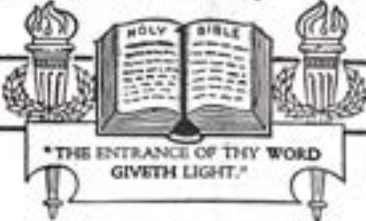


W. Haast

# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Keeping the Major Task in Mind.

**G**O ye, and make disciples of all the nations." It will not be out of place to emphasise that the permanent task of the church is indicated in these familiar words. In the present distress of the world we recognise that there is a special ministry of comfort and of strengthening, of reminding men of a divine Fatherhood and a human brotherhood, and of witness for ideals which we may be in danger of forgetting or losing. But in the commission of our Lord there is an insistence on the great and constant duty of the church. We are debtors, and in our Christian business there is no such thing as a moratorium. We are engaged in a conflict against everything which exalts itself against God; and in this fight of good against evil, truth against falsehood, there can be neither truce nor armistice.

It is generally recognised that church work becomes increasingly difficult. We wish it to be clear that no word of ours is ever intended to be critical of the efforts of any faithful preacher of the Gospel. We do wish, however, to call attention to the imperative need for increased zeal in evangelism and whole-hearted co-operation in the work of extending the kingdom of God.

### Contempt of Religion.

The new Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church in Australia ("Flynn of the Inland") in his striking presidential address on "Long Range Evangelism" called attention to the decay of interest in spiritual things. We quote a few sentences:

"To-day, out of 41 million inhabitants of France, the Roman Church can claim, even nominally, barely 11 millions; all Protestant churches combined profess to serve less than one million people. That leaves 29 millions of citizens of France, most of whom now represent the deadwood of former plantings in Christian vineyards.

"Who dares to say that things are less ominous in Germany or Mexico? Who can deny that they are much worse in Russia, and in many other places much nearer this home of ours?"

"In Australia, where until recently most of our people retained a nominal association with one or other branch of the Christian church, we already have over a quarter of a million

people so contemptuous of religion that, in their census returns, they have repudiated all association therewith.

"We now face this situation: On the one hand a decline in visible parish-strength of the church in practically all branches thereof; on the other, in almost every civilised country, a landslide in rural population. And, everywhere, there is increasing indifference, or active resistance, to the evangel. Therefore we dare not expect adequate harvests through point-blank evangelism, provided through parish activities and conventional evangelical missions."

### A Lesson from Britain.

In his last address to our British conference as chairman of the Home Missions Committee Dr. J. W. Black, in illustrating the need of aggressive evangelism, made an interesting comparison: Thirty-two years ago, when he joined the General Evangelistic Committee, their income was about £900 a year, and they had only a very few evangelists; now they had about thirty-five (both on the H.M. Committee staff and engaged by individual churches) and altogether spent about £8000 a year on evangelism. Thirty-two years ago they had 1000 baptisms; this number was now down to 500. He added: "The position, my brethren, is parlous, unless we have a more aggressive evangelism."

The editor of "The Christian Advocate," in commenting upon a decline of 237 in the reported church membership for the year, points out that the decrease is not limited to one year, and calls attention to the sad fact that of the 176 churches associated with the conference no less than 87 had no baptisms for the year. That is, indeed, a lamentable showing. The editor quotes the figures not in order to dishearten, but he truly says that certainly they should challenge us to more faithful service and more urgent prayers, and more adventurous planning. He rightly refuses to receive consolation from the fact that other religious communions also report decreases. "This is not the moment for repining over lost opportunities," he says; "it is the moment for heart searching." Noting the striking success of the evangelistic missions conducted by Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen, the editor further says: "This, to my mind, suggests inevitably that it is along the way of intensive evangelical missions that we can hope to stem the tide of our losses."

### League of Three Thousand Campaign.

In British churches of Christ, The League of Three Thousand has been launched, to be composed of those who are willing to covenant with God to strive to win one person for Christ during the year, starting with Whitsuntide. A card is signed to that effect which entitles the signatory to membership in the League. A similar league for the winning of a hundred thousand has been in effective operation in America for some time. "What joy there would be among us as a people if, as a result of our united and consecrated efforts the Lord would add a further three thousand to our ranks!" says "The Christian Advocate." "In a day when a decline in the membership of churches is often regarded as normal, what a stimulus and encouragement it would be. Such a movement, conceived in evangelistic fervor, born in a spirit of prayer, and nurtured in an atmosphere of wholehearted devotion to our Lord, should

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mark a turning-point in our history as a people."

What has been said or quoted regarding Great Britain applies also to Australia. To cope with the spirit of the age we must make a more intensive effort than formerly. We rejoice to note the success of some of the numerous special evangelistic missions now being held in many places. But for us, too, it should be "the moment for heart searching" and a time for "more adventurous planning."

## American Revision Revised.

**M**OST Bible students would doubtless agree that the American Standard Revised Version of the Bible is one of the best translations yet issued. Both the English and American revisions by companies of scholars possess a certain authority lacking to even the best of the private or individual translations; and from the point of view of accuracy, if not from that of felicity of language, are a great advance on the 1611 version, often miscalled the "authorised version."

From our first use of the American revised version we were somewhat irritated by what was proclaimed a special merit, namely, its substitute of the name "Jehovah" for the familiar "Lord." Evidently a host of people must have felt that the substitution was unhelpful. Dr. F. D. Kershner, writing in "The Christian Evangelist" of August 24, says: "After some half a century of experimentation, the present editors of the American revised version have announced that they will go back to the King James nomenclature and say 'The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.' It is hard to understand why the change was made. No Jew ever says 'Jehovah,' and no one else in the circle of the nations could have the slightest use for the word. To an English ear the term is barbarous, forbidding and meaningless. On the contrary, 'the Lord' is clear, definite and absolutely correct as a translation of the original."

## Zacchæus Redivivus.

**I**N "Telling Australia" the story is told that one day, just after Edwin Orr had preached about the bad debts of Christians as a hindrance, a young business man came to him and said: "Say, Edwin, 'member you preached on the sin of owing money? Well, several prominent Christians have since called on me to pay off old debts that I had near forgotten about. You keep on with the good work. Keep on with the good work!"

When Zacchæus of Jericho sent his servants round the town to pay out money to make good past defalcations, no doubt there was a considerable stir. Proof was

given that salvation had indeed come to his house. So, to-day, changed lives are the best proof of the power of the Gospel and the most convincing evidence of the good of religion. Without a willingness to set wrongs right an outward profession counts not at all. To sing and pray, to talk of the leading of the Holy Spirit, will not make up for leaving debts unpaid or a malicious tongue uncurbed.

## The International Situation.

**H**E is a wise man who abstains from confident pronouncements, and especially forecasts, regarding the international position. The aims of Russia and the Soviet-Nazi pact are puzzling to most people. What the purpose or outcome, who dare say? Our news regarding the matter is far from illuminating, and the comments of reputed experts are for the most part a series of guesses at truth. The newspaper writers—set to work to fill space which will enable proprietors to make hay while the sun shines—are not alone at sea. The prophecy-mongers are for the time in as sad a case. Some are busily engaged in enquiring why their confidence in Poland's security was so misplaced. Some are substituting a series of insinuating questions for direct prophetic announcements—which, providing for alternative contingencies, may be wiser than the definite declaration which can be proven to be wrong.

Most of us will wait and see. In the meantime we put our trust in God, and pray to him for the coming of a day when peace will prevail and the will of God be done on earth as it is in heaven.

## Against Bitterness and Hate.

**T**HE Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. Menzies) in his recent address at one of the meetings arranged for the Presbyterian General Assembly said that what Britain was fighting for was for all those things that the church advocated—individual liberty, the spirit of tolerance, Christian charity, and the realisation of good faith in the living Word. The hymn "Nearer, my God, to Thee" had been sung before his address and he said he could not help asking the question, "Are we going to end the war near to God, and nearer to our own country?" "We will win this war," he declared, "because we are fighting for the sacred cause of liberty. We have truth with us, and it must prevail. We must be prepared to lose and sacrifice a great deal, and so conduct ourselves that at the end of the war we will be nearer to God than to destruction."

We are glad to note that Christian people are deprecating a spirit of bitterness

and hate. This is as it should be. In some cases we note that newspaper correspondents are endeavoring to stir the fires of hate, and making sweeping indictments of whole nations, though in them are to be found sincere Christians who hate war. Archdeacon Hewett in a sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, well said: "All bitterness, anger and evil speaking must be put away. No good ever came from bitterness. We should pray to God that the war will end sooner than is thought, and that all people of the world may be given the opportunity of living together as one great brotherhood under the banner of God."

A strikingly good article by Professor Walter Murdoch in the Melbourne "Herald," entitled "Hatred, the Satanic Gospel," says that some broadcast messages here are circulating "the gospel of hate." Against this he makes a vigorous protest. His article closes with the following fine paragraph:

"The troubles of this century are the birth-pangs of a new civilisation; and whether a better or a worse civilisation will be born depends on the spirit in which we go down into the valley of the shadow of war. Let us not aim at winning another victory of the kind that will make another war, twenty years after, inevitable or probable. We must aim at winning the only kind of victory worth sacrificing a life for—the victory that makes for a better and saner and kinder world. Of one thing we may be very sure: such a world will never be built on a foundation of hatred—or, at least, not on the hatred of this nation or that, but only on hatred of those things which make a better world impossible."

## OUR GOD CAN UNDERSTAND.

**W**HEN tired and spent, Elijah lay  
Beneath the tree, that day,  
So much discouraged that he prayed  
For death beside the way,  
God, in his tenderness and love,  
Sent by angelic hand  
Refreshment for his troubled one;  
For God can understand.

When Daniel, faithful man of God,  
In human weakness lay;  
Himself declaring that his strength  
Had vanished all away;  
God's messenger with loving words  
His servant cheered anew:  
"Fear not, for thou art well beloved."  
God understood—and knew.

When the disciples of our Lord  
Tolled through the dreary night,  
And caught no fish, the Master stood  
And watched, as dawned the light,  
He knew their need, and ministered,  
As only Jesus can;  
With his own hands prepared he food  
For weak, discouraged man.

Oh, precious love that understands  
Where human tongues would chide!  
Our Lord draws near and stills our fear  
And feeds our souls beside.  
Lord, grant to us who love thy name  
An understanding heart,  
That we may to poor baffled souls  
Encouragement impart.

—Alice Maude Carvell.

# "When Our Ships Come In."

G. J. Andrews.

HOW fares it with the three most important "ships" of the Christian life—discipleship, fellowship and stewardship? Maybe for some, they have met the fate that befell the ships of one of the kings of Judah: "Jehoshaphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold; but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-geber."

But the Apostle Paul encourages us to bring our ships of life to glorious and successful issues. "Till we all of us arrive at oneness in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and at mature manhood and the stature of full-grown men in Christ. So we shall no longer be babes nor shall we resemble mariners tossed on the waves and carried about with every changing wind of doctrine according to men's cleverness and unscrupulous cunning, making use of every shifting device to mislead. But we shall lovingly hold to the truth, and shall in all respects grow up into union with him who is our Head, even Christ."

## Our Discipleship

means that we are learners, scholars, persons receiving or professing to receive instruction from the Lord Christ.

Consider that thus Jesus calls us: "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me! Sometimes we ask the children, "Are you fond of school?" What of our own regard and application in the school of Jesus? Have we really learned anything of Jesus this week? The lesson of the wholesomeness of life—have we learned that, in face of the world's ungodliness and pagan vulgarity? Remembering the licentious, unclean side of life in the city of Ephesus, Paul wrote: "But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Or the lesson of genuine contentment—have we learned this in the same school as the apostle? "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. . . . I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."

Other lessons are indicated when Jesus counsels thus: "If ye continue in my words, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Priceless the liberty of the sons and daughters of God! "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples; if ye have love one to another." We have scarcely begun to live until we have begun to love with a Christ-like love!

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." It's great to be good, but Jesus assures that we shall be good for something! "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." There is pain and strain in the right life, but of our Master we learn well how to bear it!

Let us mark well then, this challenge from the Master Educator: "Murmur not among yourselves. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." We live in the midst of a babel of would-be leaders and teachers, shouting or else whispering subtly, "Lo, here!" "Lo, there!" Let us turn to him who spake as never man spake.

## Our Fellowship

means that we are linked with Christ, even joined to him and also intertwined together in a most intimate and loving friendship; and what prominence this is given in the New Testament.

Fellowship is a cardinal feature in the life of the original and pattern church of the first century: "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Experiences of fellowship were among the precious memories of Paul's life. He never forgot the occasion when James, Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars in the church at Jerusalem, perceived the grace that was given unto him, and gave to him and Barnabas "the right hand of fellowship." And thus Paul wrote to the Philippians: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." Can we forbear from acknowledging that Paul's memories are suggestive of our own?

The wonderful meaning and value of the fellowship is set forth in a striking testimony from the Apostle John: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This, then, is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as

he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Men are made for fellowship, and unless a church offers fellowship it is doomed. Folk will never really love a church if it offers little beyond the privilege of listening to sermons and giving to the collection. It ought to be our ambition to have our church the warmest and most effective brother-and-sisterhood in the town! As Charles Jefferson suggests, No unfortunate member unbefriended! No invalid or aged one unvisited! No needy person unassisted! No bewildered soul unguided! No home of mourning neglected! But let us share joys and sorrows as well. Without real fellowship the Christian life is enfeebled and fades. We must seek fellowship, and we must give fellowship.

## Our Stewardship

means that we are set in charge of what is not our own, but God's. (Originally a steward was one who took charge of the cattle of a household—the sty ward or keeper.) We are answerable to God for manifold gifts, spiritual and material, which he has entrusted to us.

Hear the Apostle Peter: "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Hear the Apostle Paul saying that a church elder "must be blameless, as the steward of God." Hear him express his own high sense of responsibility: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."

When our stewardship comes in as regards time, we will never be guilty of "killing time," neither will we ever be too busy for our personal devotions of scripture reading and prayer. When our stewardship comes in as regards money, we will hardly be found spending up to several shillings per week on personal pleasures and luxuries and offering the smallest silver coin as our share in the support of the Lord's work. When our stewardship comes in as regards our precious faith, we will not be like the man who hid what his Lord entrusted to him, in a napkin, in the ground; we will ever be on the sharp look-out to invest it in profitable soul-winning testimony and invitation.

After all, what a fascinating thrill comes into the whole of our life every moment of the day when we properly grasp the surpassing stewardship lesson of Jesus, as set forth in Luke 12: 35-43. "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord. . . . Who, then, is that faithful and wise steward whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

# South Australian Conference.

Wilkie Thomson.

THE conference was held in Adelaide from September 14 to 20, and despite the clouds of war all the meetings were well attended. The president (Bro. Chas. Schwab) presided graciously at all business sessions and public meetings. The conference was fortunate in having as fraternal delegates Bren. Garland, of W.A. (Federal president), Principal T. H. Scambler and E. Schurmann, of the College of the Bible; Dr. Oldfield, of Dhond, India; Miss Florence Cameron, of Shrigonda, India. These all brought greetings and were well received.

Conference opened with a social service meeting in the Grote-st. chapel. The chairman of the committee (Hon. F. A. Halliday, M.L.C.) presided. Mr. H. G. Oliphant (examiner in Economics at the Adelaide University) and Mr. L. Riches, M.P., were the speakers. Items were given by Mr. E. G. Whittle, M.P., and the Glenelg choir.

Over 40 preachers met on Saturday morning. Bro. Shipway presided, and a stimulating address was given by Principal T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., on "The Cure of Souls." Opportunity was taken by the fraternal to say farewell to Bro. Chas. Schwab, soon to leave for N.S.W., and to present him with a book.

On Saturday afternoon there was a fine gathering of junior Endeavorers at their rally in the Grote-st. chapel. Bro. A. R. Jones was chairman. Norwood Juniors sang choruses, and Cowandilla society delighted with an item. Banners were presented to the winning societies, namely: Suburban, York; country, Murray Bridge. Bro. Paddick gave an interesting illustrated address entitled, "The Changing Heart."

Whilst the juniors were thus meeting, pioneers, country delegates and those who have been members of the church for over 40 years met in the kindergarten hall. These annual meetings are arranged by the sisters. A very happy time was spent listening to musical items and reminiscences. Mrs. A. E. Riches presided.

At night the young people's C.E. rally was addressed by the national president, Donald McNicol. The southern suburban choir rendered musical numbers, and an item was also given entitled, "Christ for Australia." Shield and banners were presented to the winning societies, viz., suburban, intermediate and young people's, Mile End; country, Murray Bridge. Bro. Jones continues as chairman of the department. Mr. A. E. Mercer and Mr. A. Glastonbury led the singing at these C.E. rallies. A quiet hour of prayer and praise prior to the evening meeting was conducted by Bro. F. A. Fisher.

## Conference Sermon.

The Adelaide Town Hall was filled to capacity for the conference sermon on Sunday afternoon. Maylands choir rendered three anthems under conductorship of Mr. A. V. Anderson. Bro. D. Wakeley gave a timely message in his sermon, "Do or Die," in which he emphasized the necessity of preaching the essentials of the kingdom and those things for which the churches of Christ stand.

The business session of conference commenced on Monday, Sept. 18.

## Executive.

The report showed that 276 had been added by faith and baptism, 229 by letter, 19 formerly immersed and 11 by restoration, making a total of 526. But against these the following losses are recorded: 249 by letter, 64 by death, 431 by revision of roll, a total of 744. A nett loss of 225. The church membership now stands at 7238.

During the year several preachers had been

welcomed to the State: Bren. D. Wakeley, A. Hutson, H. E. Paddick, A. O. S. Baker, H. Cave, G. H. Newell and F. Collins.

A clause reporting the work of the Aborigines Friends Association was adopted, and the following resolutions were carried:

1. This conference notes with pleasure the awakening interest throughout Australia in the amelioration of the lot of the aborigines as is evidenced by the action of the Federal Government in introducing a new measure for the promotion of aboriginal welfare in North Australia, and would urge that missionary work be given a more prominent place in the new movement.

2. That this conference congratulates the South Australian Government on the intro-



Mr. C. M. Veree, B.A.,  
Newly-elected President of Conference of  
Churches of Christ in South Australia.

duction of a new measure designed to give the natives a better status, as well as the appointment of a board to safeguard their well-being, and we express the hope that the new bill will receive the support of all parties in Parliament.

3. That this conference places on record its appreciation of the valuable service being rendered by the Aborigines Friends Association in promoting the interests of the aborigines throughout the Commonwealth.

The three-year plan had been put into operation along the lines of stewardship, indoctrination and evangelism. There had been a good response by the churches, and brotherhood departments had set their aims. Three pamphlets amounting to 12,000 copies dealing with consecration of life and possessions had been distributed in March.

It was with regret that the State paper, "The Challenge," had been discontinued. Mounting costs made it imperative. Thanks were expressed to Bro. Theo. Edwards and all others who gave valuable time and service during the years the journal was produced.

Under direction from last conference the executive had enquired into the matter of establishing a Christian Fellowship Association. It was found that the committee as constituted in Victoria could not be brought under the control of this conference. At the request of the social service committee investigations had been postponed.

In the clause dealing with the Advisory Board, it was reported that the lack of system

in placing preachers not only created serious difficulties but too often preachers had to leave the State, and much brotherhood money was spent in needless removal expenses. Conference carried unanimously a resolution urging the Home Missionary Committee and all churches concerned to co-operate with their preachers in arranging that in as far as possible all engagements terminate in the month of September, and that immediate consideration be given to the matter of preacher placement.

The book depot, which was established in 1925, had more than justified itself. Over the year £100 had been paid into the executive account, there being a profit of £42/14/10.

The brotherhood had been represented on the Council of Churches by Bren. C. Schwab, H. R. Taylor, T. E. Yelland and F. A. Halliday.

The next Federal Conference is planned to be held in Perth, W.A., from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1, 1940. Bro. Garland, the Federal president, said the executive were planning a great programme, and it was hoped that a number will attend from this State.

The obituary report was read by Bro. A. C. Rankine, naming those 64 brethren who had received the home-call.

## President's Address.

Following a solo by Mrs. Wharton, Bro. Schwab spoke on the subject, "Some Urgent Matters." It was a sermon to counteract fear in dark days; a word in season, pleading for a more positive faith, virile Christianity and a greater demonstration of power through prayer.

## Home Missionary Department.

The organiser, Bro. Ewers, had held special Bible teaching campaigns at five churches and two tent missions. Fifty-one churches were visited and helped. It was a matter of deep regret to all that owing to ill-health it had become necessary for the organiser to give up the more strenuous phases of the work in the last five months. At the July meeting of the committee Bro. Ewers' resignation was received with regret. His labors over the last two years and nine months had helped the churches greatly. Bro. H. R. Taylor, B.A., has accepted position of organiser for twelve months.

The year commenced with a credit balance of £218/15/11. Total receipts amounted to £2166/4/-, and the expenditure £2038, leaving a credit balance of £128/4/- . The annual offering was £874/12/11, being a decrease of £58/8/1. Duplex envelope offerings amounted to £73/7/11, and special gifts £126/12/6. The sisters' auxiliary conference exceeded previous efforts for some years by contributing £94/18/-.

Short messages of their work were presented by preachers laboring in home mission or subsidised churches.

## Foreign Mission Department.

Receipts totalling £3148/18/7 were shown. An anonymous donor had contributed £50 toward the sending out of Miss Wiltshire to the Indian field. The sisters contributed £118/10/- . £2176/3/31 had been received through the annual offering and duplex envelopes. Bro. A. J. Ingham is the new secretary in place of W. W. Saunders, who has moved to Ballarat, Vic.

In lieu of an address by Dr. Oldfield a questionnaire was conducted to which Dr. Oldfield and Miss Cameron replied. Much useful and helpful information was received through this session.

On Tuesday night a great foreign mission demonstration was held when Grote-st. chapel was filled to capacity. Bro. H. P. Manning, chairman of the committee, presided, and introduced the new chairman, Bro. A. Brooker. Two inspiring messages were given by Miss Florence Cameron and Dr. Oldfield. The combined choir, under the baton of Mr. Philip Wood, Mus. Bac., gave excellent assistance.

On Tuesday morning Bro. A. Hutson gave a splendid address on "The Message of Calvary," followed by a lovely solo by Mrs. D. Wakeley.

**Bible School Report.**

A number of activities relative to the special work of the committee such as helping in equipment for schools, conducting training classes, annual examinations, library, young people's training camps, youth and workers' conferences, youth weeks and new scholar drives. The organiser, Bro. W. Beller, visited fourteen city and ten country centres. 437 children sat for the annual scripture examinations.

There are 64 schools with 5015 scholars and 902 teachers. £116/15/31 was contributed by Bible schools to overseas work, and £40 to the "cot" offering. Receipts totalled £506/12/6. The future policy of the committee would be on the lines of education, enrichment, evangelism and expansion. Bro. F. Collins introduced the subject of "The Present Day Challenge to the Bible Schools" in a masterly address.

On Tuesday night Adelaide town hall was filled at the Bible schools demonstration. Bro. W. Beller led the singing. There was a delightful item of combined kindergartens under the leadership of Miss Bond. A splendid item was also given by the southern schools led by S. Hockley, entitled, "The Word." Bro. Cornelius introduced the new president, Bro. Earl Caldicott. A combined choir of the Port Line schools, led by Bro. G. Cox, delighted with several pieces. The efficiency "shield" for the suburban schools was presented to Croydon, and the country "star" to the Berri school. Prizes won in the examinations were also presented.

**Social Service Department.**

The committee had been unfortunate in losing two members by removal, its president, G. T. Fitzgerald, going to N.Z., and its secretary, A. C. MacLean, to N.S.W. £47/19/- had been given by the churches through the committee to bush fire relief, and £10/10/- from Bro. A. E. Riches for winter relief. The total receipts amounted to £68/0/11.

**College of the Bible.**

Only two students from S.A. were enrolled this year, H. G. Walmsley and B. V. Coventry. Both are missionary volunteers and are acquiring themselves well. £319/19/4 had been contributed—£11/14/- less than last year. Principal T. H. Scambler and E. Schurmann spoke of the college and its work and service to the brotherhood.

**Christian Endeavor Department.**

There are 1821 Endeavorers in 88 societies connected with our churches. An autograph quilt with 580 names worked upon it by Miss Jessie Richards represented £14 for P.M. work. In all £64/13/5 had been raised for overseas work, and £22/0/10 for home missions. Bro. R. W. Knight, who had served the department for ten years and for six years had been its secretary, had resigned, due to removal. B. Russell is the new secretary. Under the three-year plan this department will emphasise Discipline in Life and Conduct, the Quiet Hour, Fellowship, Training in Winning Men and Instruction in Leadership.

**Training Committee.**

Three students qualified for the Adelaide Bible College diploma, and five correspondence students gained certificates on the completion of two years' work. The central class has eighteen students enrolled, and sixteen correspondence students. Bren. C. Schwab and H. R. Taylor, B.A., have been in charge of these classes, whilst Bro. Brooker continues with his class at Queenstown. Receipts amounted to £63/10/11 and expenditure £52/3/6.

Bro. A. O. S. Baker gave a splendid devotional message on "The Valley of Weeping."

**Building Extension Department.**

The department has met and repaid a loan to a sister for £765. £80 has been paid off the Savings Bank account. Forestville, Nalls-worth, Cowandilla, Cheltenham, Brooklyn Park

and Lenswood churches had repaid amounts off loans. £62/12/6 had been received through the annual offering. Credit balance now stands at £1150/17/11, but a payment of £1000 due in March, 1940, will leave only a small balance.

**Young People's Department.**

At the request of conference last year, efforts were made for greater co-ordination of youth work. The department has been enlarged with the following representation: Bible School and C.E. departments, each three representatives; K.S.P. clubs and cricket, tennis, table tennis and basketball associations, each one representative. There are five K.S.P. clubs with 139 members, and six P.B.P. clubs with 144 members.

Sister Mrs. Stokes and Bren. T. M. Glover and J. Meyer had represented the brotherhood on the Protestant Homes. The following resolution was carried: "That this conference requests the board of the Morialta Homes to as far as possible have credited to the various constituent bodies any money and the value of gifts and produce, etc., contributed to the institution through the secretary and others."

A motion by Sealife church, "That it be a recommendation from this conference to the churches of the union that they refrain from having indirect or extraneous aids in giving towards the work of our churches such as fetes, bazaars, etc., in the name of the church," was carried.

A notice of motion by Norwood church that preachers be called pastors in all advertisements was lost.

A loyal resolution and address to the King was carried by standing in prayer.

It was resolved to appoint a hospitality committee to help visitors to conference.

Greetings from conference were sent to Bren. E. G. Warren, G. T. Walden and Pascoe (former preachers) in their sickness.

Bro. H. Horsell was congratulated upon having completed thirty years of service as conference secretary. Thanks were also expressed for the service Bro. Chas. Schwab had rendered the South Australian brotherhood during the last six years, and congratulating him upon the completion of his successful term of office as president.

The social fellowship around the tea and dinner tables, not the least of which was a College of the Bible Old Boys' tea and a tea with the home missionary committee and home mission preachers, was brought to a great climax by the home mission tea in the town hall.

The home mission demonstration was the final meeting of conference. The song service was led by Bro. P. P. Langlois. The new president, Bro. C. M. Verco, B.A., on being introduced expressed the hope that the new conference year would be one of loyalty to God and fellowship in service. Bro. H. R. Taylor gave an address on "Things that Cannot be Shaken," and Bro. Scambler spoke on "Some Impressions Among the Churches." These were two grand addresses. Under the baton of Mr. W. Long the choir rendered two anthems.

**Officers and Committees.**

President, C. M. Verco.  
Past President, A. L. Read.  
President-elect, J. E. Shipway.  
Secretary, H. J. Horsell.  
Assistant Secretary, H. R. Taylor.  
Treasurer, P. P. Langlois.  
Executive Committee.—W. C. Brooker, F. K. Glover, E. R. Manning, A. G. Hinde.  
Home Missions.—W. L. Ewers, J. E. Shipway, J. Harkness, T. E. Yelland, H. R. Taylor, M. Jacobs, T. Edwards, A. L. Read, H. J. Horsell, A. McGlasson, E. A. Riches, A. C. Rankine, J. T. Train, C. M. Verco.  
Building Extension.—J. W. Cosh, H. J. Horsell, T. E. Yelland, P. P. Langlois, O. V. Mann, C. M. Verco.  
Foreign Missions.—A. Anderson, A. Brooker,

T. B. Richardson, D. K. Beller, P. A. Halliday, W. Green, A. E. Brown, H. P. Manning, A. C. Rankine, E. A. Riches, Dr. T. Turner, A. J. Ingham.

Bible Schools.—E. S. Caldicott, F. Collins, C. L. Johnston, D. Wakeley, Miss D. Wood, W. Beller, H. A. Dunkerton, W. T. Matthews, A. Mauger.

Christian Endeavor.—D. K. Beller, F. Fisher, A. Glastonbury, J. Hemer, B. Russell, F. Hollams, A. R. Jones, T. Edwards, J. E. Shipway.

Social Service.—A. E. Brown, H. Hannam, A. R. Jones, L. Riches, D. Wakeley, H. Jones, A. E. Mauger, F. A. Halliday.

Training Committee.—W. L. Ewers, H. P. Manning, H. R. Taylor, W. C. Brooker, A. C. Rankine, G. T. Walden.

Representatives to S.A. Alliance.—A. E. Brown, T. Edwards, J. T. Train.

Representatives to Council of Churches.—T. Edwards, P. A. Halliday, D. Wakeley, T. E. Yelland.

Protestant Homes.—T. M. Glover, Mrs. Stokes, W. G. Oram.

Aborigines Friends Council.—H. H. Davie, J. R. Hemer, H. J. Horsell, A. C. Rankine, T. E. Yelland.

Auditors.—A. V. Hollands, T. P. Richardson.

**Preaching for Conversions.**

MANY of us will remember how not so very long ago it was customary for preachers to lead their congregations right into the valley of decision. It was quite a common thing to hear at stated intervals sermons on such themes as "How long halt ye between two opinions?" "Who is on the Lord's side?" "Who will come to the help of the Lord against the mighty?" In other words, ministers used to preach for conversions far more frequently and urgently than they seem to do to-day. And they were right. Of late, however, we have been so busy studying the psychology of conversion that we have tended to overlook the need for pressing home on men the urgency of the thing itself. Knowledge of the mechanism involved must never be allowed to blind us to the fact that all around are men and women who need to be converted, nominal Christians who need to be turned into real ones. Our churches in these difficult days are troubled and anxious about many things and apt to neglect the one thing needful, which is to bring men to the knowledge and service of Jesus Christ, to turn them from darkness to light, and to guide their feet into the way of peace. It is quite true, of course, that on its intellectual side Christianity presents a number of problems, the solution of which is not yet. This is natural and inevitable in the case of a religion which is not a dead creed but a living word of God. But it ought not to be made an excuse for suspension of judgment. Christianity is much more than a theological system. It is a way of life, a life that can be and has been lived by multitudes whose intellectual equipment is of the scantiest kind. The question all men have to face is whether they mean to live their life in God's way, or their own, or the devil's. Drifting will get them nowhere. They have to choose, and their choice in the long run will justify itself by its fruits. The Christian's choice implies, among other things, repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, a moral and spiritual experience that originates in an act of will.—Dr. W. B. Seibie in "Christian World" (London).

**BELATED WISDOM.**

When we are young we make up our minds to try and get what we want; when we have arrived at years of discretion we decide to try and want what we get. It saves time.—Jerome K. Jerome.

# The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

## WITH GOODWILL DOING SERVICE.

THE sweetest lives are those to Duty wed,  
 Whose deeds, both great and small,  
 Are close-knit strands of an unbroken thread,  
 Where love ennobleth all.  
 The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells,  
 The Book of Life the shining record tells.  
 Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes  
 After its own life-working. A child's kiss  
 Set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad;  
 A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;  
 A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;  
 Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense  
 Of service which thou renderest.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

## SECRET OF A LONG LIFE.

YOU sometimes see a woman whose old age is as exquisite as was the perfect bloom of her youth. You wonder how it is her life has been a long and happy one. Here are some of the reasons:

She knew how to forget disagreeable things.  
 She kept her nerves well in hand and inflicted them on no one.  
 She mastered the art of saying pleasant things.  
 She did not expect too much from her friends.  
 She made whatever work came to her congenial.  
 She retained her illusions, and did not believe all the world wicked and unkind.  
 She relieved the miserable, and sympathized with the sorrowful.  
 She did unto others as she would be done by; and now that old age has come to her, and there is a halo of white hair about her head, she is loved and considered.  
 This is the secret of a long life, and a happy one.—Selected.

## A NOBLE REVERENCE.

IN the house at Bonn occupied by Beethoven there still is preserved the piano upon which the great master played, and which he used in the composition of his great music. Among the pilgrims to this shrine was a certain young lady. She walked airily to the instrument and began playing a careless tune; and then, turning to the custodian, said, "I suppose you have many visitors here every year?" "A great many," was the reply. "Many famous people, no doubt?" said she. "Yes, Paderewski came recently." "I suppose, of course, he played on the piano?" said the girl, her fingers still thrumming the keys. "No," said the custodian; "he did not consider himself worthy." The great in soul will not be flippant on holy ground.—Selected.

## TEMPERANCE TRUTHS.

ALCOHOL puts the man to sleep and awakens the beast.  
 If you wish to keep a dead man—put him in whisky. If you wish to kill a living man—put whisky into him.  
 Alcohol kills more men than war, and kills them more dishonorably.  
 Who serves himself, serves a slave; who rules himself, rules a king.  
 Alcohol promises heaven—and gives hell.  
 Alcohol is the pick-me-up that lets you down.  
 More persons have been brought to the gutter through taking strong drink than by trade

depression, family misfortune, or any other causes.

As drink drags a man down, it is no use expecting to climb to the top of the tree on alcohol.

Few men have seen the inside of a public-house only once, and then it has only been by the grace of God giving them strength to overcome the craving for alcohol.—Selected.

## A DOCTOR'S BLUNDER.

PROFESSOR MURDOCH CAMERON, in the course of a lecture, remarked that the taking of alcohol led to a confusion of ideas, and although a man may be able to find his way home without the assistance of the police, he might, nevertheless, be in a very unsatisfactory state of mind. This he illustrated as follows. A country doctor, who was in the habit of carrying a stable-lantern on his rounds at night, on one occasion visiting a gentleman's house, and partaking of dinner, imbibed somewhat freely of the wines. He managed to arrive home safely, but next morning he awoke with a splitting headache. Endeavoring to account for this, he gradually remembered the dinner, and also that during his walk home a voice kept saying, "Good night!" To this he had replied several times, although the night was so dark that he could not see his companion. The recollection of this voice worried him considerably. Just in the midst of his cogitations, however, he received a note from his host, that read as follows:—

"Dear Doctor.—We hope you arrived home safely. Herewith I am sending your stable-lantern, and shall be glad if you will return the parrot and cage, which you doubtless carried home in error last night."

## TRUST.

"HOW much of life is left for me,  
 How many days or months or years,  
 I know not—for I cannot see  
 The future with its smiles and tears.  
 "It is enough from day to day,  
 To know that God guards all my way.  
 "He sees the future and the past,  
 As clearly as the present hour,  
 And knows my life from first to last,  
 And holds it in his love and power."

## A RESTRICTIVE MEASURE.

Mrs. Millerby.—"I wish I could think of something to keep my husband at home in the evenings."  
 Mrs. Mornington.—"Buy him a motor car."  
 Mrs. Millerby.—"He'd be out more than ever then."  
 Mrs. Mornington.—"No, indeed. My husband bought one last week, and the doctor says he won't be out for six weeks."

## THE SEXTON'S RETORT.

After several complaints had been made to him, the vicar of a certain church came to an opinion that his old sexton was neglecting certain duties.  
 The sexton, who was not wanting in wit, strenuously denied the charge, and said that he was "not goin' to stand no meddlin' with his affairs."  
 "But, John," argued the vicar, "it behoves everybody to mind his 'p's and q's."  
 "Everybody except me," retorted the old man, refusing to be cornered. "I've enough to do to mind my keys and pews."

# The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

## TOPIC.—DEAD TO LAW, BUT "ALIVE UNTO GOD."

Monday, October 9.

WE were buried therefore with him through baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.—Rom. 6: 4.

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward change. The candidate is buried with Christ into death, and raised with him to walk in newness of life. He makes a solemn pledge to be henceforth dead to sin, and to live the new life of faith in Christ and service for him. The old man is crucified with Christ; the new man is created alive unto God in Christ Jesus.  
 Reading—Romans 6: 1-9.

Tuesday, October 10.

For the death that he died, he died unto sin once; but the life that he liveth, he liveth unto God.—Rom. 6: 10.

Christ died to make atonement for sin. By virtue of his death the penitent sinner becomes dead to sin, and by virtue of his resurrection the convert lives a new life—unto God instead of unto Satan; a life altogether new in its aim, sympathies and antipathies, his purpose now being to promote the glory of God.  
 Reading—Romans 6: 11-14.

Wednesday, October 11.

Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.—Rom. 6: 11.

Dead, yet alive! Such is the unique experience of a converted soul. The one great design of the Christian scheme is to produce this condition. Sin has no more control over a truly converted soul than the pleasures and pursuits of this world to a dead man.  
 Reading—Romans 6: 14-23.

Thursday, October 12.

For I through the law died unto sin, that I might live unto God.—Rom. 2: 19.

As a dead man is insensible to everything, so a Christian is dead to the law, which as a means of justification has proved futile. But paradoxical though it may seem, a Christian is alive while he is dead, whilst the worldling is dead even while he lives.  
 Reading—Galatians 2: 19.

Friday, October 13.

Faithful is the saying; for if we died with him we shall also live with him.—2 Tim. 2: 11.  
 Here is a maxim worthy of profound attention and acceptance, for it is a faithful saying, designed to encourage Timothy to endure tribulation. Though dead, with Christ, he should yet live with him.  
 Reading—2 Timothy 2: 1-13.

Saturday, October 14.

Who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness.—1 Peter 2: 24.  
 Christ bare our sins in his body upon the tree in order that we may die unto sin, yet live unto righteousness. How essential it is that we should therefore follow the example and walk in the footsteps of him who "did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth!"  
 Reading—1 Peter 2: 18-25.

Sunday, October 15.

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also were dead to the law through the body of Christ.—Rom. 7: 4.

By the crucified body of Christ we are dead to the law, for our Saviour met the demands of the law and saved us from its penalty. So, discharged from the law, we are free, yet bond-servants of him who delivered us.

Readings—Deuteronomy 6: 1-12; Romans 7.

## "Filled with the Spirit"

Ephesians 5: 18-20.

Prayer Meeting Topic for October 11.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

EVERY man at his conversion is promised the gift of the Spirit (Acts 2: 38). "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Such are also said to be "born of the Spirit," for "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom."

Apart from this "gift of the Spirit," there are "gifts of the Spirit," and further there is a "baptism of the Spirit" which we know was the experience of the disciples on the day of Pentecost who gathered in the upper room. A similar thing also was evident in the conversion of Cornelius.

This filling of the Spirit of our text is surely something beyond that which is promised to Christians at conversion, for Paul exhorts the Ephesians that they "be filled with the Spirit." Such exhortation would be unnecessary if they already had received. This is evidently something more. Weymouth translates, "But drink deeply of God's Spirit."

### Health-giving.

The Christian alternative to getting drunk is not solemn dullness but spiritual exhilaration. The one destroys health but the other gives it. The science of health is largely to be found in the Christian faith. To drink deeply of God's Spirit and to be confident in him is to make us less anxious and less worried about the temporal things of life. For us "God's in his heaven," and in addition he is enthroned in our hearts. "I will not fear what man can do unto me." Some Christians miss the joy of life and the sense of freedom and the wholeness of physical well-being because they have not drunk deeply of the Spirit.

### Strengthening.

The locomotive has its propelling force in the steam generated in its boiler. Shut it off and the engine though harmonious in all its parts, stops. Power to do God's work thoroughly comes through our being filled with the Spirit. It is the power in the Christian life. Without it there is no action. Many a congregation is lifeless and makes no progress for want of the driving power that comes this way. What is wrong? Members are filled with cares of this world, and desires for selfish pleasure and ambitious projects, so that there is not any place for any filling with the Spirit. If in your internal-combustion engine water is mixed with your petrol there is sure to be trouble. In our religious experience we too frequently try mixtures that simply will not work. There is a slowing down and a complete stoppage. God give us men and women in our churches filled with the Spirit.

### Blessing to Others.

No man can influence others for God and righteousness and the gospel of his grace save the Spirit-filled man. As we are filled with the Spirit, we "cease to do evil" and "learn to do well." The blessing to others might be likened to a kind of overflow into their lives. Christianity becomes contagious (to use another metaphor), and we can't help passing it on. But instead of the contagion of a bad thing it is the contagion of a good thing. Men and women are made happier, dull lives are brightened, and sorrow gives place to joy. The unfortunate thing is that so many know not the experience of being filled with the Spirit and bring little or no blessing to others.

Let there be absolute surrender, earnest consecration and a readiness to follow Christ and the filling will come. This is an exhortation. You can be "filled with the Spirit."

TOPIC FOR OCTOBER 18.—CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.—Eph. 5: 21-33.

# Our Young People.

## Christian Endeavor Interests and Activities.

Conducted by W. W. Saunders.

### Annual Conference Rallies, S.A.

ON Saturday, Sept. 16, when they conducted their annual rallies, our South Australian Endeavorers made a successful contribution to the recent annual conference of our churches in that State.

The junior rally in the afternoon was opened with prayer by Bro. H. R. Fitch, of Gawler. Norwood juniors rendered effectively several C.E. choruses, and a roll-call was responded to by representatives from 22 centres. Greetings were received from the State junior department, Kalgoorlie and Lake-st., W.A., and Black Rock, Vic. Cowandilla juniors presented an item depicting how Christ desires love, truth, honesty, purity, courage, reverence and grace to dominate the lives of all. Miss A. Jones (State junior superintendent) awarded efficiency banners to successful societies. The country banner was won by Murray Bridge and the metropolitan by York. An interesting address, based on the text, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he," was given by Bro. E. Paddick, of Stirling. He sought to show the change that comes into one's life and heart when one has sincerely accepted Christ as Lord and Master. Greed, envy and selfishness are changed to generosity, love and unselfishness in the Christ-controlled life.

The evening was devoted to the intermediate and Y.P. rally, the Grote-st. chapel being packed to capacity for the occasion. The retiring president, Bro. A. R. Jones, of Henley Beach, was in the chair. Prayer was offered by Bro. E. P. Hollar, of Berri. Greetings were received from the State Union, Methodist and Baptist C.E. departments, Congregational Youth Council, Miss Cameron and Dr. Oldfield, of India, and Bro. M. T. Lawrie, preacher at Wodjina on the West Coast, who is the C.E. living link. A token of esteem and appreciation, in the form of an embossed wallet, was presented to Bro. R. W. Knight, who served the department as secretary for six years but has been forced by removal to relinquish the position. Bro. Knight presented to Mile End Y.P., Murray Bridge Y.P. and Mile End intermediate the efficiency banners won by their efforts throughout the year. To Bro. A. R. Jones he also presented a volume in appreciation of valuable services rendered during the former's year of office.

"Australia for Christ" was the title of an original item given by the Endeavorers. The item was divided into three sections. The first portrayed the vision of every phase of Australia's life under the dominion of Christ. The second set forth the challenge of this vision to Christians. The third offered ways and means of accepting the challenge that the vision might become reality. Three brief addresses were given, Bro. C. Manning speaking on "We See the Vision," Bro. Bert Russell (secretary) on "We Accept the Challenge," and Bro. John Hemer (incoming president) on "Putting Our Hands to the Task." The scripture lesson was read by Bro. E. Shurmann, of the College of the Bible who, with the principal, Bro. T. H. Scambler, was present in the interests of that institution.

The national president (Mr. Donald McNicol) was the speaker, and his message was on the campaign he has inaugurated for the distribution of New Testaments to and the subsequent winning to Christ of one million non-Christians, during the two years of his presidency. Mr. McNicol presented to all a direct personal challenge to witness more constantly and wholeheartedly to the reality and influence of Christ in the life.

### C.E. MISSIONARY PRAYER GUIDE.

MISS MARJORIE BUCKINGHAM, missionary superintendent of the Victorian C.E. Committee, desires to increase the missionary consciousness of Endeavorers in that State. As a means to this end she stresses the value of intelligent, informed prayer. To assist such prayer she requests the publishing, in our columns, of specific items for prayer. We have in mind that these columns are Federal in their scope, and as the missionary work of the churches is a Federal interest we feel the prayer guide may fittingly be included, that Endeavorers throughout the Commonwealth may unite in intercession for our missionaries and fields. "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." The following has been forwarded:—

#### OCTOBER: INDIA.

8th.—Baramati. Pray for the special evangelistic work of Bro. and Sister Bolduan; for the strengthening of church members.

15th.—Shrigonda. Pray for Miss Cameron's C.E. society formed among villagers; that girls in Lyall Memorial Home may be led to Christ.

22nd.—Dhond. Pray for Dr. Michael and assistants; for regular gospel services conducted at hospital.

29th.—Diksal. Pray that through the 400 children attending Bro. and Sister Scott's classes many heathen homes may learn of Christ.

Pray earnestly. Pray intelligently. Mark these stations on your missionary map.

### MISSIONS.

HOW much does your society know about its own mission fields? Can you discuss intelligently their situation, staff, types of activity, needs? If not, you would find it most interesting to begin this particular study right away. Make yourselves thoroughly familiar with these things and talk about them to others. In this way you will help to spread interest in the work.

Sometimes people, even Christian people, will tell you that they are not interested in mission work. It is not their business to be interested—it is their business to obey their Captain and Leader, Jesus Christ. He said, "Go ye," and it is for us to obey. Having set ourselves to obey we will find that the interest follows. No one can pray and work for the spread of the gospel without becoming interested in those who sit in darkness for whom Christ died.

Your church did not just happen. It was the direct or indirect result of someone else's missionary labors. Have you ever studied the history of your local church? There are doubtless many fascinating facts and romantic records available. So with your missionary work and that of others. When you are familiar with your own there are many others you can study. But remember that, as Endeavorers, your supreme loyalty is to your own missionary work.

One union planned a syllabus for its societies by which each society gave a night to the study of a denominational or interdenominational mission for a certain period. In this way the Endeavorers became familiar with what other churches were doing and found it most interesting.—"Roll Call."

## Here and There.

ON Monday we received the following telegram from N.S. Wales: "Great meetings Flood mission Mayfield; three additions Thursday; four Sunday.—Wilson."

We regret to note the continued interruption of mission work in parts of China, under the influence of an anti-British drive. Some missionaries have been forced to leave their fields and hospitals have been closed.

Bro. J. E. Webb, our Victorian Conference president, has been called home to Balaklava, S.A., owing to the death of his father, who had attained the advanced age of 91 years. Sincere sympathy is expressed to all the bereaved family.

Bro. W. J. Crossman, Senior Chaplain N.S.W. United Board, will go into camp on Oct. 7 with 2nd Division Signals at the Sydney Show-ground for 30 days. For the past seven years Bro. Crossman has been attached to the signals whilst in camp by request of the commanding officer.

We are glad to announce that Bro. J. C. F. Pittman has sufficiently recovered from his recent accident to resume part of his work at Colac and also his writing for "The Australian Christian." We are grateful to Bro. Thos. Hagger for kindly supplying matter for "The Family Altar" during Bro. Pittman's indisposition.

Excellent attendances are reported for the second week of the combined tent mission of South Melbourne and Middle Park churches, Vic. Bro. Jackel's addresses are creating much interest. Nearly 200 were present at gospel service on Oct. 1. At close of Bro. Jackel's splendid message entitled "Life's Greatest Question Answered," a young lady made the good confession and four were baptised. Visitations from sister churches have been appreciated.

Word from the N.S.W. Young People's Department has been received thanking many who have sent messages of concern regarding the shortage of finance and the need to continue the work. Many suggestions have been made as to means of providing funds. The chairman and committee desire it to be known that all offers of assistance are appreciated, and that, so soon as funds are available, every effort will be made to continue the good work as done in the past. The earnest prayers of God's people are requested by the department in this financial crisis.

A lettergram received from Bro. A. Anderson, our Federal F.M. secretary, on Tuesday morning contained the following startling news regarding the Hammers who have gone to the New Hebrides to fill the place of the Dudleys who will shortly return to Australia on furlough: "En route Hebrides Baby Hammer fell overboard; father dived to rescue; both saved in exhausted condition; except shock, all well." All will be thankful that a more tragic report had not to be made. Bro. Anderson also reports that Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bead have arrived home in Adelaide after their tour and their visit to our Indian mission fields.

At Perth (Lake-st.) Bro. Wiltshire has endeared himself to both young and old. He has been with the church just over three months. His faithful preaching and energetic pastoral work are much appreciated. The 49th anniversary services were continued on Sept. 21 in the hall, with a very fine gathering of past and present members. Bro. Wiltshire presided. Opportunity was taken during a basket supper to chat over old times. Bro. D. M. Wilson, who had just attained his 86th birthday, was presented with a book as a memento of the occasion. He is enjoying splendid health, and has had a good deal to do with organising the new cause at Wembley. A very nice building in an excellent position is almost completed and D. M. Wilson is to be first secretary.

At the closing meeting of our S.A. conference, the following resolution was carried: "We the assembled representatives of Churches of Christ view with very grave concern the present world situation, and consider that every effort should be made to preserve the integrity, character and well-being of our people. We are greatly alarmed at the imminent growth of unemployment due to the war, a menace which is accentuated by increased gambling and loosening of the licensing laws. We urge the government's business and industrial leaders and all citizens to co-operate in every effort to safeguard the morale of our people. We express our determination to press for the abolition of unemployment; to resist any further inroads into licensing reforms; to uncompromisingly oppose any extension of facilities for betting, and to strenuously advocate ultimate closing of all betting shops."

A public farewell was given Bro. and Sister C. Schwab at Grote-st. chapel, S.A., on Monday, Sept. 25. Bro. E. R. Manning presided over a good gathering. Bro. Barnes spoke words of appreciation on behalf of the official board, Bro. W. E. Blackely for Sunday school, Bro. G. Ellis for young people, W. Watson for choir, Bro. T. M. Glover for church members. He also made presentation of a wallet of notes. Mrs. Mosley, on behalf of Dorcas, presented Sister Schwab with a silver mounted Pyrex dish. Mrs. Daniels presented a cut-glass vase on behalf of ladies' F.M. band, Mrs. Brooker spoke on behalf of sisters' auxiliary, G. M. Verec for conference executive, H. A. Albright for S.A. Alliance, C. H. Smith for Council of Churches, A. E. Summers for relief organisation, E. H. Woolcott for United Church Social Reform Board, H. R. Taylor for Central Training Class, Gen. Price Weir for Deaf and Dumb and Inter-church Charitable Institution. The choir rendered two anthems, and Bro. and Sister Schwab suitably responded. Bro. Anderson, who is supplying for a time, gave two stirring addresses on Oct. 1.

We are glad to acknowledge the kind help of numerous friends who seek to encourage members to become subscribers to our one weekly church paper. Preachers and secretaries can greatly assist by their announcements, and recommendations. The following paragraph, under the heading of "A Suggestion," appears in "The Evangel," the little paper of York-st. church, Ballarat, Vic.:—"The value of the 'Australian Christian,' the official organ of Churches of Christ throughout Australia, is not so well appreciated as this very fine publication should be amongst the members of our churches. Can it be that the value of the paper has not been duly impressed upon our young converts in their early days of service? Containing, as it does, each week, articles by leading writers which never fail to enlighten the minds of those interested in our plea, it is worthy of a place in every church home. By its means we are enabled to keep in closer touch with the churches in different centres, and also maintain an interest in preachers and friends many miles distant. Your own church is sharing in the space offered by its editor. We therefore suggest you will profit greatly by becoming a subscriber."

On Sept. 21 Fremantle and Palmyra ladies' aids, W.A., combined in a successful display of F.M. goods in the memorial hall, Mr. R. Hilford (F.M. secretary) giving an informative talk on conditions in India. Fremantle sisters had previously sent considerable quantities of clothing to the native mission at Gnowangerup. Since last report one woman and one young man have made the good confession. On Sept. 23 the additions to the front of the building, comprising a new entrance, new porch, a minister's room and a ladies' retiring room, and called the "Emma Davy Memorial Porch,"

were officially opened by one of the early members, Bro. C. A. G. Payne. A memorial plaque to Sister Emma Davy was also unveiled. Bro. F. Griffith, preacher of Palmyra-Clairemont circuit, relinquishes duty in November. Early in January next a three-point circuit comprising Fremantle, North Fremantle and Palmyra is being inaugurated, and Bro. E. R. Schurmann, of the College of the Bible, is to assist Bro. Hughes in this work. Mrs. Taylor has almost recovered from a broken shoulder. Bro. W. Garrett is in Fremantle Hospital, but improving. The many friends of Bro. S. Thomson (the sole remaining pioneer of the Fremantle work) will regret to know he has suffered a slight stroke at the home of his son, whom he was visiting in England. Latest reports indicate improvement.

### FEDERAL CONFERENCE NOTES.

PLANS are being made to hold Federal Conference in Perth about next October. South Australia State Conference and the National C.E. Convention are issues that will help decide for us the actual dates. It may be that the war will upset our plans to hold conference next year, but we are not now working on that assumption. We expect to proceed confidently with our arrangements, and will keep the brotherhood informed.

Bro. J. Wiltshire has been appointed vice-president in the place of Bro. A. Brookes, who left W.A. early in the year.

The Federal Executive places on record its deep appreciation of the great service rendered to the brotherhood by Bro. F. T. Saunders in the preparation of the 1939 Directory. As in previous publications, we shall lose a little on the production. We feel that the work done by this year's editor will be of lasting benefit to the whole brotherhood. The Directory is a most commendable production, and we commend it to the brethren everywhere. We thank the Austral for its valued assistance in producing the book.

The president has returned from the S.A. Conference, which he attended in the interests of the Federal work.—R. Raymond, secretary.

### HATE AND WAR.

AT the request of the secretary of our Victorian Social Service Committee, we print the following portion of a statement issued by the Executive of the Victorian Branch of the Australian League of Nations Union:—

"We give our wholehearted support to the pronouncement of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, when he said: 'We have no bitterness against the plain, private citizen of Germany. I hope that we will not be called upon to disfigure our noble cause by hymns of hate.' 'Preparation for a just, humane and lasting peace, which would not bring bitterness to the people of any nation, is the greatest function which has to be performed during the war. No war, however just, can remain just unless it leads consistently to a just peace.'"

"While we are capable of thinking more or less dispassionately, every one of us should write down answers to the following questions: 1. Why did we go to war? 2. What do we hope to achieve? 3. What sort of a peace do we want?"

"As the months go by, rising emotion and hatred may sweep over us. Let us record now our answers to these questions, and bear them in mind whenever peace terms are discussed. It would be a great help if you would send a copy of your answers to the office of the League of Nations Union, 177 Collins-st., Melbourne, as soon as possible."



# News of the Churches.

## QUEENSLAND.

**Nanango.**—Meetings continue to gain in interest. F.M. offering realised £5. Sisters are responding heartily to the call for Christmas cheer for overseas. A larger organ has been installed. Some fine messages in song were rendered by Mrs. Cumisky, who was with the church for a while.

**Brisbane (Ann-st.).**—Good meetings continue. Bro. Snowball, from Toowoomba, was received into fellowship at worship meeting on Oct. 1. Prior to gospel service, one man was baptised. Bro. Allen Brooke's message was entitled "Where there is No Vision." Prayers for guidance and for comfort to all who are suffering as a result of war were offered. Miss Olive Waterfield sang a solo, and choir rendered an anthem.

**Kingaroy.**—The church is working well in all departments. Services are well maintained, particularly morning services. Bro. Clark gave a helpful series of addresses on the Epistle of James which were greatly appreciated. Sister Lobegeiger, sen., is still confined to hospital. The church deeply regrets the passing away of Bro. B. Christensen, a faithful member and deacon, on Sept. 17. An impressive funeral service was conducted by Bro. A. B. Clark, assisted by Bro. Ademann and Bro. Mason (Nanango). Morning service on Sept. 24 was broadcast from 4SB. C.E. society conducted gospel service on Sept. 24, Endeavorers taking various parts.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

**Cowandilla.**—Mr. F. Hollams, who has been the preacher at Cottonville, has commenced his ministry at Cowandilla. On Oct. 1 he and his family were received into fellowship. On previous Thursday the church and auxiliaries tendered a welcome social to the Hollams family. Malcolm MacLean has confessed Christ, and been received into fellowship.

**Port Elliot.**—On Sept. 17 Bro. Roy Bowen, of B. and F. Bible Society, addressed afternoon meeting. On Sept. 24 Bro. W. L. Ewers presided and Bro. Alf. Reid, of Melbourne, spoke. On Oct. 1 Bro. Erskine, of U.A.M., gave a message. Each of these three visiting brethren gave lantern lectures in the district. Visitors are beginning to attend 4 p.m. breaking of bread service in court house.

**Hindmarsh.**—Oct. 1 marked commencement of the ministry of Bro. Wm. L. Ewers. Bro. and Sister Ewers and family were received into fellowship. Attendance at morning service was about 136, when Bro. Ewers spoke on "Factors for Success in the Early Church." At gospel service there were about 104 present, including a number of visitors. Bro. Ewers' message was "The Old, Old Story." The choir rendered an anthem and Miss D. Oatway sang a solo.

**Victor Harbor.**—The recent State conference gatherings were a great blessing to the work here. Bro. Manning received over £30 in cash and another promise of £100 on condition that building is opened free of debt. Church and H.M. committee unanimously decided to call for tenders at once. Bro. Chris. Smith, of Prospect church, is the architect. Nearly £1600 in cash and promises has been received, but £200 is conditional on the £2600 being reached before the opening.

**Brooklyn Park.**—There were splendid services on Oct. 1, it being the church's 15th anniversary. At morning service the conference president (Bro. C. M. Verro) gave a thoughtful message. Mrs. Willing was received from Fullerton. At night a good number were present. A special choir under Bro. Frank Willing rendered anthems. Bro. Beller gave an appropriate message and conducted a prayer service for national guidance and peace. Sympathy is expressed to Bro. and Sister Syd. Sherriff in the loss of their baby.

**Queenstown.**—On Sept. 24 Mr. James, from Unley, spoke at young people's meeting. Bro. Brooker exhorted the church, and preached at night. Oct. 1 was flower day. Bro. Brooker exhorted the church. Owing to sickness amongst the children school attendance was affected. In the evening a song service was held and Bro. Brooker preached on "A Bunch of Everlastings." Building was filled both morning and evening. The flowers were distributed to sick after evening service.

**Semaphore.**—S.S. anniversary was one of the most successful of recent years. Bro. Rootes, a past preacher, gave two excellent addresses on Sept. 24. Mr. Arthur Samuels in the afternoon of Oct. 1 gave an interesting and instructive talk to the children. Mr. Norman Makin, M.H.R., delivered a helpful and eloquent address at night. The preacher (Bro. W. Oram) filled the other appointments. The school gave an excellent contribution in response to the training of the conductor, Miss Ivy Bray. Attendances were very fine and altogether it was a time of blessing.

**Unley.**—Bro. H. R. Taylor completed his twelve years of full-time ministry on Sept. 30. After his gospel address on 24th, five youths of from about 16 to 20 years of age made the good confession. Bro. Taylor is now home mission organiser, but he will perform needful duties for Unley church until Bro. W. F. Nankivell arrives. Fellowship meeting on Sept. 27 was conducted by Endeavorers. Sister Audrey James presided, and an earnest address on Australian aborigines was given by Bro. John Hemer. Junior Endeavorers are making capital progress. Dr. Trevor Turner exhorted church on Oct. 1. A special prayer meeting was held in behalf of Empire and early just peace.

**Murray Bridge.**—Successful school anniversary services were held at beginning of September. Bro. A. Anderson was speaker and Bro. Butler conducted the singing. On 3rd Bro. Keith Jones, of Victoria, presided, and Breen, Walmsley, Coventry and Gibson, students from the college, took part, their help and presence being appreciated. Bro. J. Gibson addressed the church acceptably on 10th. A C.E. social for piano fund was a happy event. Both J.C.E. and Y.P.C.E. won the country banners this year. Sunday school picnic was held on 30th in ideal weather. The preacher has conducted a short series of "Conversational Sermons" in which Bro. Butler, Sister Ada Orchard and Bro. C. Mitchell presented reasons "Why Some Young Men Don't Go to Church," "Why Some Young Women Don't Go to Church" and "Why Some Men Don't Go to Church," to which Bro. Thomson replied. Two who had formerly confessed Christ were immersed and received into fellowship on Oct. 1.

**Fullarton.**—The L.C.E. held anniversary services on Sept. 24. During first half of morning service, to which juniors always stay, gifts of books were made to each member. Dr. Oldfield addressed the church on our work in India. Special singing was rendered at afternoon service at the dedication of a new intermediate society commenced with 11 members under direction of Miss A. Thompson. Misses J. Rosewarne and Marjorie Headland are new leaders of L.C.E. Bro. Anderson delivered a splendid address to children and parents (about 90 in all) on "The Good Shepherd." The church secretary, Bro. Meyer, made fitting remarks concerning the splendid service rendered for many years by the leader, Mr. H. Maunder, who is leaving the district. Bro. Rankine presented a small gift in appreciation of Sister Maunder's work in L.C.E. Awards won by scholars were distributed. At close of evening service a young man made the good confession. On Oct. 1 Sisters Mrs. Gilmore, Nancy and Marshall, from Nallsworth, were welcomed into fellowship.

**Kadina.**—On Sept. 10 Bro. K. Dyster spoke at both services. A baptismal service was held at night. On Sept. 17 Bro. Keith Russack exhorted church on "What is Your Life?" At night Bro. Will. Gordon, of Ungarra, preached on "Jesus and Society." Bro. Keith Russack has reorganised J.C.E., which has been in recess for several weeks. On Sept. 24 Bro. Dyster conducted his farewell services, speaking in morning on "Saying Thank You," and at night on "The Last Word." On Sept. 28 the ladies' guild held a social evening, raising £3 for building trust fund. The church sympathises with Sister Mrs. Lyall Jackson, of Wallaroo, in the sudden loss of her husband. Both were members of Kadina church in earlier years of their life. Bible school is practising for anniversary. Bro. S. R. Trenwith exhorted church on Oct. 1 on "Being Ready," and at night Bro. A. P. Russack preached on "Jesus—His Transforming Influence." There were 78 at Bible school. 15 were at J.C.E., largest attendance for months. At Willamulka Bro. A. P. Russack spoke on "Lame Excuses."

## VICTORIA.

**Dandenong.**—On Oct. 1 Bro. Lewis spoke helpfully. At night he delivered an address on "Faith," the first of a series on "Essentials."

**Shepparton.**—There were splendid attendances at Bible school anniversary on Sept. 17, when Bro. Combridge, of Bendigo, was speaker. The two parents of a Bible school scholar made the good confession on morning of Oct. 1. There were seven new scholars at school.

**Melbourne (Swanston-st.).**—On Oct. 1 there were good attendances, and Bro. A. A. Hughes spoke at both services. College offering was taken. The young people had an enjoyable fellowship tea at which they talked over their work.

**Essendon.**—Good attendances on Oct. 1 marked commencement of fourth year of service of Bro. Illingworth with the church. At half-yearly business meeting Sisters Dockery and Green were appointed deaconesses. Mrs. Illingworth continues to make good progress towards complete recovery.

**Colac.**—Bro. Pittman resumed work on Oct. 1 after his illness. All were pleased to listen to his helpful messages. On Sept. 24 Bro. A. W. Connor, of Doncaster, was speaker. It is just 29 years since the present chapel was opened, the building being completed under Bro. Connor's organising.

**Carlton (Lygon-st.).**—All services were well attended on Oct. 1. At 11 a.m. Bro. Baker conducted a memorial service to many church members recently called home, speaking on "When Death is Swallowed up in Victory." Visitors were welcomed. Bro. Baker was speaker at all services. Bible school had a good final practice for anniversary.

**Hampton.**—Good attendances marked second Sunday of Bible school anniversary on Oct. 1. K. A. Jones was morning speaker. College offering, £8/11/0. Kindergarten display, prize distribution and choruses were features of afternoon service. At night Bro. Stephenson spoke, and the school singing under Bro. Buckley was again enjoyed.

**Red Cliffs.**—Recently the brethren assembled to give church and manse a coat of paint. The appearance has been greatly improved. Afternoon tea was provided by the sisters. Last week the ladies' mission band presented "Ruth and Naomi" in aid of Indian mission. Attendance was exceptionally good. Bro. L. Brown was speaker at evening service on Oct. 1.

**Doncaster.**—During Bro. Connor's absence at Colac Bro. W. Smith, Mont Albert, and Bro. Funston, North Essendon, conducted services. On Oct. 1 the president and councillors of the shire attended evening meeting. Bro. Connor's subject was "What Does a Man Live By?" Choir and quartette party assisted with musical items. Members of young worshippers' league were given a social evening. Prizes were given for attendance. Miss Evelyn Petty is superintendent.

(Continued on page 636.)

# Foreign Missions.

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

## ANNUAL STATEMENT.

WHEN the estimated budget, amounting to £7200, was presented to the States, it was pointed out that no emergencies were provided for; and if a new worker was sent out to India it must be an addition to the budget. Our annual income exceeded the amount of the original budget, but some additional expense was incurred on the Islands, and a new worker, Miss H. Wiltshire, was sent to India. Other items of expenditure were kept within the estimates. Despite increase in expenditure, an increase of slightly over £100 in receipts helped the position, and the nett deficit, after allowing interest on endowments as a credit to sinking fund account, amounts to a shade under £50.

RECEIPTS.	
States—	
Victoria .. .. .	£2284 2 11
South Australia .. .	2097 13 3
New South Wales .. .	1085 2 0
Queensland .. .. .	583 2 8
Western Australia .. .	809 16 2
Tasmania .. .. .	245 5 5
	£7105 2 5
Sundry Receipts—	
New Hebrides .. .	£47 1 5
India .. .. .	1 0 0
"Goodly Pearls" (all States) .. .. .	68 7 0
	116 8 5
Sundry (refunds) .. .	22 1 10
	£7243 12 8

PAYMENTS.	
India .. .. .	£5388 11 3
China .. .. .	260 0 6
New Hebrides .. .	520 5 0
Bank Charges and Interest—	
Bank Charges, £53/14/10; Interest, £182/11/1; Interest on Endowments, £174/17/5	361 3 4
Office .. .. .	390 0 0
Petty Cash .. .. .	39 0 6
Insurance .. .. .	89 14 8
Honorarium .. .. .	104 0 0
Travel .. .. .	30 7 10
"Goodly Pearls" .. .	87 17 0
Printing .. .. .	177 5 0
Sundries .. .. .	8 10 9
	£7456 15 10

Total Expenditure .. .	£7456 15 10
Total Income .. .. .	7243 12 8
	£213 3 2
Paid into Sinking Fund a/c. . . . .	154 0 9
Nett Loss on Year's Operations .. .	£59 2 5

It is to be noted that to send money to India and China the loss on exchange amounted to over £1100.

### Earmarked Monies.

The amount donated for special purposes is the best for many years. Dhond Hospital receipts amounted to £297—an increase of £80 on the previous year. Christmas cheer increased £52, and the endowment fund added £1341 for the year, an increase of £186 over the preceding year. Though the year closes with a loss in the general account, some substantial gains in consolidated revenue have allowed the year to close on a reasonably sound note.

The Federal Board again express their thanks to our heavenly Father for the gracious provision made by his children to carry on the work.

## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

SOME have wondered what reactions world conditions might have on our overseas work. To this we reply that we carry on in quiet confidence and assurance. His kingdom will continue though the kingdoms of the earth cease to exist. It might not be generally known that during the last war a great advance was made in our overseas work; new missionaries were sent out and foundations laid that have had far-reaching consequences. Here are a few outstanding events which took place during the years 1914-1918. New missionaries sent to field, Miss Cameron, Mr. H. R. Coventry, Miss Warmbrunn (Mrs. H. R. Coventry), Miss E. Caldicott and Miss Vera Blake. The boys' home and the girls' home were established at Baramali and Shrigonda. The influenza epidemic of 1918 caused six million deaths in India, and the brotherhood responded to the appeal and over one hundred children were taken into the homes for support. A school was built at Shrigonda costing about £120. During a great part of this period a tremendous loss resulted because of overseas exchange. In the earlier years 15 rupees to the pound was the rate of exchange, but afterwards only 7 to 8 rupees were received. Let us hope that despite outward difficulties we will meet them in the same spirit as formerly and that similar advances might be made.

## NEWS ITEMS.

BY the time this paragraph appears it is expected that Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Read will have arrived in Adelaide. A telegram tells of their arrival in Perth.

Bro. Theo. Waters, who was our missionary on Aoba for about fourteen years, writes thanking all for their many expressions of sympathy in the passing of Mrs. Waters. He states that Mr. and Mrs. Hammer and David called at his home in Norfolk Island on their way to Aoba.

The South Australian sisters have decided to accept Mrs. Lionel Dudley as their living link in place of Miss Grace Lambert. The correspondence that must necessarily pass between the Islands and Australia will help Bro. and Sister Dudley to have a closer link with the homeland.

## LATE MISS THOMPSON'S BIBLE-WOMAN.

MISS ROSA TONKIN, former missionary in Shanghai, has forwarded a letter she received from Karuna Joseph. For many years Karuna worked with Miss Thompson at Harda, and is still actively engaged in the work.

To Miss Tonkin.

Dear Sister in Christ,—You can just imagine how glad I was when I received your loving letter, and that too from an unknown person. I was very glad and pleased to go through your loving letter. Thanks very much for the same, and am also thankful to God who has created a love towards me that you should have some connection with me when our dear friends who are no more in this world, namely, Miss Thompson and Mrs. Jackson, who also passed away this year. I was not even lucky to see her face in the last moment, as I was in the hospital at Itarsi. One after the other passed away from this world. They were the real wellwishers of us, and they always gave us courage and comfort in all our distress, and they were the wellwishers of the congregation also. Now in absence of them you will take their place, and you will be not only a friend but a sister to us, and we hope that you will always remember us in your daily prayers and always write us.

You might be knowing that I am working as a Bible-woman. I like this work very much, and nowadays we teach about the coming of Christ as all his words are fulfilling and the time is very near that he may come to the world at any time. The congregation of our church is very small at present and mostly of poor people. There is no missionary here; however, our work is going on well. We strongly hope that you will do remember us in your prayers. Prayer is the only means that we can help each other.

With best wishes and love from self to you and your dear ones. Yours sister in Christ, K. Joseph.

## THE CHINESE CHURCH GROWS.

MORE and more responsible missionary magazines mention the Chinese Home Missionary Society. The Australian Churches of Christ can be glad that they are assisting in a work that is certain to become more important as the Chinese church grows. "In spite of opposition, persecution and hardship," says the "Christian Chinese Student," "the Christian church has grown in numbers. The latest statistical returns show a twenty-three per cent. increase during the last decade, thus bringing the total number of Protestant communicants up to the half-million mark. This is a very small number, for it represents only one-ninth, or one per cent., of the total population of China, but the Christian church in China exercises an influence on the life of the nation far beyond its numerical strength. The church in China has become increasingly indigenous, and has assumed more responsibility in self-support, self-government and self-propagation. Nearly one-half of her churches are self-supporting. The Home Missionary Society, organised twenty years ago, has been sending Chinese missionaries to the province of Yunnan and to Mongolia."

## IT IMPROVES WITH KEEPING

MONEY is one of those things that improve with keeping—within reason. Reason suggests holding money at compound interest until a more profitable outlet presents itself, or a worth-while purchase can be made. The best place to safeguard your savings is the—

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## Open Forum For "Christian" Readers.

[Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory crossfiring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.]

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### ENGAGEMENT OF PREACHERS.

I DO not think brethren would query the suggestion put forward by the nine preachers' sons regarding the engagement of preachers if they understood better what was meant by "a committee similar to the one at present operating in Queensland." The system now operating in Queensland by no means does away with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Preacher Placement and Advisory Board in Queensland is purely of an advisory character. Both preachers and churches agreed to apply to the Advisory Board when considering a change of ministries. The board makes certain recommendations to applicant preachers and churches, and if these recommendations are acceptable to both parties concerned, the board drops out, leaving the preacher and the church to themselves to finish the negotiations. Both the church and the preacher have the privilege of rejecting the recommendations of the board, who then undertake to tender further recommendations until both parties are suited. The board simply provides a suitable means of contact between the preacher and the church. Its value should be quite obvious. Consisting of men of wide experience and knowledge of both preachers and churches, the board can prevent many costly and unfortunate mistakes, such as have occurred in the past. An unseemly scramble for appointments on one hand and the stealing of preachers on the other is obviated. Lapses of time between ministries, costly both for preachers and churches, are more easily avoided without the expedient of accepting the first offer that comes along. It assures that those who are accepted into the ministry of our brotherhood are fully qualified morally, spiritually and technically, and such persons have the endorsement of the brotherhood behind them. As changes are more readily effected within the State much costly expenditure through long removals is minimised. As one who has worked under the present system operating in Queensland, I heartily recommend it to the rest of our Australian brotherhood. On my own experience I can testify that it does not hinder the vital work of the Holy Spirit. The board, preachers and churches all need to rely upon the Spirit's guidance as much as ever, and I believe that his guidance comes more readily when we use our God-given faculties of commonsense and consecrated wisdom to provide the best channels through which he may work. I feel sure that the majority of our preachers as well as their sons are heartily in accord with this much-needed reform in so vital a matter.—A. O. S. Baker.

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IT has come to me as a surprise also to think that any brother should object to a Board of Management or Advisory Board. One having the experience that the church in Merewether has had for the past 50 years would vote with two hands up, for the Advisory Board was brought in for no other purpose than to safeguard our churches against the imposition of the would-be preachers who know nothing of the position of the church of Christ. If my memory serves me right we have lost 12 buildings. I say long live the

Advisory Board; it won't stop any one from preaching Jesus Christ and him crucified.—Joseph Fraser.

### Victorian News-letter.

A. W. Connor.

#### All Australian Assembly.

THE above assembly of the Presbyterian Church, which meets every three years, has just held its sittings in Melbourne. The Moderator-General was "John Flynn of the Inland," whose magnificent work for inland Australia has made him one of our notable men. It brought together a group of leaders in religious life from all over our land. The discussions and decisions on public questions that are before the world were of great importance. As usual, quite a few preachers from other bodies seek a sphere in the Presbyterian Church. The new leader will hold his office for three years and mission work for our own natives and for our pioneers in the far inland will receive well-deserved attention. Their numbers and wealth enable them to do a needed work in that quarter.

#### A Satanic Gospel.

This is the striking heading to an article in the Melbourne "Herald" last Saturday in the magazine section. It was contributed by Mr. Walter Murdoch. The war situation has drawn out many sorts of pleas, and in not a few cases the aim is to engender hatred and bitterness against other people. Though he disavows churchmanship, Mr. Murdoch makes a great plea for sanity in outlook and reserve in expression. The satanic gospel is "Hatred." He warns us against an "Australian Herr Goebbels" and "the ferocious eloquence of elderly non-combatants." It is a needed plea to meet the new crisis in a spirit of tolerance for the viewpoint of others. There is a needed sermon in his title "Hatred: a Satanic Gospel."

#### Varia.

The problems that arise out of the war are, of course, uppermost in all minds, and if it continues, which may God forbid, there will be greater. In the meantime churches must carry on their job and most are seeking to do it. Some changes in preachers are taking place, but mostly churches are steadily seeking to do their main work and witness for Christ. I have had two visits away—one to Ballarat, where possibly we have now the best representation in any city, with three preachers at work. It was a joy to see the growth in buildings at York-st. I also visited Colac. There we have weakened; with Bro. Ferdinand Pittman quite an improvement is shown. A wider circle will be glad to know that he was to start preaching again on October 1. We all hope for him a complete recovery. We hope to do some bigger work in our Western District. A delightful feature was the great help given by the Geelong churches to Colac since the preacher's accident. It was a much appreciated fellowship, and is one splendid fruit of our new co-operation in district work.

"Hushed be the noise and the strife of the schools,

Volume and pamphlet, sermon and speech.  
The lips of the wise and the prattle of fools;  
Let the Son of man teach!

"Who has the key to the future but he?  
Who can unravel the knots of the skein?  
We have groaned and have travelled and sought to be free;

We have travelled in vain.

"Bewildered, dejected, and prone to despair,  
To him as at first do we turn and beseech:  
'Our ears are all open! Give heed to our prayer!'

O Son of man, teach!"

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## News of the Churches.

(Continued from page 633.)

**Malvern-Caulfield.**—Anniversary of Bible school was celebrated on Oct. 1. In the morning Bro. Lee brought an inspiring message as chairman of Young People's Department of conference. In the evening Bro. Buckingham's subject was "Why should we have a Bible School?" The children provided singing under leadership of Bro. Newham. Attendances at all services were good.

**Ballarat (Peel-st.).**—Bro. A. Graham on morning of Oct. 1 gave a heart-searching message on "Remembrance" to a good attendance of members. There were 104 at Bible school, when children practised for anniversary. There was a fine attendance at gospel service, when Bro. Randall gave a fine message on "The Parable of the Marriage Feast." A good spirit prevails throughout.

**St. Arnaud.**—Attendances keep up to average. Bro. A. H. Pratt has delighted with inspiring messages. Sickness is prevalent. Sister McNicol is steadily recovering from recent operation. Sister J. Adams is slowly progressing. Sister Penberthy fractured her arm and is in local hospital. Sister Hurren, sen., has fully recovered. All auxiliaries are healthy. Bible school is practising for anniversary.

**Hamilton.**—At gospel service on Sept. 24 Bro. Garland spoke on "Why Speak Ye Parables?" On Sept. 25 the last of a series of socials to aid funds for the annual fair was held. At C.E. meeting on Sept. 26 Mr. E. Pearson (Methodist) was speaker, and a most interesting night was spent. At gospel service on Oct. 1 Bro. Garland's message was on "The New Birth." Illness still keeps many members from services.

**West Preston.**—Meetings on Oct. 1 were excellent. Mr. A. Neil addressed morning meeting very helpfully. Mr. W. McLaughlan was speaker at senior Bible class in afternoon. At night the teachers of Bible school, who had taken their scholars home to tea, brought them to the service. Bro. J. D. Lang was speaker, his subject being "Substitute." A Bible school lad made the good confession. All branches of the work are in good heart.

**Fitzroy (Gore-st.).**—On Oct. 1 Bro. Robinson spoke to largest morning congregation since April. Several visitors were present. Sunday school held its anniversary. Bright singing and items by the scholars were enjoyed. Bro. White, from the college, gave an interesting talk. Bro. R. Bond spoke at evening service. Scholars again rendered items in song. Bro. Hince and Sister Miss Wright rendered a duet. Meeting was again well attended.

**Ararat.**—Bible school anniversary continued with a most successful concert on Sept. 25. On Tuesday Bro. C. L. Lang addressed a devotional service, and on Wednesday afternoon the scholars' tea was held. Ararat town hall was taken for a lantern lecture on Sept. 27, when a large number heard Bro. Lang and saw his delightful slides illustrating the lecture "From Range to Sea." Bro. Lang also conducted united intercession service in town hall on Wednesday midday.

**South Yarra.**—Bro. Candy spoke at both services on Sept. 24, and at gospel service had a confession from one young lady, who was baptised on Sept. 27 during C.E. meeting, owing to her leaving the district. On October 1 the Sunday school anniversary was begun. During the afternoon Dr. W. A. Kemp delivered a very helpful address to the children. Many parents attended. At gospel service Bro. Candy was in charge. The meeting was very well attended (158 present).

**Ormond.**—On Sept. 24 a kitchen tea was given to Bro. W. Kennon and Sister Miss Jean Ring, also a wedding present from the church. Bro. C. L. Lang gave a good message at prayer meeting. At worship service on Oct. 1 he gave a very helpful message. It was the start

of a special month of self-denial. At gospel service Bro. Lang gave another fine message. The choir sang beautifully under baton of Bro. N. Waters. \$4 broke bread for the day. Gospel service was well attended.

**Wangaratta.**—Church attendances continue to improve. A special feature is increasing interest in Endeavor and Bible school. On Sept. 25 the Y.P.S.C.E. tendered Bro. Banks a surprise party on his birthday and presented him with a pair of gold sleeve-links. Bible school attendance on Oct. 1 was 108. A Bible school has been commenced at South Wangaratta with 15 scholars and three teachers. Teachers will be sent from Wangaratta each week. Sister Mrs. West is in hospital, having undergone an operation.

**Coburg.**—In recent council nominations for Mayor in Coburg City, Bro. E. Parker was elected unopposed. Last Sunday afternoon over 50 young people attended a youth tea, at which the chairman of the Youth Department, Bro. F. Lee, delivered an inspiring address. The company of the secretary of the department, Bro. K. Jones, was also appreciated. At gospel service two young people made the good confession. Last Sunday week two young men, who had previously been immersed, were received into fellowship.

**Gardiner.**—In absence of Bro. Hagger at Yarrowonga, morning exhortation on Sept. 24 was given by Bro. Haydn McCallum, and gospel service was conducted by Bro. Alex Wilson. A man and wife, previously baptised, were received into fellowship. Students from the college had charge of mid-week meeting on Sept. 27. Bro. Hagger delivered helpful messages, morning and evening, on Oct. 1. Deepest sympathy is extended to Sister Miss Maud Chipperfield in the passing of her father. Offering for College of the Bible so far is £42.

**Preston.**—The special series of subjects at week-night prayer services concluded on Sept. 28. Mr. H. H. Jeffs, of Glen Iris Baptist church, spoke to a good number on "Christ in the Epistles." The final subject of the series was dealt with by Bro. Robinson at gospel service on Oct. 1, his subject being "Christ, the Beginning and the End." A good congregation was present. The choir rendered a selection and Sister Mrs. Pratt, of Albury, a solo. Phi Beta Pi club gave a most enjoyable concert on Sept. 30, proceeds being devoted to Dhond Hospital, India.

**Frahan.**—On Sept. 17 an address to the church by Bro. Snow (Carnegie) in relation to College of the Bible work was well received. Bro. F. C. Hunting is well settled in his new sphere of service, and the work is again beginning to pick up. Bible school staff tendered a social to scholars on Sept. 30 and all had an excellent time. Bro. Hunting and staff have begun a plan of reorganisation which appears to be of great assistance to the school. On Oct. 1 Bro. Hunting addressed both meetings in an inspiring manner. College offering was very near to aim set by church.

**Yarrowonga.**—On Sept. 17 a married woman from Mulwala confessed Christ. The church was richly blessed when Bro. Hagger and Pyke held a week-end convention commencing Sept. 23. Their theme was "What Christianity has to Offer—a Christ, a Cross, a Crown." At Bible school, six scholars expressed desire to follow Christ, and after Bro. Hagger's address on Sunday night five more scholars, including three from Mulwala, followed. A happy Sunday school picnic was held on Sept. 30. Kinders and superintendent made a presentation to their teacher, Miss N. Cowper, before her marriage.

**North Williamstown.**—Attendances were good on Sept. 24. Bro. J. E. Thomas addressed morning meeting on "Grace." At gospel service Bro. J. Methven gave an inspiring message on "The Final Judgment." R.S.P. is to go into recess, and a men's brotherhood has been formed to take its place. Deacons and deaconesses were recently entertained by Bro. and

Sister Thomas at their home, a pleasant evening being enjoyed. On Oct. 1 Mr. Wright, of Footscray Baptist church, addressed morning meeting, Don Thomas being the speaker at gospel service. We regret to report that Bro. J. E. Thomas is laid aside through illness.

**Minyip.**—Nine were present at North-western District Conference held at Hamilton on Sept. 13, when Bro. G. T. Black was elected president for forthcoming year. A very enjoyable time was spent at Horsham on Sept. 9, when the District C.E. Union rally was held; 15 Minyip members were able to attend. C.E. held a social on Sept. 18, and conducted a very fine evening service on Sept. 24, each member efficiently taking some part. A parcel of clothing has been sent to Cumeruogunga mission. Stray Leaves Night was an interesting C.E. meeting. Mr. Alexander (Methodist) gave last consecration address. On Oct. 1 Bro. Black spoke on "The Unsaved Sinner."

**Drumcondra.**—Work is maintained satisfactorily. Bro. C. W. Jackel giving helpful messages. He has commenced a series on "The Great Spiritual Realities." On Sept. 24 a timely exhortation, "Be Calm and Carry On," created interest. Bro. A. McKay and T. Pope have given acceptable messages during Bro. Jackel's absence at Latrobe-ter. The church has suffered the loss of six members by removal. A kitchen tea has been given to Sister Beryl Cooper. An Australian tea conducted by the sisters was enjoyed and showed a return of £2. Many gifts of groceries were received for Cumeruogunga appeal. Men's society enjoyed a visit to home of Bro. and Sister Jackel. On Oct. 1 Bro. Hering spoke at young people's tea. Bro. R. Simmonds rendered a solo at gospel service. Many improvements have been made in conduct of Sunday school.

**Parkdale.**—On Oct. 1 splendid services were held to celebrate 14th anniversary of Y.W.L. 153 attended in morning and 117 at night, including many former members of Y.W.L. and church. Present and past members of league carried out the parts of the services allotted to them splendidly. Bro. A. W. Stephenson (Hampton) gave an appropriate message. A bright song service before gospel service was led by Bro. T. Cuddy. At gospel service Miss Merle and Keith Gouldthorpe were presented with awards for eight years and Miss Joan Hills for eleven years' unbroken attendances. Six boys rendered an item. Bro. C. G. Taylor spoke well. The league made a birthday gift of £3 to church building fund, £1 to ladies' "snowball" guild and £1 to College of Bible annual offering. The services reflected great credit on the leaders, Sisters Misses A. Allamby and M. Hogan.

### NEW SOUTH WALES.

**Erskineville.**—The ministry of Bro. P. J. Pond, B.A., is gaining co-operation. The Bible school is under superintendency of Bro. C. T. Garrett, with Bro. A. Larkman secretary and other offices efficiently filled.

**Carramar.**—The first Bible school anniversary in the new building took place on Sept. 24. Bro. W. J. Crossman conducted afternoon and evening services. 125 were present in the afternoon. On Tuesday, Sept. 26, the public meeting and prize-giving took place, attendance being 140. Bro. E. A. Stevenson proved an efficient conductor. School enrolment is 92. Bible school picnic took place on Eight Hours Day.

**Lidcombe.**—Visiting speakers during past month were Bro. Stuart Stevens, Thos. Morton and W. Carter. The highest number breaking bread on a given Lord's day was 82. Bro. Stevenson addressed church on Oct. 1, and at night Bro. Crossman's subject was "Preparing for the Battle." Miss Hope Russell, of Sudan Interior Mission, gave a fine address on Sept. 27. Bible school picnic took place at Parramatta Park on Oct. 2.

## Obituary.

### Henry Edwards.

EARLY on the morning of Sept. 18, Bro. Henry Edwards, of the church at Taree, N.S.W., passed to his reward. As he was born in 1860, he was 79 at his death. A few days earlier he was removed from his home, on the bank of the Manning River, Cundletown, to hospital. He was born on that same spot at Cundletown. He and Mrs. Edwards married at Sydney in January, 1886. The same year he was immersed into Christ. After listening to a local friend, he wrote to a clerical relative to ask him the meaning of "baptise" in Greek. The clergyman replied that it meant "dip" or "immerse," but that he would not be immersed for any man. Bro. Edwards said that while he would not do it for any man either, he would do it for Christ's sake. This was typical of the man. He was fearless, never hesitating to do what he thought was right. He won much fame for his eloquence as a preacher. He would walk the 12 miles to Wingham to preach, and often went by horse back to Comboyne. He was a valiant fighter against strong drink. He did a good deal of writing, using the nom-de-plume "Hawkeye." Mrs. Edwards has been a true companion to our late brother. Their family numbered ten. About eight years ago Bro. Edwards had a stroke. From this he never recovered. At the funeral in the church Bro. E. J. Saxby paid a high personal tribute. We extend Christian sympathy to the bereaved family, especially to Sister Edwards.—A.G.S.

### David M. Goldsworthy.

THE church at Milang, S.A., has been called upon to witness the departure from earthly scenes of Bro. David M. Goldsworthy, who passed away on August 29. He was born and brought up in the district where he lived his life, attaining the age of 75 years. He was a son of John Goldsworthy, one of the pioneers of the south, and wielded an influence for good throughout his life. He was baptised in February, 1899, and shortly after became an officer of the church. He was true to his duties, wise in business matters, and though often suffering indifferent health, he acquired an intelligent understanding of the faith. He was esteemed as a faithful member of the church, and rendered valuable assistance to various branches of the work of the brotherhood. He was also a leader in temperance work, and other good causes. He was one of a family which was in reality a household of faith, as the parents, with four sons and five daughters, were all Christians, and proved their faith by consistent works. Our brother fell on sleep after a painful illness, and was laid to rest in the Milang cemetery.—A.H.W.

### Miss Adele Hagger.

AFTER several months of failing health Sister Miss Adele Hagger was called home on Aug. 31. She was baptised by her brother, Thomas, at South Yarra, Vic., 45 years ago, and was one in the first group of additions from the Bible school. As the years went by she had membership at North Richmond, North Fitzroy, Preston, Thornbury and West Preston, being a foundation member of the two latter churches. Her longest period of service was given to Preston church district, where she resided with her parents, caring for them till the end of their days. She was active in Sunday school teaching, choir work and Christian Endeavor, and was one time treasurer of the conference C.E. committee. The work of the Bible Society and the W.C.T.U. also made a strong appeal to her, and she gave her best service to them. A little over a year ago she was received into membership at Lygon-st. from Newmarket. She was most faithful and regular in attendance, and was greatly loved by old and young. She was appointed librarian of the New Century

Bible Class, and held that position until her rapidly failing health no longer permitted to attend. She was a choice soul and a great lover of the brotherhood, and is sadly missed by those who knew her. Loving sympathy is extended to all the relatives that remain.—S.J.B.

## Prayer Corner.

Conducted by G. J. Andrews.

### "BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US!"

THE sound of music through a columned aisle,  
The chant of psalm and prayer,  
The peace that falls when praise is hushed  
awhile

Betokens God is there.

"The lilt of laughter on a sunny morn,  
That echoes through the air,  
Where men and maidens hind the golden corn  
Betokens God is there.

"The din of cities where men earn their bread  
And toil, oppressed by care,  
Who live hard lives that others may be fed  
—Ah, surely God is there."

—H. L. Hubbard.

### "THE HOUR COMETH!"

Let us thank God for a reassuring fact!  
We moderns are not the first to await the  
approach of zero hours; neither are we left  
as humans to face life's crises alone (John  
16: 31, 32).

Let us take to heart a vital message!  
The Christ of God can speak peace to our  
hearts on unlikely days and midst very  
strange circumstances.

He interprets the world's terrific troubles as  
"tribulation"—a threshing time, a truly  
painful but beneficent process.

The realisation of our Lord's conquest is the  
source of our genuine good cheer (John  
16: 33).

Let us unite in the Christian heroes' prayer!  
In this day of challenge we must desire most  
earnestly, indeed, as never before, to glorify  
our heavenly Father by our testimony, character  
and service (John 17: 1).

### PEACE IN A STRANGE PLACE.

John G. Paton had Jesus speak peace to his heart one memorable and perilous night when he had climbed into a tree and was alone in the bush. He says, "I heard the frequent discharging of muskets and the yells of the savages. Yet I sat there among the branches as safe in the arms of Jesus! Never, in all my sorrows, did my Lord draw nearer to me, and speak more soothingly in my soul than when the moonlight flickered among those chestnut leaves, and the night air played on my throbbing brow as I told all my heart to Jesus. Alone, yet not alone!"

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**Grace and Truth.**

**C**HARLYLE said that sincerity is a better thing  
than grace. The opinion might have come  
with more weight from another than Chelsea's  
stern and sombre sage, but, of course, he was  
right. Nothing will atone for the absence of  
sincerity. No amount of winsomeness will  
make up for the lack of righteousness. If a  
man is inwardly false, his outward charm is  
like paint on rotten wood, or like the iridescence  
on a putrid pool. Sincerity, inward rectitude, is  
vital.

But sincerity without grace can be very un-  
attractive. And this is the defect of some  
estimable religious people. They are genuine  
and devoted, and altogether admirable in a host  
of ways, but there is no kindly humanness in

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.**

**W**e should call a man who could  
sit on a barrel of gunpowder  
smoking a pipe a rather unbalanced  
sort of man; so is the man who  
lives in this world thoughtless of  
the next.

—George R. Hewitt.

their religion, no gentility, no touch of charm.  
They are narrow and hard, bleak and forbid-  
ding—people with a north-eastern exposure, as  
someone put it. Such a religion does little  
to recommend itself.

The two things should go together, as they  
did in our Lord. Someone who knew him  
well drew a brilliant pen portrait of him in  
five words: "Full of grace and truth." That  
is one of the most perfect pictures of Christ  
we have, and it perfectly expresses the ideal  
at which we are to aim. Grace and truth;  
beauty as well as unrighteousness; winsomeness as  
well as straightforwardness; charm as well as  
sincerity. This combination has a power that  
is irresistible.—A.G.C. in "Christian World."

They who are likest him that was meek and  
lowly in heart are surest to possess the unflinch-  
ing resolve which set his face like a flint and  
enabled him to go unhesitatingly and unrecal-  
citrant to the cross itself.—Dr. Alexander  
Maclaren.

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