they do young people from all parts north, south, east and west, give an immense stimulus in fellowship. To the isolated or discouraged worker the fellowship opens new and unexpected doors. Real and lasting friendships are made, and interest in the work of Christ in many parts is engendered. The feeling of oneness and bigness in the tasks of Christian leadership spurs them on to greater adventures. Quickened and strengthened by the knowledge of loyal team mates in many places, campers return to their own spheres.

Problems, Ideals, Faith.

But the real purpose of a brotherhood camp goes beyond fellowship and physical refreshment. Unless there is woven into the life and programme of a camp something more intimate and personal, immense opportunities for good would be lost. Great emphasis is being placed on the part which youth must play in the life of the world to-day. It is little wonder that youth is perplexed and full of questions about the future. Life is so full of conflicting loyalties. Youth wants to be true to its ideals. It wants a faith strong enough to see life through with victory.

From experience we can say that there are few occasions which come to youth, where their problems, ideals and faith are so intimately touched as in a camp experience. The purpose of such activity is to create or deepen a conviction of God, and a sense of companionship with Jesus Christ. Further, to give a world-wide vision of the kingdom of God, and reveal that in Christ there is in-

spiration and motivation to build a new and better world. Camps with such programmes must have an abiding value in the life of the campers, the church and the world.

Queensland's Annual Demonstration.

THE Queensland Associated Churches of Christ Young People's Department held their annual demonstration in Ann-st. chapel, Brisbane, Lord's day afternoon recently. This fine building was filled, owing largely to the dated lesson—"Elijah's Victory on Mt. Carmel"—being given at this function, instead of locally. Individual schools were assigned certain portions of the lesson as outlined in the Austral Graded Lessons. This proved an effective change. Kedron school was appointed "choir" under baton of C. W. Kollmar. Excellent examination (and other) results this year. Nine first, ten second, and ten third prizes were presented. Thirty-three honor and 119 pass certificates were won. Eighteen books of special merit were given. One seven-year attendance silver medal and many attendance seals were well earned. The tournament shields were won by—Annerley (first) and Albion (second) in grade A (over 50 scholars); Sunnybank (first) and Stone's Corner (second) in grade B (under 50). Our Young People's Department schools support Dhond Hospital, India. A model of the hospital was displayed by Miss D. Judge, P.M. president. This demonstration was "best yet." N. G. Noble, president, was in chair, assisted by Miss E. E. Cane, secretary; Mr. H. W. Wyeth, treasurer; and H. J. Payne, vice-president, who also announced an excellent prospect for our Young People's Department annual Christmas camp at Redcliffe, on the shores of Moreton Bay.—(Miss) E. E. Cane.

After All, What Is a Boy?

HE is the person who is to carry on what you have started

He is to sit right where you are sitting and attend to those things you think are so very important that no one else can attend to them.

You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends on him.

If you make leagues and treaties he will have to manage them.

He will assume control of your cities, States and nation.

He is going to move in and guide your prisons, schools, universities, churches and corporations.

All your work is going to be judged and praised or condemned by him.

Your reputation and your future are in his hands.

All your work is for him, and the future of our city, State, nation and humanity is in his hands.

It might be well for us to give him more attention and give him a square deal in his fight for clean manhood and Christian citizenship.—Selected.

"Jesus, Master, whom I serve,

Though so feebly and so ill,

Strengthen hand and heart and nerve,

All thy bidding to fulfil;

Open thou mine eyes to see

All the work thou hast for me."

Here and There.

WE wish all our readers a very happy Christmas.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"Whatever we think of this great mystery of love, we cannot be satisfied until we know that Christ is born in ourselves.

"Though Christ in Bethlehem a thousand times be born
And not within thyself, thy soul will be forlorn."

□

Bro. Stuart Stevens has accepted an invitation to preach the conference sermon in Sydney next Easter.

The mission at Mitcham, Vic., closed on Dec. 12 with a total of 14 decisions, 7 restorations, and a thankoffering of £25.

We learn that Bro. R. W. L. Crosby has passed in all subjects for the fifth year examination for the M.B., B.S. degree in Adelaide University.

Bro. F. E. Alcorn (conference president, N.S.W.), who recently visited churches on the north coast, speaks very highly of the work being done by the various preachers and congregations.

Australian brethren are reminded that the third World Convention of Churches of Christ is to be held at Toronto, Canada, from Aug. 6 to 12, 1940. It is not too early to plan to go. Particulars may be had on application to F. N. Lee, secretary Australian Committee, 430 St. George's-rd., Thornbury, Vic.

F. T. Saunders wishes to acknowledge receiving from Balaklava, S.A., an anonymous letter containing 10/- as a Christmas gesture to the College. The spirit and the gift both are much appreciated, and because a spread of such a Christmas spirit would be welcomed, the example is commended to other members.

Next issue will be the last number of "The Australian Christian" for this year. The Austral printing department will be closed between Christmas and the New Year. We desire to avoid receipt of double reports from churches. We therefore request our reporters not to send more than one report between Dec. 21 and Monday, Jan. 2.

A host of friends throughout Australia will join in offering congratulations and good wishes to Bro. and Sister G. T. Walden, whose golden wedding was celebrated on Monday. Our brother and sister have the love and esteem of the whole Brotherhood for the splendid service they have rendered. May they have the rich blessing of God in the days ahead.

The following telegram from Hamilton, Vic., reached us on Monday: "Hinrichsen-Morris had stirring meetings yesterday; over fifty adults welcomed morning service; chapel, school hall and vestries crowded out at night; 18 decisions at close.—Garland." On Tuesday another message came as follows:—"Eight further decisions last night; total decisions 97; thankoffering over £250.—Hinrichsen."

Bro. B. W. Manning writes: "This summer arrangements have been made for services to be conducted in the local court house at Port Elliott, a fine building in a wonderful position. A piano given for the new chapel at Victor Harbour will be loaned, a city brother is providing a sign-board, and a few seats must be secured.—Meetings commence Sunday, Dec. 18, breaking of bread 9.45 a.m., and after-church service at 8.30 p.m., to be conducted by Bro. Manning."

The College annual offering returns from 212 churches show a total of £822/15/7, which is ahead of the final offering of 1936, but shows a net decrease of £62/3/- as compared with the offerings of these churches last year. Amounts from the States are: Victoria, £404/12/10; South Australia, £151/8/9; New South Wales, £125/18/8; Queensland, £77/12/7; Western Australia, £52/13/4; Tasmania, £10/12/5. Church treasurers still holding the offering are asked to remit promptly so that the amounts can be included in this year—the books will close on Dec. 31.

W. Gale writes: "It is thrilling to read the telegram just received from E. C. Hinrichsen telling that Hamilton mission closed with 97 decisions and thank-offering £250. This exceeds our most sanguine expectations. The total decisions in the five tent missions held by E. C. Hinrichsen and V. Morris in 1938 exceed 430. We thank God for great evangelistic victories in 1938. You will be interested to hear that annual offering reports to hand from 64 churches total £791/6/2. Last year these same churches contributed £582/16/3. It looks as though the offering will be down £200 below that of last year."

Mrs. Whelan, of Chatswood, N.S.W., wishes to express her deepest appreciation of the many beautiful tributes to the life and work of her late beloved husband; also of the wonderful generosity, kind thoughtfulness and gracious ministries of love bestowed upon her by the officers and members of Chatswood church. She desires to thank all those who helped in conducting the beautiful services at the chapel and crematorium; also the brotherhood for their messages of sympathy, and especially for their prayers before the throne of grace, "which the loving Father is wondrously answering by comforting and sustaining her in her deep need.

At Carnegie, Vic., the evening service on Dec. 11 was a "youth to youth" service, conducted by a team of ten young people. It was an experience to be treasured, and revealed very considerable talent and an utterly sincere and bold approach to the problem of living the Christian life in the world of to-day. The meeting followed a youth fellowship tea, at which 40 young people sat down together. An estimate of the young people between the ages of 15 and 20 years associated with the work revealed the encouraging fact that just over 80 youths of this age are affiliated in the various auxiliaries; 17 of these have accepted Christ in the past year.

W. J. Crossman writes:—"Following the monthly Board meeting of the Church of Christ Boys' Home, N.S.W., on Dec. 10, the members and their wives were invited by the superintendent and matron to partake of tea with the boys. It was a great delight to follow the family devotions and note how the boys answered questions on the chapter read by the superintendent. A pleasing function followed, presided over by Bro. C. J. Morris, chairman of the Board, who congratulated the workers on the past year's work, and the boys on their attainments. Various items were rendered by the boys, and successful examination candidates were presented with certificates and awards. Greetings were given by J. L. Stimson, A. A. Smith, Mrs. Smith and W. J. Crossman."

At Cheltenham, Vic., on Dec. 11, the diamond jubilee and home-coming were held to commemorate the erection of the chapel. The building was crowded with enthusiastic congregations at each meeting. In the morning Bro. A. R. Malm spoke on "Keeping the Faith." The afternoon session, "Back to Bible School," was conducted by Bro. H. Brough, superintendent, when greetings from far and near were

read. Mrs. Finger, a past scholar, was soloist. Reminiscent talks were led by Bro. R. T. Pittman. The gospel message was delivered by Bro. A. W. Connor, and the choir rendered anthems under leadership of Bro. Buckley. Hospitality was extended to all by the ladies of the church. The girls' club organised a grocery evening on Dec. 6 for Christmas cheer. Two pedestals were presented to the church by the members of Bible class.

In the Granville-Parramatta circuit, N.S.W., on December 4 Bro. Hammer addressed the church at Doonside. Mission was continued at night. One baptised believer came for fellowship. The mission closed on Monday night with thanksgiving service and offering. The new chapel is to be officially opened on Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. Granville meetings on Dec. 4 were very good. Bro. Acland speaking in the morning and Bro. Kenyon at night. The kindergarten Christmas tree was held successfully on Dec. 9. The "Soul-saving Crusaders" canvassed Westmead and district on Dec. 10, announcing commencement of gospel services. All the work is healthy and very encouraging. There were good meetings at Granville on Dec. 11.

In a letter addressed to Bro. W. J. Crossman, secretary of the last Federal conference, Dr. J. H. Montgomery, of Hongkong, representative of the International Red Cross Society, writes: "I have received your cheque on behalf of the Churches of Christ in Australia for \$929.37. I would like, on behalf of I.R.C., to thank the Churches of Christ in Australia for their generous gift toward the work of I.R.C. It is good to know there is genuine sympathy behind the generous gift, and here in Hongkong we understand better than ever the terrible suffering and distress that war brings, as in the past few days we have had more than 40,000 destitute, homeless refugees, who crossed the border into Hongkong territory and for whom we have to provide. I shall be glad also if you would pass on our thanks to those who have contributed to this fund, and assure them of our deep appreciation of their gift, their sympathy and their prayers." It is anticipated that with further amounts which have come to hand for this fund, the total will reach within the vicinity of £100."

Bro. A. L. Read writes of the work at Maylands, S.A.: "Bro. Fitzgerald, after rendering excellent service for over five years, has intimated that he desires to be relieved of his pastorate at the end of March, 1939. The officers and members of the church realise that the work in this district is heavy, but regret very sincerely the proposed relinquishment of the position, as in addition to the capable local work carried out by him, Bro. Fitzgerald has rendered State-wide leadership in the work of social reform, and is chairman of the conference social service committee. His services can ill be spared from South Australia. The auxiliaries of the church are holding the usual Christmas parties. Sister Fitzgerald recently entertained members of the women's sewing guild, and the superintendent of Bible school and Mrs. Glover entertained teachers and staff of the school. The State and Maylands' farewell to Miss Vawser is being arranged for Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1939, when representatives from all churches will be welcome. Good services on Dec. 11; one confession of faith."

ADDRESSES.

- G. Parker, jun. (secretary Croydon church, Vic.)—Baywater-rd., Croydon.
A. Ross (secretary Castlemaine church, Vic.)—47 Hunter-st., Castlemaine.
J. E. Searle (preacher Thornbury church, Vic.)—5 Devon-st., Preston, N.18.
C. G. Taylor (preacher Parkdale church, Vic.)—29 The Corso, Parkdale, S.11.

News of the Churches.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Maylands.—Work is progressing under leadership of Bro. Hilford, a deeper spiritual tone being noticeable. The forming of a young worshippers' league has helped gospel services. New hall was completed and opened by Bro. A. Bell at a banquet on Nov. 16. Many prominent members of the brotherhood were present. Bro. J. Rhodes has raised over £200 towards cost.

Kalgoorlie.—Kindergarten and upper Bible school are preparing for annual Christmas tree and treat. School continues to grow. Y.P.S.C.E. was successful in raising from its members £10 towards hall renovation fund. On Nov. 27 Bro. Roy Richards exhorted. A Sunday school teachers' conference and fellowship tea was held on Dec. 4, when business of Boulder and Kalgoorlie schools was discussed. Teachers are urgently needed for the growing school at Boulder.

TASMANIA.

Invermay.—On Nov. 27 the Bible school anniversary was held, followed by demonstration and prize-giving on Nov. 30. The children sang splendidly under the able conductorship of Bro. Ron. Pitt. Bro. J. E. Thomas spoke well at all meetings. On Dec. 4 Bro. Lowe, of Margaret-st., exhorted, Bro. van, Eerde, of Devonport, preaching in the evening. At annual business meeting of Bible school, Bro. E. A. Stevens was appointed superintendent for the coming year. The church looks forward to the arrival of Bro. F. T. Morgan.

Hobart (Collins-st.).—On Dec. 4 the church enjoyed fellowship with Bro. and Sister J. E. Thomas and Bro. Don Thomas. Bro. Thomas was visiting speaker for home mission appeal. Bro. Bowes conducted meetings for appeal at Kellevie. On Dec. 6 a splendid concert in aid of building fund was given by Methodist Merry Makers. The parents' and friends' association held annual meeting on Dec. 8, reports showing a splendid year of service. Evening service on Dec. 11 was broadcast, Bro. Bowes speaking on "The Transforming Vision." There was a parade of cricket and tennis clubs. Sympathy is extended to Sister Mrs. Duncan in the loss of her father and our brother in Christ (Mr. Sockling).

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane Circuit.—There was one confession at Sunnybank on Dec. 4, Bro. Alcorn preaching, and another at Stones' Corner on Dec. 7, when Bro. Macnaughtan delivered an address on "The Church that Jesus Built." Sunnybank's home mission offering was double that of last year. A concert organised by Mrs. Alcorn yielded £6 for circuit funds.

Brisbane.—Although Sunday was the hottest December day for the past 25 years, 166 broke bread at Ann-st. One was received into fellowship who is of the fourth generation in churches of Christ in Australia. Large meeting at night, when a young man confessed Christ. He is the grandson of W. A. C. and Mrs. Wendorf, and of the fifth generation in the church. Attendances and interest are at their best.

Kedron.—Bro. T. A. Ferguson exhorted the church on Nov. 27 on "Home Missions," and Bro. H. Barker spoke on Dec. 4. Bro. J. Larsen spoke at gospel service on "What God Winked At." On Dec. 8 the boys' Square and Achievement clubs held breaking-up banquet, to which fathers of the boys and the church officers were invited, and on Dec. 15 the girls' Phi Beta Pi club banquet was held, to which the mothers were invited. On Dec. 11 Bro. H. G. Payne conducted both services, morning exhortation being on "Character." An isolated member (Sister Mrs. R. C. Miller, Ducklo, daughter of Bro. and

Sister Payne) was a visitor. At Bible school Christmas tree all scholars and school staff received a gift. Bren. Lex. Donaldson, recently in hospital as result of accident, and Jack Stevens, who underwent operation for appendicitis, are home. A sister was received into fellowship on Dec. 4 by letter from Ann-st. church. Bro. John Larsen has undertaken preaching appointments and oversight of Boondall church for six months.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Hindmarsh.—On Dec. 11 Bro. W. W. Saunders gave a good exhortation on "Answer by Fire." Sister Mrs. Coulls, by letter from Croydon, was received into fellowship. There were a number of visitors present. At gospel service Bro. Saunders preached in an impassioned way on "Fleeing for Life." A young member of the Bible school, Bernice Russell, took her stand for Christ.

Semaphore.—Seventy-one broke bread on Dec. 11. Splendid meeting at night. Best attendance at Bible school for year. At annual business meeting on Dec. 7, all reports were optimistic and each presented a credit balance. The building of a vestry and raising the preacher's salary were considered, and will come up again at a special meeting. Ladies' guild is preparing an afternoon for elderly folk.

Mile End.—The meetings have been excellent, and a fortnight ago two young girls made the good confession. On Dec. 8 a very enjoyable evening was spent when the girls' club and young men's gymnasium club held a break-up social. On Dec. 11 some restored to health after prolonged illness were present. Bro. Albert Anderson gave an excellent message. Bro. Maston Bell, of Perth, W.A., and his son Reg were amongst visitors.

Victor Harbor.—Bro. Max Lambert, of Inman Valley, was immersed at Goolwa on Dec. 4. On Dec. 11 Bro. and Sister W. L. Ewers had fellowship with the church, as well as many others. At close of Bro. Manning's gospel message two married men and three married ladies made decision for Christ. Two of these were husband and wife from the city. United Christian Convention commences Christmas Eve. Bro. B. W. Manning has assured the brethren of his determination of continuing his ministry in the circuit.

Prospect.—A married woman confessed Christ on Dec. 12. On Dec. 11 Miss Marion Howie and Bro. Ron Freeman were united in marriage, and were also Miss Mavis Tucker and Bro. Stan. Terrace. Ladies' guild recently held picnic at Waterfall Gully, 55 ladies being present. On Dec. 3 Bro. and Sister Fowler and family were given a farewell social on the eve of their departure for Melbourne, and a presentation was made. Splendid anthems were rendered by the choir. At evening service on Dec. 12 the soloist was Miss Lillian Trowbridge. Phi Betas are making garments for Christmas cheer at Port Adelaide mission. Bren. Marshall Gilmore and Murray Purdie have addressed the amalgamated Bible class.

Unley.—Bro. and Sister P. A. Dickson's fellowship at Lord's table on Dec. 11 was enjoyed. They flew from Melbourne to attend celebration of Bro. and Sister G. T. Walden's golden wedding on 12th. Miss Edith Harris was welcomed back into membership after many years with church at Blackwood. Bible school teachers held conference and prayer meeting, followed by tea, for discussion of plans for future work. Large congregation in evening listened appreciatively to cantata, "Bethlehem," presented by augmented choir, under direction of Bro. Philip Wood, Mus. Bac. Offering for Christmas cheer. Goodly gathering of sisters at Botanic Gardens on recent Wednesday for last meeting of ladies' guild for year.

VICTORIA.

Oakleigh.—On Dec. 11 Bro. Hughes, of Carnegie, addressed morning meeting. His subject, "Christian Endeavor," was enjoyed by all. Bro. Mudge addressed evening meeting on "My Figure at the Window" (from Daniel).

Dandenong.—Bro. Lewis brought an interesting message to the church on Dec. 11, based on "Sound Speech." At evening service Bro. Bruce Coventry, of the College, led with a fine message entitled "The Gracious Invitation."

Hampton.—At a ladies' meeting on Dec. 9 Miss A. Baker gave an address on "Chinese Women of Melbourne." The kinders were given a Christmas party on the 10th. On Dec. 11 Bro. Tinkler and Stephenson were the speakers.

Lillimar.—Some good meetings have been held recently. Fellowship with former members was a happy experience. Bro. Coventry's visit was appreciated. On Dec. 11, at afternoon service, there were two confessions. Bro. Withers preached powerfully.

Hawthorn.—Annual sale of work resulted in the ladies' aid being able to give to church officers £80. On Dec. 14 the ladies' mission band held a meeting at which members of girls' club took part; Sister Mrs. Waterman was speaker. Bro. Neighbour gives interesting and helpful addresses.

Ormond.—On Dec. 10 the kindergarten scholars had a Christmas tea at the chapel. On Dec. 4 Bro. C. L. Lang gave stirring messages. Bro. and Sister A. Lunn were welcomed by transfer from Gardenvale. Bro. F. Jowett's mother received the home-call during the week. Members extend deep sympathy.

Prakran.—On Dec. 11, at morning service, Bro. Nankivell (Surrey Hills) spiritually uplifted the church with his message on "A Challenge to Service." At gospel service the young people took part, and Bro. Webb spoke on "The Overflowing Life." Bible school and kindergarten held enjoyable Christmas treats on Dec. 10.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—On Dec. 11 Bro. S. R. Baker, of Lygon-st., addressed church at morning service. Bro. Scambler exchanging. At evening meeting Bro. Scambler preached. Offering for home missions amounts to £70. Young people have arranged entertainment and Christmas tree and are gathering gifts for young folk of South Richmond school.

Caulfield (Dambra-rd.).—All meetings are well supported. On Dec. 11 Mr. Ambrose Roberts, of Local Option Alliance, addressed the church. At gospel service Bro. Clarrie Smith sang a solo. J.C.E. entertained a party of children from Collingwood at a treat and Christmas tree on Dec. 10. Sister Lucy Walker is restored to health after many weeks in hospital.

West Preston.—Bro. C. Young (Preston) was speaker on morning of Dec. 11. Bro. Wigney is giving an interesting series of gospel addresses. His subject on Sunday evening was "Must I Obey?" An anthem by the choir with Miss D. Ferris as soloist was appreciated. It has been the aim of senior C.E. to have an attendance of 50 at their meeting on Wednesday evenings. This was achieved on Dec. 7, when over 60 were present.

Kaniva.—Bro. Coventry's visit has been much appreciated. He addressed Kaniva morning and evening of Nov. 27, and Lillimar in the afternoon. He also spoke to prayer meetings on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1. His messages and visitation were helpful, and cemented the ties of brotherhood work. Meetings have been well maintained, and sisters have been busy with their work of Christmas cheer. Home mission offering now stands at £30.

Moeveland.—The marriage of Miss Jean Findlow, a popular and keen youth worker, to Mr. R. Hallett took place at the chapel on Dec. 10. On 11th a young man, previously baptised, was welcomed into fellowship. A Bible school scholar was baptised at gospel service, and in response to Bro. Mathieson's earnest appeal, two more girls from the Bible

(Continued on page 796.)

Foreign Missions.

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

"GOODWILL TOWARD MEN."

NEVER was a greater message given to men, and never was the responsibility heavier to present that message to men. Our ambassadors overseas are seeking through many avenues to bring this old yet new message to multitudes who have never even dreamed that such an important announcement was given by God's hosts to wondering men. Missionaries will be able to demonstrate this truth more effectively because of the good gifts packed into Christmas boxes and the special gifts given for Christmas cheer. The missionaries have already written expressing their thanks. In behalf of all our missionaries and co-workers we say, "God bless you every one." May your Christmas be a happy one and the new year full of rich experiences. God grant that our united efforts might result in bringing the message nearer to the waiting peoples of the earth. "On earth peace, goodwill toward men."

OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE.

THE Federal Board take pleasure in announcing that for the first quarter of the new financial year a welcome advance in funds is recorded. For the first quarter (September-November), 1937, the sum of £620 was received, whilst 1938 figures show £878. Whilst this is a cause for thankfulness, it should not make us feel unduly elated. It will be remembered that during December and January last year gifts were numerous because of the going forward of Dr. and Mrs. Michael. To grasp the present opportunity, very liberal gifts must be received during the next few months. Let Christmas and New Year be a period of thanksgiving and response so that the Board and committees will not be unduly anxious as consideration is being given to sending a new nurse to India.

A CHURCH WHICH UNITES ALL CHURCHES.

IN November 17 issue of the "Dnyanodaya" (Rise of Knowledge), a fine article appears concerning the Churches of Christ in Australia and, in addition, pays a worthy tribute to its representatives in India. This paper is printed both in English and Marathi and has a wide circulation in the Marathi speaking area. The article should prove interesting and pleasing to our readers.

"The Churches of Christ in Australia have been celebrating the 150th anniversary of Alexander Campbell, whose spiritual adventure is worth understanding, a tale of how the Campbells passionately longed for the union of all Christian churches. They believed that the only common denominator of all Christian people is faith in Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the obligation of Christlike life as revealed in the New Testament. Hence the Churches of Christ sprang out of a deep conviction of the evils of sectarian divisions. They begged their fellow Christians to eliminate the human additions accumulated through centuries to the simple gospel. This seemed to them the only common denominator for a truly united church. They sought to restore the early Christian society as the only means of bringing all the scattered fragments into one church. The body of Christians who rejoice in this name, numbering more than a million and a half, do not imply that other churches are not churches of Christ, but would be glad if all churches would abandon local and party names and style themselves Churches of Christ, without qualification. The 'Herald' of Melbourne points out that one of the master motives of the Churches of Christ,

the passion out of which the movement sprang, is the union of all Christians. The movement would lose much of its justification for continuing as a separate body but for its unwavering advocacy of the belief that Christian union can only be achieved when the New Testament is taken seriously as the standard of the church and the attempt earnestly made to recapture the spirit of the New Testament and to restore its essential forms.' This is exactly on the same lines which Dr. Stanley Jones has been advocating the past few years, and we believe such a plan has far more in it than has been admitted by many critics. The Churches of Christ in Australia have their worthy representatives in the vigorous and successful mission at Baramati, Dhond and other centres in Western India, and they can help us all by continually recalling to our minds these bedrock principles of essential Christian unity."

MISS LAMBERT.

AFTER spending a few weeks in the Canberra Community Hospital, Miss Lambert returned to her home for a few days, but is now taking advantage of the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson at Narrabeen, N.S.W. She says that she is having a delightful rest, and Mrs. Robertson is determined that she shall put on weight. We sincerely trust that Miss Lambert will find the rest and quietness great factors in restoring her to normal health. Miss Lambert, whilst not the first missionary to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, is the first missionary to enter what is now known as the Missionary Rest Home. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson are to be commended for their large-heartedness and gracious hospitality.

PEARL ANDERSON.

FROM time to time friends enquire as to the whereabouts of Pearl Anderson. At the present time she is nursing at the G.M.S. Hospital, Yunnanfu. Dr. and Mrs. Watson, who were close friends of our Australian workers, are very kind to her, and take great interest in her. Writing to her mother in October, she tells in a graphic way the suffering of the Chinese people, and incidentally the great work Christian missionaries and mission hospitals are doing for China in her time of need. Many will also be interested to hear mention again of our old friend and co-laborer, Dr. Hsueh.

"The work at Hsueh is getting on well. The church has so many people who come to the meetings that Pastor Chen is glad. They are very pleased they have Miss Chen with Dr.

Gee in the work. On September 28 the Japanese planes came to Yunnanfu and dropped bombs. About 100 people were killed, and many came to this hospital. Their wounds were very bad. Some were only little children who had been carried by their mothers to the fields to hide from the bombs. Unfortunately the people did not know the danger, and over crowded, and when they saw the Japanese planes they started to run, but the Japanese dropped bombs down and thus many were killed. It was very sad. It was in the morning at 9 a.m. they came, and we had to take care of the patients and see if there were any more in the fields or under the trees. Yunnan's large university was bombed, but only a few students were wounded. Mother dearest, you would not like to see some very sad cases here, I am sure you wouldn't. They are without one arm or eye or hand in this hospital, and also in the other hospitals too. I am glad God gave us the strength to bravely work in his name to help these unfortunates. This is what I wanted to do all my life—to help others. Daddy and mother, do not worry about me; I am quite all right, and I am happy because God blesses me every day, and he will give strength to me and help me through all that I go through. This morning we went to a meeting in English. It was Dr. Hsueh speaking, and it was very nice too. Mrs. Hsueh and all their children are here now. I see them at the church every week. May God bless you and keep you all."

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

LAST Sunday evening our local devotional meeting was held in our bungalow. It must have been about 10 p.m. when we retired. The next morning Dr. Oldfield and I were up at 4.30 as we had to catch the 5.30 train for Bombay. The carriage was not crowded, so a stretch-out was obtained for a while. On the way down two items of interest occurred. The purchase of a morning newspaper revealed that there was to be a general strike in Bombay that day, so we wondered if that was going to affect our business there. Then later, after a long hold-up, we discovered that a goods train ahead of us had unfortunately become held up in a tunnel, one of its trucks having become derailed. However, we got there all right, and although the police did have to open fire three times on the strikers, the strike did not affect us. The purpose of the visit was to get the Christmas boxes cleared through customs department. I was asked to accompany Dr. Oldfield to get an insight into the procedure. It is certainly no easy task. Where the brethren at home, responsible for organising the lists of goods from the various States are good enough to comply in detail with the requests from this end, the task is easy, but where this is not done the extra labor and expense are often very considerable. However, after several days in Bombay Dr. Oldfield managed to get the boxes through.—L. J. Michael.

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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD.

READ Luke 22: 1-20. This did not take place on the first day of the week. The pass-over took place on the night of the betrayal, the same night as the trial. Following the trial the crucifixion took place, and the resurrection took place on the morning of the first day in the week. What time did the supper take place? See Mark 14: 17. This states clearly that it took place in the evening. Also see Matt. 26: 20. Matt. 26: 26-28 also shows that the first breaking of the bread took place on the evening of the passover. The time mentioned in Genesis, or the sabbath, has no connection with the supper. The breaking of bread referred to in the gospels appears to have taken place three days previous to the resurrection on the first day of the week. Referring to Acts, we must bear in mind that the Acts was written by Luke after the church was founded, possibly 30 or more years, and the Lord's day, which was really based on the resurrection, would be a fitting day for the church to break the bread in remembrance of our risen Lord. The first converts according to Acts continued in the apostles' teaching, in the fellowship and the breaking of bread, and the prayers. What took place on the first day of the week was the resurrection and the journey to Emmaus, his instructions to his disciples and his ascension at Bethany.—E. J. Paternoster, sen.

GRAMOPHONES AND MISSIONS.

OUR hearts have been exercised of late because of the pressing need of spreading the gospel message to the people in foreign lands, and especially to the people of India, in whom we have a definite interest because of our fellow missionaries who work in those parts. We feel an interest in the unsaved there. Our prayers, the money we give and Christmas cheer we send make us concerned also with their spiritual welfare. We know the Lord's words are true to-day as when he said, "The fields are already white unto harvest, but the laborers are few. But to reach the millions there must be ways and means adopted other than we have at present, for the missionaries can only reach those they come in contact with, and the written word can only reach those that can read. What about the millions that cannot read—must they perish? Now, the thought is, could not the gospel message reach them through the medium of gramophones (say with loud speaker) given in their own language, the message given by our missionaries, and as gramophones are cheap and portable, and in the hands of native teachers could be sent throughout the country? I believe much support would come from the churches to further any move this way. We hope that this matter will be given earnest consideration, for the time is ripe for a great revival in foreign lands.—F. I. Daniel.

S.A. Sisters' Auxiliary.

THE monthly meeting was held on Dec. 1. Miss H. Grant led devotions and gave a fine message on "The Meaning of Christmas." The president (Mrs. E. A. Riches) conducted business, and welcomed Mrs. Dardin, of York, late of Tumbay Bay.

Treasurer's report showed that home mission committee's credit balance was £8/1/3; overseas mission, £9/16/-; general fund, £14/18/10; catering fund, £5/7/10. Offering for afternoon, £1/4/4.

Home missions superintendent had received £3/3/7 during the month from the churches.

Overseas missions committee had visited Filinders Park. Miss Vawser's address was a stimulus to all present. £2/3/9 was received for overseas work during November.

Prayer meeting superintendent reported two visits to sick in their homes.

The following sisters had received the home call: Mrs. Sadler, Croydon; Mrs. Dring, Glenelg; Mesdames Klemmer and Brown, Norwood; Mrs. Coppins, Milang.

Temperance superintendent reported that the executive was anxious to have temperance teaching in all the churches (preferably Bands of Hope), so that young people might learn of the harmful effects of taking alcoholic beverages.

Mrs. P. R. Verco is to lead devotions on Feb. 2, 1939.

A retiring offering was taken as a Christmas gift for Mrs. Waterman which amounted to £2.—Mrs. M. Trowbridge, secretary.

Victorian Women's Conference Executive.

THE last meeting for the year was held on Friday, Dec. 2; attendance, 110. Mrs. McCann (president) was in the chair. Devotions were led by Mrs. Oliver. "Woman and Peace" was the subject of a fine address given by Mrs. Nankiville.

Correspondence included letters from Miss Caldicott and Mrs. K. Kolbaker, a mission worker in India, and thanks from Mesdames Scambler, Croxford and Mitchell (Tasmania). Several apologies were received.

With a view of forming a girls' fellowship, about 80 attended the tea given by the council of women's conference. Mrs. McGregor gave a very fine address, and a discussion followed. Further meetings are to be arranged later.

To aid the home mission offering on Dec. 4, the women's committee arranged a pleasant social evening. A splendid programme was provided, and the views of our home fields given by Mr. Gale were very fine. Over £7 was realised.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Dockery for her faithfulness in beautifying our room with flowers throughout the year.

Home mission committee visited North Richmond, Footscray, Oakleigh, St. Kilda, a profitable time being spent at each meeting. Superintendent visited North Richmond girls' club and explained H.M. work with the aid of map. This meeting was much enjoyed by the girls.

W.M. Bands.—Committee visited Geelong, Boronia band and girls' club, Williamstown, Blackburn, North Richmond. Mrs. Waterman spoke at Sunday evening service at Ascot Vale, when a dramatisation of home mission work was given.

One temperance meeting was recorded for November; Mrs. Moeris was speaker.

General Dorcas Committee.—As usual a busy time is being spent in providing for the needy. We gratefully acknowledge and express our sincere thanks for parcels of clothing received, also cash donations. At close of a very busy day 138 garments and 14 cuddle toys were dispatched to six private cases, hospital committee, Convalescent Home, City Mission (Port Mel-

bourne), Marie Kirk Free Kindergarten. Judging from demands need is still very acute.

Isolated Sisters.—138 letters written; 6 replies.

Social Service.—In addition to goods received each month from mission bands, girls' clubs, etc., the department's grocery cupboard was filled to the value of about £10 by the Victorian Endeavorers. These gifts are doubly appreciated at this time of year, when so many look for help. Dec. 21 is the day chosen for Christmas cheer distribution. Gifts of toys, cakes and puddings would be appreciated on or before that date. A member has forwarded a box of new shoes. The metropolitan Endeavorers are giving a Christmas treat on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Guest Home.

Hospital visitation committee paid 50 visits to the various institutions and distributed comfort and cheer to inmates. This committee is doing a great work. Through their loving ministry four have accepted our Saviour. We specially thank Mrs. Mann, and Mrs. Lanaway, of Brighton church, for their kindly offer to supply Testaments for those seeking through the loving words and gift of a Testament. Not only has a sister been reached, but the relatives also. These are answers to prayer. Grateful thanks are given to all who have contributed goods, cash and books.

Next meeting of executive is to be held on Friday, Feb. 3, 1939. Mrs. Ferguson will lead devotions. The speaker will be Mrs. McCallum; topic, "Inasmuch." All women are cordially invited.

We wish our sisters near and far a happy and peaceful Christmas and the blessing of our heavenly Father as we enter upon another year of service for Christ and his church.—Miss Romech, secretary, 32 Craigmores-st., East Malvern.

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—John Boyle O'Reilly

News of the Churches.

(Continued from page 793.)

school decided for Christ.—An anthem by the choir was highly appreciated.

Maryborough.—On Dec. 4 Bro. Feary, of Ballarat, spoke morning and evening. Attendances are well maintained during absence of a permanent preacher. On Dec. 11 Bro. T. A. Maxwell, of Ballarat, spoke in morning on "Sowing the Good Seed," and in evening on "What Must I Do to be Saved?" The messages were much appreciated. Visitors were present from Ballarat. Junior Endeavor is doing a good work. Members are looking forward to the coming of Bro. C. Cole as preacher.

Ararat.—There were excellent attendances on Dec. 4 with a record Bible school. At night A. J. Fisher preached on "Bible Baptism," when one lady was immersed and three young men made the good confession. The C.E. society visited the Methodist society on Dec. 5. At business meeting on 6th a presentation was made to Mrs. D. Campbell, who is leaving Ararat. She has rendered faithful service in various capacities. The ladies' guild held a successful American Tea on Dec. 7.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—On morning of Dec. 11 Bro. T. H. Scambler spoke about "The Persecution of the Church in Germany." There was a good attendance at gospel meeting, Mr. Baker speaking on "Christmas Meditation." At New Century Bible Class Mr. Baker's subject was "The One-Note Man." The social committee of class arranged an enjoyable Christmas party on Saturday night last, about 200 being present. A splendid programme and supper were provided and everyone present received a gift.

Preston.—A spiritual drive was held in afternoon and evening on Dec. 10, speaker being Mr. Sandlands, of Campaigners for Christ. One was received into fellowship by faith and obedience on Dec. 11, Bro. Wigney, of West Preston, giving a helpful exhortation. A Bible school scholar, who made the confession the previous Sunday, was baptised at night. A social afternoon, arranged by president of mothers' club, Sister Mrs. Lang, concluded a successful year of activity on the part of the club. Home mission offering to date, £8/0/11.

Fitzroy (Gore-st.).—Cricket boys held a concert on Dec. 6. J.C.E. had a break-up party on Dec. 10; the assistant superintendent, Sister Mavis Wright, received a present. Services on Dec. 11 were well attended. Bro. Coventry gave a delightful message. Bro. W. Johnson and J. Gillies have been added as Sunday school teachers; Sister Miss J. Simpson is assisting in kindergarten. Bro. Streater's gospel address was on "The Governor who Trembled." Bro. Mildern conducted song leading, and sang a duet with Miss Finch. Two visitors from Adelaide were welcomed.

Northcote.—Delightful fellowship with past members and friends was experienced on Dec. 11 at home-coming services in celebration of 25th anniversary of opening of chapel. There were 250 present at worship service, when Bro. R. Ennis inspired with a message entitled, "Four-square to Every Wind." Appreciated messages in song were rendered by Bro. and Sister Barber at gospel meeting. Bro. W. T. Atkin challenged with message entitled, "Have Faith in God." 250 partook of Lord's supper for the day. Mrs. Kemp told of missionary work in India at Bible school in afternoon.

Castlemaine.—On Dec. 4 seven folk, baptised a week previously, were received into the church. Bro. Baker gave a fitting message on "Press On." Evening service was well attended. On Dec. 7, carpet bowls club held a social evening for building fund. Ladies' help assembly held a social afternoon on Dec. 8 in honor of Mr. Thomas, who is shortly leaving. A presentation bouquet and a luminous eight-day bedroom clock were presented to her. On

Dec. 11, one was received into fellowship, completing the number recently baptised. Bro. Baker's study of "Titus" was interesting and instructive.

Croydon.—Meetings still show a slight increase. On Nov. 21, after Bro. Burns' gospel address on "Christ, the Life-changer," a young man made the good confession. At church business meeting on Nov. 30, reports showed slow but steady progress, and prospects bright. Election of officers: Deacons, Bren, Parker (secretary), Smith (treasurer), Lacey, Bell and Hall; S.S. superintendent, Bro. Burns; organist, Sister King. Appreciation of past services was made in reference to Bren, Lacey (as church secretary) and Ammon (as S.S. superintendent). Bro. Burns has accepted a further engagement as preacher for twelve months.

Brighton.—Two young men, a young woman and two senior scholars from Bible school have been received into fellowship by faith and baptism. Dec. 4 was decision day in Bible school; four scholars confessed Christ, and at gospel service a young woman made her decision. The final meeting for the year of women's mission band was held on Dec. 8, 40 ladies being present. Some of the older sisters of the church were guests for the afternoon, and each received a spray of flowers and a small gift. Special reference was made to the president, Mrs. Forbes, whose untiring efforts largely contributed to the success of the band.

St. Arnaud.—Sister Longshore has returned home from Melbourne with Shirley, who is now able to walk again after five months of treatment for infantile paralysis. Bible school concert, at which Mrs. Pratt staged two sacred tableaux, was a great success. Mr. Pratt headed a protest campaign against a petition for Sunday tennis on public courts which was successful. On Dec. 7 a farewell and presentation were given to Sister Jean Shepherd, who has been transferred to Deniliquin, N.S.W. She will be a great loss to the church. Visitors have been welcomed. Bro. Pratt continues to give inspiring messages. Sister W. Adams is very ill in hospital.

Bendigo.—The special services have proved an inspiration. On morning of Dec. 4 Bro. B. J. Combridge spoke on "A Worthier Witness for Christ." In the evening a men's service was held. The message was on "The Man who Lost his World." The aim of 126 present was exceeded. On morning of Dec. 11 Bro. Combridge spoke on "The Witness of the Lord's Supper." In the evening there was a special service for ladies, subject being, "The Gospel and Womanhood." On Dec. 7 a business meeting was held, when a resolution from the church officers, "That for the year 1939 the method of straightout giving be used for the financing of the building fund commitments," was adopted. On Nov. 30 farewell presentations were made to Mrs. W. Casley and family, who have moved to St. Kilda.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Lidcombe.—Bro. Dan Wakeley gave an inspiring message to the church on Dec. 11. Bro. Crossman's subject at night was "The Significance of Christian Baptism." Fifty scholars were present at Carramar school in the afternoon, a brief message being given by Bro. Crossman.

Enmore.—Rockdale Salvation Army Band gave a grand concert in the Tabernacle. The items, musical, elocutionary and instrumental, all were of a very high order. There were good meetings and good addresses by Bro. Stevens on Dec. 4, with two confessions at gospel meeting. Girls' club gave a successful Christmas tree to the Boys' Home.

Lismore.—On Dec. 1 the ladies' guild were hostesses at united Christmas party of all the church guilds. It was a huge social success and also a help spiritually. There were 264 guests. On Dec. 3 the Bible school held its anniversary. The scholars sang sweetly at

afternoon and evening services under the conductorship of Bro. G. J. Andrews.

Albury.—Intense interest was displayed on Dec. 7, when a Christmas tree and bazaar were held in chapel grounds. The Mayoress (Mrs. Waugh) at 7.45 p.m., after being introduced by Bro. I. J. Chivell, expressed admiration of the picturesque preparations and declared the bazaar open. The visit of "Father Christmas" concluded a busy and happy function.

Marrickville.—Bro. Crossman, conference secretary, gave a good message at morning meeting on Dec. 11. Two young lads from Bible school, who were baptised during the week, were received into fellowship. Bro. Wakeley delivered a splendid address in the evening; subject, "Wonderful Jesus." The Bible class is planning a camp at Manly during Christmas week.

Broken Hill.—On Dec. 4 Bro. J. Cremer exhorted the church at Railwaytown in the morning and Bro. E. Arnold gave morning message at Wolfram-st., when Bro. D. Garner was received in. Bro. Arnold's evening message was entitled, "Crossing the Bar." All auxiliaries are progressing favorably, especially young worshippers' league, which has a part in gospel services.

North Sydney.—On Dec. 7 the Dorcas sisters concluded a busy and successful year in working for brotherhood causes and local needs. Services on Dec. 11 were acceptably addressed by Bro. E. Davis and F. E. Alcorn. Bro. Paternoster is progressing, being now able to take walking exercise. He hopes to be home again in a few days. On Dec. 6 Miss Eileen Blackburn was married to Mr. James McMillan, Bro. H. G. Harward officiating.

Sydney (City Temple).—Members welcomed with enthusiasm Bro. and Sister A. C. MacLean and family from North Adelaide, and feel sure the work will be greatly strengthened. The diaconate and their families met the new preacher at a picnic gathering and the church formally welcomed our brethren at an inspirational service. Services on Dec. 4 and 11 were well attended, and Bro. MacLean's impressive messages were greatly appreciated. A feature of the services has been the beautiful musical offerings. The preacher's family will greatly assist in this department.

Tent Mission at Gawler, S.A.

THE church at Gawler enjoyed a season of spiritual refreshing during four weeks of tent mission experience and fellowship with Bro. Wm. L. Ewers. The meetings, which were held from Nov. 6 to Dec. 4, were not large for most of the time, but interest and spiritual power increased nightly until at the close it was felt that the time of reaping was just beginning. The missionary was unsparing in his efforts to present the way of life to the people. His splendid, clearly stated, doctrinal, evangelistic messages and the answers to the many questions have done much to quicken and deepen the spiritual life of the church and to instruct many in the way of the Lord more perfectly. The plea of the churches of Christ has been lovingly and attractively presented and should do much to help the work here.

There were four decisions for Christ; a married couple and their daughter and the daughter of the Sunday school superintendent. These took their stand on the last day of the mission; this is but a small indication of the blessing received. The church expresses appreciation to the home mission committee for making free the use of the tent and for the services of the missionary. Thanks are expressed to the choir, singers, prayer partners for their contribution. A very fine gesture on the part of Owen church and its preacher, Bro. W. McDowell, was their frequent visits to the mission and their willingness to release their preacher and his willingness to come for over

three weeks to assist in this difficult field. The church presented Bro. Ewers and Bro. McDowell with tokens of appreciation and esteem. The thankoffering will cover expenses.—H. R. Fitch.

Our Book Table.

FROM the well-known London publishing firm of Marshall Morgan and Scott Ltd., we have received the following interesting books:

CENTRAL AFRICA REVISITED.

This is a very graphic, helpful and informative account of a 16,000 mile tour through the fields of the Africa Inland Mission in Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, Congo, Sudan and Egypt, written by Mr. D. M. Miller, the editorial secretary of the Africa Inland Mission. The book is copiously illustrated. It is well to have such a record. The importance of evangelising what may still be styled "The Dark Continent" cannot be over-emphasised. As Mr. Roland Smith says in a foreword, "Civilisation marches on; the African is feeling his way towards some measure of independence; unless that independence is guided and inspired by Christian influences, Africa will develop a Christless materialism such as that which is working such bitter havoc in other parts of the so-called civilised world to-day." All interested in missions would enjoy this little book, the price of which is 3/-; posted, 3/3.

THE WAY INTO BLESSING.

Mr. H. T. Rush, the secretary of the Bible Union of Victoria, is the author of a very helpful little volume on "The Way into Blessing." It is such a book as those who know of Mr. Rush and his work would expect and be rejoiced to have him write. The fact that a third edition of his book has been called for is an indication of its value. The author declares his belief that "one of the great needs of the day is a richer experience of the grace and power of the Gospel." His advice to those who would seek blessing and help from God is, "Saturate mind and heart with the Word." He seeks to correct the view which would make prayer the channel of blessing; it is a channel, but that we should let God speak to us through his Word is most important. This book exalts Christ and the Scriptures, and so we gladly commend it. It will help to better, holier living, and a deeper consecration to Christ's service. It is a remarkably cheap book at 1/6, posted 1/9.

JERICO'S JUDGMENT.

Large numbers of our readers have visited and enjoyed the Biblical Exhibition arranged by Mr. Walter J. Beasley, P.R.C.S. The numerous exhibits from Palestine and the East and the accompanying lectures showing how recent archaeological research had in numerous and striking ways confirmed the truthfulness of the Biblical narrative, strengthened the faith of many as well as created a new interest in the Book of books. Those who had this privilege, and others to whom it was denied, will be glad to learn that Mr. Beasley has made available in book form the information he has gathered through many years' travel and study. "Jericho's Judgment" is a volume of nearly 200 pages. Its sub-title is, "The Fascinating Story of Modern Archaeology," and that story is told in popular fashion in a series of letters to a friend. The simple style carries the reader on, and a vast amount of helpful information is imparted. 30 good illustrations add to the value of the book. It is well that so many volumes dealing with the archaeological discoveries in illustration of the Biblical narrative are being produced. The results are on the side of faith; for "the spade confirms the Word." We are sure that our readers would enjoy and profit by a reading of Mr. Beasley's book. Its price is 5/3, posted 5/7.

Home Mission Work in Queensland

AS I write this, a Victorian home mission special lies before me. It features the record of a 1000-mile journey made in the interests of H.M. work in Australia's smallest State. But I am surprised to discover that we have travelled on H.M. work in Queensland—though we have only one-quarter the number of churches in comparison with Victoria's—approximately 4000 miles!

When last I wrote, we were in Mackay, 600 miles north of Brisbane. Since then deputation work has taken us 300 miles west of Brisbane to Roma and back again.

We have not been able to have the assistance of a special song-leader for the full course of a single mission. Mackay was a great trial of the faith of many, but Bro. Baker's advent as song-leader half-way through the mission was a great help. Each Saturday night we had the privilege of presenting a half-hour session over the air; this helped to create a good impression. Decisions were slow in coming, but toward the end of the mission the church began to see much fruit for her labor and prayers. Mackay church has won a good name among the people. Bro. Street, who will commence his service with Mackay church in January, will do well; he is a splendid preacher who will find splendid helpers there.

Special deputation work was a new but interesting experience. A fast mail train took us to Roma, the furthest church in the west. A meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Roberts, at Wallan Creek, seven miles from the railway line. Queensland churches have lost a great man by the recent tragic death of Bro. Roberts, who collapsed when holidaying at Maroochidore. Bro. Roberts was a student in the training class in Melbourne which preceded the establishment of the College. He was at one time an elder of Toowoomba church, and for years he and his brother, with their families, broke bread in their homes at Wallan Creek. Mrs. Roberts was at one time organist for the church at Junee, N.S.W. Our late brother's ideal was to see the isolated western centres served by an itinerant evangelist.

Visits were made to the home of Bro. and Sister Simpson, 12 miles from the railway line at Chinchilla, and to those of Bren, Flett and Davis (brethren once associated with the Minyip church, Vic.), 14 miles from the railway line in the opposite direction. A crowded meeting was held in a hall, lit by one light, at Sixteen Mile Creek. Visits to isolated members at Dalby and to the churches at Ma Ma Creek, Marburg, Mt. Walker and Rosevale followed. Of course, the purpose of this tour was primarily to remind the brethren of the home mission work, but we were privileged to take the confession of four people in the course of the meetings held. Queensland, we think, is a place of great distances, great difficulties, great-hearted people and great opportunities. —K. A. Macnaughtan.

GIFT VOLUMES.

Pools and the Valley of Vision—Poems by Amy Wilson Carmichael 2/9
The Shining Life, J. R. Miller 4/6
Jericho's Judgment, W. J. Beasley 5/3
Goforth of China, Rosalind Goforth 11/3
Lax, His Book—Autobiography 6/-
The World's Best Seller and Why? Miles 3/9
By My Spirit, Jonathan Goforth 5/3
Raj the Dacot, Hugh A. Evan Hopkins 7/6
The Keswick Convention, 1938 5/6
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GOLDEN WEDDING.

HALL-GRIFFITH.—Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hall have pleasure in announcing the 50th anniversary of their marriage, celebrated at West Melbourne by the late Mr. J. Pittman, on Dec. 20, 1888. Present address, 5 Ruyton-st., Burwood, E.13.

IN MEMORIAM.

PRYOR.—A tribute to the memory of my dear old pal, Joseph Pryor, who passed away on Nov. 30, 1937, at Castlemaine.
There's a shrine in my heart when in silence alone,
I cherish sweet memories that are only my own;
I miss you, old pal, dear pal unseen,
And my memories go back to the days that have been.
—Inserted by his dear old comrade, F. H. Major, Colac.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES.

Mr. T. Martin and family wish to thank all for their expressions of sympathy in their recent bereavement. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgment.

—"Dalmachie," Wondall-rd., Wynnum South, Qld.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O'Shea sincerely thank all kind friends for letters and expressions of sympathy in the sudden passing of beloved sister. Will all please accept this as a personal acknowledgment of sincere gratitude?

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HOLIDAYS.

The Red Hill church (Vic.) invites visitors to S.E. bay-side resorts to fellowship. Worship, 11.15 a.m. Mornington 11 miles, Dromana 6, Rosebud 8, Balmarring 8, Flinders 11.

HOLIDAY VISITORS

To Boronia and district are cordially invited to special Christmas and New Year services. Bible School, 10 a.m.; Lord's Supper, 11 a.m.; Gospel service and bright song service, 7 p.m. Preacher, L. G. Read.

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.

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Obituary.

Mrs. Annie McArthur.

ON Nov. 23, in her 98th year, our aged Sister Mrs. Annie McArthur fell asleep. She was born at Iona, Scotland, and at the age of 11 years, with her parents and a family of nine, migrated to Australia and settled in Portland district, Vic., for a number of years. Removing to Fernhurst in Wychitella district, she came into contact with the late Peter Brown, under whose faithful presentation of the gospel she was led into paths of love and obedience, and became identified with the church of the New Testament order, and in which she remained faithful and true to the end of the journey. She ever had a great love for her Master, his church and his word. For some 17 years it was the privilege of the writer to have fellowship with her. Through all the changing scenes and experiences of old age she would exclaim triumphantly, "Who can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus?" In that blessed assurance and hope she sleeps "till the day dawns and the shadows flee away." Bro. Jackel and Stewart conducted services at the home and grave, commending her dear ones to the God of all comfort.—A. McK.

Tasmanian News-letter.

W. S. Lowe.

A Temperance Victory.

LAST month we reported the government's attempt to remove the right of residents to vote on the granting of an hotel licence in their district. Though the bill was passed by the Lower House the Legislative Council rejected it by one vote. This was due, at least in part, to the shoal of letters members of the Council received from church circles. The Council has several times lately thrown out government measures including some major ones, and the Cabinet shows signs of impatience and a desire for change. Their hands, however, are effectively tied unless some major constitutional change can be effected.

A Rising Drink Bill.

It is but poor consolation to be able to say, "I told you so," now that the statistics reveal the fallacies in the arguments which the Premier used in securing the extension of hotel hours to 10 p.m. For the past year Tasmania's drink bill increased by 9/11 per head to £3/15/10 per head. This includes all classes of liquor, and an analysis of the figures shows that there has been an increased consumption of each type—beer, spirits and wine. This is a complete answer to the Premier's claim that extended hours would mean decreased drinking. The fallacy has long been anticipated, but these are the first figures since the change was made.

A Local Option Poll.

In conjunction with the Launceston municipal elections voters are also faced with the question of reduction of licences in the city. A bare majority only is required, and if reduction is voted for, the licensing court must reduce the licences by not less than four nor more than eleven. Unfortunately there is very little enthusiasm on the municipal questions, and the number voting is likely to be very small. Even if reduction is voted by the majority, this must equal 25 per cent. of voters on the roll to be effective. The temperance forces have begun rather late, but are appealing by personal canvass to as many women voters as possible.

Home Mission Activity.

As a prelude to the annual offering, the H.M. committee arranged for a representative to

visit every church in the State for services on Dec. 4. Some travelled as much as 400 miles in the week-end. There was a uniformly cordial reception throughout the island, and the committee expects this effort to promote its aim of a record offering of £150. With the same object rallies have been held at West Hobart, Sandhill and Invermay. The committee is actively engaged in three fields, and has other openings. There is more interest in this phase of the work than for some time past.

Personalities.

Bro. J. E. Thomas returns shortly to Victoria after an effective ministry in the State during the past year. Invermay and West Hobart especially have been much helped by his stay, and the whole brotherhood has been enthused.

Bro. F. T. Morgan, 1938 Glen Iris graduate, succeeds Bro. Thomas in the leadership of the Invermay church, commencing his ministry on Dec. 7. He is assured of a welcome.

Mr. F. Mathias, for whom the Chant-st. Methodist church, Launceston, has been waiting some months, has arrived from England to commence his ministry. Mr. R. Gallacher (Invermay Methodist), State C.E. president, will transfer to the mainland in the new year.

Bro. G. R. van Eerde has resigned from the Devonport circuit, and leaves for Queensland shortly. He carries good wishes for his new sphere of work.

Tasmania offers hearty seasonal greetings to all readers, and assures holiday visitors of a cordial welcome.

Women's Auxiliary Conference, NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE monthly meeting was held on Friday, Dec. 2, at City Temple. Devotional service was arranged by Belmont sisters and led by Mrs. Lawther. A helpful message on "The Power of Prayer" was given by Mrs. Corlett.

The president (Mrs. Leach) presided over business session. The following reports were read and received: Financial, social service, hospitals, Newington, Ashwood House and home missions. In connection with home missions, it was suggested that the shilling fund for this year be used towards a special objective. After a discussion the following motion, moved by Mrs. Harward and seconded by Mrs. Corlett, was carried unanimously: "That the shilling fund for this year be allocated to establish a cause at Port Kembla, with the consent of the home mission committee."

In the social service report the superintendent said that £11/4/6 was raised at the Church of Christ stall at the recent Sunshine Fair.

The resignation of Mrs. Leach as president was received with great regret. Appreciation for her valued services was expressed by Mrs. Jeffery on behalf of the N.S.W. sisters' conference. She also presented Mrs. Leach with a handsome tea-tray and bouquet of roses as a token of love and esteem, and wished her every happiness in her new future. Mrs. Leach in reply said that her association with the N.S.W. sisters' conference would be among her most treasured memories. Mrs. Leach leaves for W.A. on Jan. 7, 1939. Mrs. G. E. Burns will act as president for the ensuing period of the conference year.

Sincere sympathy has been expressed to Sister Mrs. Whelan in her recent great bereavement. Next meeting of the executive will be held on Friday, Jan. 6, 1939.—Mrs. H. Palmer, hon. sec.

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We offer praise, dear Lord, for the magnetic mystery of the Incarnation—the Fleshing of the Word! "The Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." So, O Lord, we know thee to be very gracious and ever true.

And now, O God, we would glorify thee, with all the power of an indwelt heart. Grant that we all may say with sincerity and gladness: "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Let our work and witness for the sake of others ever rise to this high purpose: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith."—"That Christ be formed in you." Amen.



CHRISTMAS CANDLES.

O God, we light our Christmas candles, and with thy Son keep tryst. In hearts and homes we do him honor; the radiant, loving Christ.

Our helpful, kindly deeds are candles, when done in Jesus' name; and lights of faithful testimony will celebrate his fame.

Some candles, too, of joy and gladness we light with child-like mirth, dispelling fear and driving sorrow from lonely souls on earth.

Forbid, dear Lord, that beds or bushels should hide or snuff the light, whereby thou would'st illumine all men and make this old world bright. Amen.



CHERISH EACH CHRISTMAS.

In a certain home, very early one Christmas morning, a great howling was heard, for an impish lad had made his brother the victim of a practical joke. When mother arrived to inquire and pacify, this was the tearful complaint: "Someone's taken away my Christmas and filled my stocking with rubbish!" The matter was soon put right, but it bears thinking about.

Many of Christ's disciples would do well to pray: "O Lord, we will cherish each successive Christmas more truly than the last, for the passing year has given still more cause for praises that 'Christ Jesus, came into the world to save sinners.' Amen."

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