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Opportunities in a Tragic Year

STRUGGLING under a burden of tragedy, we reach out to open the door of the coming year. We should like to shut the war out of the new year; but while some are trying to live as if there were no war, the great majority are aware that its horror will accompany them for many days to come. It is foolish for us to ignore the grave national danger in the present situation. The black shadow of Mars has caused cheerfulness to wilt in many hearts. Like a rank weed, sorrow spreads where the flowers of joy and peace once flourished. If we could leave this shadow behind as we step into the new year, we should feel free and happy.

I.

There are some things which have come into existence in these tragic years which we want to keep fresh in the days of peace. Let us take into the future the courage born in so many lives during the war. The courage of men on the battlefields is justly recognised by awards for valor. There is, however, a tendency to overlook the courageous attitude of the young wife left to tend the needs of a growing family. Added to that there is the dull-pain of anxiety for her loved one far away. Mothers have been called upon to part with their sons. Some have already endured the sorrow of a sad announcement. Yet, despite the burden on their heart, they present a brave and smiling countenance to the world. This courage is adding strength and stability to our national life. Therefore we must not lose it, but carry it into the future.

II.

For several decades Australians allowed themselves the luxury of over indulgence in sport. While the physical exercise of those who played at the game was beneficial, the participation of the watching multitudes in their somewhat vicarious sport, in which others took the part they ought to have taken on the sports field, encouraged the attitude of allowing others bear the responsibilities and burdens of national and church affairs. When gambling was added to this laziness, a social ulcer developed that sucked at the vitals

of our national life. With the war effort coming into full swing, young men and women are now playing such an active part in actual life, there is neither the desire nor need to watch the sporting activities of others. The spirit of the pioneers who cleared the forests, irrigated the plains, and opened up the mineral wealth of the continent, has taken hold of a generation called upon to defend their shores from the ravages of an invader. What time did pioneers have for foolish leisure? What time have the men and the women of the services for vicarious sport? If all are to live free from the fear of want in the coming age, it will be necessary to maintain the busy industry of the nation now being applied to meet the demands of war. Peace must have her sacrifices no less than war. People must leave behind the parasitic attitude toward recreation and carry into the future the creative use of leisure.

III.

During this past year we have been introduced into a more austere way of life. At one time poverty limited the amount of food and clothing some people could secure. In these days of war a system of coupons limits the spending power of the rich and enables the poor of the community to share in the distribution of stocks of clothing and certain little luxuries. The limitations placed upon extravagant spending have not interfered with the health of the nation. If further restrictions were placed upon the production and distribution of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, the community's health would improve. The war-years have shown that simplicity and sacrifice are advantageous, and benefit the nation as a whole. When ancient Rome became wealthy and lived luxuriantly, the people lost the virility displayed by the fathers of the city. The art of living austere was lost, and the nation perished.

The tragedy of this hour has shown how we have lived in former days in a "fool's paradise." We have been taught a severe lesson. We must not be so foolish as to return to the luxuriant way of life that leads to destruction. We must

take with us into the future this "strait" way of living in which all sections of the community will secure a just share of the necessities of life.

IV.

From many quarters we are learning that people are appreciating the need of applying religious principles to life. There is a growing recognition of spiritual values. Commanding officers in the army speak very highly of the work of chaplains. From personal contact we know that many of the men welcome the fellowship of the religious services conducted in the camps. The call of King George VI. for prayer within the Empire and his gracious recognition of God are encouraging signs of the time. We perceive the sympathy of many public men for the ideals of the kingdom of God. Educationalists who once openly attacked the church now reveal a change of heart. A recent Gallup poll taken in Australia has shown that one person in five is taking a greater interest in religion since the beginning of the war. A third of those interviewed thought that people were going to church more often than before the war. There are indications that not only is there an outward recognition of Christianity, but also a change of heart is taking place within the nation. Of course, the movement back to the church is very slow, and its pace must be quickened before we shall see big results, but the satisfactory thing is that the tide is beginning to turn. Whatever else we should like to leave shut up in the prison of last year's time, it is not this free movement back to the church. People everywhere, in all walks of life, must be encouraged to return to the worship of the Lord. Churches ought to plan special campaigns to give real direction to the awakening of interest in the Christian way of life. There is an opportunity awaiting to be seized that may not present itself again for a very long time. Let us carry over into the coming year this quickening tempo of interest in the way of Christ. If we can make the new year an acceptable year of the Lord, although under the shadow of war, it may still prove to be a period full of blessings. It is clear that in this tragic year we have a great opportunity. May we have the willingness and zeal to seize it!

Something New

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

WE speak of 1943 as the New Year. There are many folk who enjoy the thing that is new. The old must be discarded if possible. The old gets worn, torn, dirty, or maybe we just tire of it. Some folk will be glad to see the New Year, for they spoiled the old one or misused it, or they think the New Year will bring something better nationally and individually. We all hope so. At any rate, it will not be quite the same as the old one.

Things Change

While we do not agree with the philosophy of the Communist that the only eternities are matter and motion, we do agree that many things are constantly changing. We ourselves are beginning to look a little older. We pass from youth to middle life and to old age. "There is nothing new under the sun," but what is happening is change. Things are changed either naturally or violently as by man. We talk of a new order for society and expect it, but what we really work for is change. The New Year will bring changes many of which are much to be desired. We must work for these, and put our best into the accomplishment of the ideal.

Not All Change is Good

Some folk in churches are always wanting something new. They worship change as a god. They dislike the old because it is old. These tend to run off after any new "ism" or cult. They think they are making great progress if in motion. New and startling things must be said. But there is a conservatism which is desirable. The reformers of our movement said, Let us get back to the scriptures. The old was the desirable thing.

On the other hand, there are some folk

who will not be moved out of the rut into which they have got. These are they of the old-time religion, "good enough for our fathers and it's good enough for me." These, unlike Abraham, would never venture out at God's call. These are usually the greatest enemies of progress. They try to kill all reform movements. This type killed the prophets and Jesus. Some change is desirable and a part of God's plan. There is a way that we "have not passed heretofore." It is new and unknown, and we set out upon it in faith. This is most desirable.

The Changeless

It is good to remember that there are things which change not—the abiding things. To hold to these will help us in the difficulties of the New Year. God in Christ is unchanging. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to-day, and forever." Heb. 1: 10-12 tells us that while things wax old he remains the same. "Change and decay in all around I see, O thou who changest not, abide with me." God's eternal principles have no change. The law of sowing and reaping remains, and this applies materially and spiritually. "Be not deceived." And these principles operate for groups as well as for individuals. The nation must obey if it is to live. The New Year is before us. Let us use it to make necessary changes; but know this, that no good thing will be achieved without due regard to the eternal God and his principles.

"Nothing is so easy as to imagine God as past and absent until we think, then nothing is so hard. When we become truly in earnest, either with our thoughts or our lives, then we must have a present, personal religion to us or none at all."

A Hymn of Stewardship

A HYMN FOR JANUARY—No. 45 (JAN. 17).

TO the uninitiated it may be pointed out that Longfellow the hymnwriter was not the Longfellow, although the Longfellow was also a hymnwriter. So also Wordsworth the hymnwriter was not the Wordsworth.

To be a trifle clearer, both Henry Wadsworth Longfellow the poet and his brother Samuel, a Unitarian minister, are represented by hymns in our book, while Christopher Wordsworth, Anglican bishop and author of three of our hymns, was a nephew of the Lake Poet.

Into a life of 78 years (1807-85) Christopher Wordsworth, himself the son of an Anglican minister, packed a variety of useful activities. After an exceptionally brilliant course at Cambridge and a period as lecturer, he became headmaster of Harrow school before he was 30. Then followed various other tasks, including pastoral charge of a Berkshire parish officially called Stanford-in-the-Vale-cum-Goosey (!). Finally, he became bishop of Lincoln, retaining that office for 16 years prior to his death. His personality is described as that of a "holy, humble, loving, self-denying man" and his hymns as having "an irresistible charm of honesty, intelligence and affection."

The Anglican church year, as we have noted previously, lends itself to the development of systematic praise, and the bishop was one of many who arranged hymns according to the church year and to special occasions. His "Holy Year," published in 1863, included 117

of his own hymns and, under the heading "Charitable Collections," had one of nine verses beginning "O Lord of heaven and earth and sea." These had been written because his congregation at Stanford (etc.), like some congregations to-day, was without any real sense of stewardship with respect to giving. One verse omitted from our hymnal tells of the Holy Spirit and his sevenfold graces; the omission of another is probably due to the possibility of its encouraging giving from the low motive of expecting an abundant return—

"Whatever, Lord, we lend to thee,
Repaid a thousandfold will be;
Then gladly will we give to thee,
Oiver of all."

The six verses retained draw our attention to a series of subjects worthy of our thankfulness, recognising always that the Oiver of all. Each particular gift is also the Oiver of all. The first verse is introductory; the next finds God in nature; the third looks to the blessings of health and home; the fourth to the gift of Jesus Christ for the world; the fifth to other spiritual blessings and the hope of heaven; the last again catches up the complete round of God's blessings.

There are countless things for which we are daily grateful. Can we recognise all of these as the gifts of the One through whom "all things work together for good"—the One "who giveth all"?—P.J.F.

BOOK REVIEW

Sharing Our Fellowship

THERE is romance in the story of the growth of overseas missions. Many are not really aware of the amazing development of the church in other lands. The modern missionary movement has, within a period of 150 years, reached out and touched almost all the main strategic centres in the world. Certainly much, very much, remains to be done, but excellent foundational work has been laid down; and, with the development of indigenous, or home, missions in all lands, we can expect greater advances in the immediate future.

All Christians ought to make themselves familiar with these vital truths, and be encouraged by the victories being won by the church in many parts of the world.

The Federal Foreign Mission Board has just published a very fine booklet that discusses briefly and simply the whole field of missionary enterprise. This enlightening study sets out the contribution Australian churches of Christ are making in the fields of world evangelism.

The background and environment being faced by Christian workers on the mission fields of China, India and the New Hebrides are suggested in an interesting manner. It shows the need of a missionary movement capable of changing the lives of individuals and also of revolutionising the pagan social system in which so many are forced to live.

A feature of the book is to be found in the method of approach to the problem. Emphasis is laid upon the unique fellowship of the church. The church is God's fellowship within the world. Through this fellowship of redeemed men and women, God is reaching out into many lands to save lost sinners from the curse of sin. The origin, nature and growth of the fellowship are briefly discussed by the writers.

The seven brief chapters have been written by writers who have had experience in the mission fields or are qualified to write because of their familiarity with the subject matter. In the following list of writers there are names of persons who are well known throughout Australian churches of Christ—H. A. G. Clark, A. A. Hughes, E. L. Williams, O. H. Oldfield, D. G. Hammer, A. Anderson and K. A. Jones.

Every member of churches of Christ in Australia will find this little book of value and help. Preachers and teachers will be able to make excellent use of it in study circles. Leaders of mission bands will be using it for their monthly programmes. The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. have printed the book in their usual careful and clear style. An attractive cover encloses 56 pages. Copies may be secured from the Federal P.M. secretary, from State P.M. secretaries and bookrooms, or from the Austral Co. Price, 6d.; posted, 7d.

My Prayer for To-day

DEAR Lord, I pray, teach me to-day,
To do what pleases thee;
Cause me to know, as on I go,
Thou art directing me.

Keep by my side, be thou my guide,
Else do my footsteps stray;
In me fulfil thine own blest will
Along the narrow way.

If thou art near, no way is drear—
Thy presence I would know—
"Where thou dost lead," oh, Lord, indeed,
That is the way I'd go.

—J.M.S.

PREACHERS' PAGE

Reaching the Man in the Street

A. L. Gibson, an officer of Swanston-st. church, Melbourne, speaking at a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon service at Wesley Church, urged the need of the church going out to seek the man in the street. We present some of the chief points of this helpful address.

WHO is this "man in the street"? He is the man on the outside, the man who does not know the church from the inside; but who has built up in his own mind, from odd bits of gossip or scraps of newspaper report or comments, or from observation of some church-going people, his own idea of what the church is, or of what it stands for. And with this poor equipment he is prepared to give you a final judgment upon the great claims and issues of the Christian faith.

All the same, we must not judge him too harshly for that. Some of us have formed our own ideas of, say, freemasonry, or politics, or unionism, in much the same way. What awful things you might learn about unionism from the man on the outside, who can only see in it a menace to his own freedom of choice.

Now, whatever the man in the street may think of the church, the church is very much concerned about the man in the street. He is the church's particular problem (though he doesn't know it). From the very inception of Christianity the church was given a commission to seek him out. And for a long time the church had a lot of success in this work—success in the midst of much persecution and opposition. For the church in those days made its appeal to the heroic.

Strangely enough in those days it was the man in the street who fell for the charm and beauty of Christ. They were drawn to him; they were ready to say, "Never man spake like this man." But they were ready, too, to break from his influence when, stirred by their masters and under the sway of mob passion, they cried "Crucify him, crucify him."

The fact of this element in human nature, which has been obvious all through the history of the church, leads to the first point that I stress to-day.

1. The church must recognise that the man in the street is not naturally inclined toward the ideals and demands of Christ, the acknowledged Head of the church. And that is a serious obstacle to be overcome.

Christ's ideals run counter to the natural impulses of the man in the street, and of every one, and however much the man in the street wants a new social order, he wants it machine made, and he doesn't want to pay the price for it that Jesus demands! The world could have had a new social order centuries ago if that were not true.

Before the man in the street wants to come in on the inside something about him has to be radically changed.

2. It is the church's supreme business to make that change appear desirable in his eyes, so that the man in the street wants it, and wants to join the company of those who are anxious to submit to the rule of Christ.

The church needs to examine itself to see if it cannot more effectively accomplish this great task.

Jesus promised to make us "fishers of men."

Methods Which Appeal

Shouldn't we approach the problem from this angle: "What would I do if I were a non-church-goer—and, if you like, a sinner?" Not what would I do if I were brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord—but what would I do if I were not so brought up and committed to telling long hours all the week in a dingy factory or by the smelters?

What would I do if I went from such toil to sleep in a close tenement, or a stuffy crib of four small compartments?

If I could sit by the seaside, or under the trees, and listen to the music, and the preaching, I might get interested. I might find myself caught by its appeal, and ready for that change which must come in my outlook before I can feel at home in the sanctuary.

Let no one imagine that I am pleading for the cessation of our church services. I am not. But I am convinced that we will never get the man in the street interested until we can contact him. We never will contact him in our, to us, beautiful church buildings. But there are other ways open to us in this age of invention and experiment if we have but the will to explore them, and the courage to blaze new trails.

Christianity was born in the fresh open air. It thrived in the open air in the great revival under the Wesleys. But to the man in the street to-day it is a stuffy, musty thing, smelling often of unventilated churches, of old books and stodgy ways.

The Amazing Christ

If we could make the real Christ visible to the men of our time, he would win for himself a place in their esteem, if not always in their hearts.

We have to demonstrate that Christ is bigger than any theology, wider than any system

of thought, that he is no mere visionary, nor a maker of philosophies or dogmas, but a maker of men, a friend of man, the supreme teacher of the royal way of life, and the ultimate Judge of all our ways.

Canright and the Adventists

WE have been asked to state whether it is true that Canright, who wrote a book exposing the errors of the Seventh Day Adventists, "joined the church of Christ, afterwards rejoicing the Seventh Day Adventists, and died a pauper."

As far back as July 14, 1921, matter was published in the "Australian Christian" refuting the claim of Canright's recantation, including the following from Canright himself:—

"After I left them, naturally, my Adventist brethren expected that the frown of God would follow me for opposing their 'message.' Hence, ever since it is reported among them that I have become a physical and mental wreck, poverty poor, in despair spiritually, etc. But the fact is that at the age of seventy-five I am in perfect health, have the same strong faith and hope in God as ever."

In a later issue (July 14, 1921) the death of Mr. Canright on May 12, 1919, was reported. The statement contained the following extract from a letter written by his daughter:—

"Father was more firm in his conviction of the error of their teaching the longer he lived, in spite of Adventist claims that he repudiated his writings against them. I tell you this in anticipation of your having such falsehood to meet."

Do not waste time, for that is the stuff life is made of.—Franklin.



A New Year Message

J. Ernest Allan

AS adventurers of the unknown we have passed through the gateway of another year, and thus entered an untrodden path. We conjure in our minds visions of the future endeavoring to visualise experiences and events of 1943. Many and varied will be those visions; but, let one be the greatest—the Bright and Morning Star, the Vision Splendid—Jesus Only. That vision will inspire and prepare us to meet every experience and event of the new road confidently, and cheer and challenge us to go forward courageously. It is easy to go through life with downcast eyes and with heavy heart apprehensive of impending trouble; but that is not the way of spiritual peace and victory over difficulties. It is the method of the defeatist. The only successful way of life, as we advance into the unknown, is to lift up our eyes and see Jesus only—the Vision Splendid. Every year brings its quota of anxieties, but also a liberal rationing of blessings. If we look into the face of the Vision Splendid and see Jesus Christ in all his loveliness, our anxieties will be lightened and our blessings brightened. The inspiration of this vision is in his comradeship, for he said, "Lo, I am with you always." The path of the unknown loses its fears and loneliness when we travel the road with God and his Christ. Miss Haskins' famous words are appropriate: "Go out into the darkness, put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

A Bright New Year—a year made bright
With visions of the Infinite,
With dreams that more than dreams shall be

Of faith and hope and charity;
A year of open heart and mind;
A year of service for mankind.

(F. P. Morris.)

Notes on Current Topics

Our Young People

C.E. Interests and Activities

W. W. Saunders

A MOTTO FOR THE NEW YEAR

"My best for his highest."

A WAY TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR

"To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forget the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not-worth-while of the days grown old.
To dare go forth with a purpose true
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year."

"Forgetting the things which are behind,
and reaching forth unto those things which
are before, press toward the mark for the
prize of the high calling of God in Christ
Jesus."

IDEAS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sealed Orders.—To secure new members the
Look-out Committee may enlist the help of
the whole society. Every member is given
a sealed envelope containing the name of
someone to be visited and asked to the next
meeting. At the next meeting envelopes are
distributed again. These contain the same
names as the week before, but they are given
to different persons. Thus Jack Brown is
invited by "A" to attend; next week he is
invited by "B"; the third week he also re-
ceives an invitation, this time from "C," and
so on. This plan which persistently keeps at
prospective members, often results in winning
them.

Musical Parcel Meeting.—Write each item of
the programme on a slip of paper. Wrap them
up one by one, with the name of the person
who is to take the item written clearly on
each wrapper, and starting to wrap the last
item first, of course. Sing a chorus between
each item while the parcel is being passed on
and unwrapped. Juniors will enjoy this novel
way of conducting their meeting.

Pledge Meeting.—On a night planned the
Look-out Committee devotes the meeting to a
consideration of the pledge. The pledge is
dealt with sentence by sentence, Endeavorers,
appointed long beforehand, giving two-minute
explanations of each. Have a question period
in which all sorts of difficulties regarding the
pledge shall be considered. Close the meeting
with the repetition of the pledge and prayers
for faithfulness in keeping it.

A Secret Session.—C.E. is by no means a
secret society, but a secret session can be
profitable. Try to have every active member
present and devote the meeting to a considera-
tion of the spiritual and working condition of
the society. Frank talks, honest confessions
and sincere prayers will make a meeting long
remembered, and fruitful.

Reconstruction.—The State Union of S.A. is
concerned that its members be prepared to
take a place in post-war reconstruction. To
this end a committee has been appointed which
will discuss ways and means of giving the
widest publicity to this matter. It is generally
felt that a policy of education of young peo-
ple would prove most beneficial. We are re-
presented on the committee by G. T. Fitzgerald.

Has Your Society—

- Obtained the 1943 Topic Books?
- Forwarded a copy to members absent in the forces?
- Undertaken to keep in touch by personal correspondence with those members?

God First

IT is a pleasure to note the high tone so frequently to be found in the utterances of the highest of our allied leaders. King George has often set his subjects a worthy example in his insistence on a due recognition of God. The Christmas message of President Roosevelt had many striking things in it. He expressed the cheering thought that this was a happier Christmas than that of a year ago "in the sense that the forces of darkness stand against us with less confidence in the success of their evil ways." The highest note was struck when President Roosevelt continued: "To all Americans I say that loving our neighbors as ourselves is not enough. We please God best by showing regard to the laws of God. There is no better way of fostering goodwill toward man than first fostering goodwill towards God. If we love him we will keep his commandments." Surely that is a good word for us all to keep in mind in the new year. The man or nation honoring God will be honored. To put God first would speedily bring an end to our troubles.

A Business Example

It is good to notice the encouragement to religion being given in many businesses. Prayer groups are found in many establishments. Sometimes high executive officers exercise a splendid Christian influence and take a personal interest in the spiritual and moral welfare of employees. It were well if what is now occasional became a general practice. An interesting example has come to my notice. Some months ago a prayer and praise session for the office staff was established at the Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd. at Port Kembla.

This is usually attended by about 50 interested persons. The Christmas session on December 22, was, by permission of the general manager, held in the board room, with an attendance of 150. For an hour from 1.30 to 2.30 a Christmas carol service was enjoyed. In addition to prayer, carols and sacred music, an address was given on "What Does Christmas Mean to You?" Such movements should be encouraged by Christian people.

Jewish Massacres

The hearts of all readers must have been stirred by the repeated stories of the suffering of the Jews. There has been a long-drawn-out agony. The Commonwealth Government has associated itself with the joint declaration issued by the allied governments (United Kingdom, United States of America, Russia, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia, and the French National Committee). The statement referred to the "numerous reports from Europe that the German authorities, not content with denying to persons of Jewish race in all territories over which their barbarous rule has been extended, the most elementary human rights, are now carrying into effect Hitler's oft-repeated intention to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe." The statement of the British Foreign Secretary that it was intended, as far as possible, that those responsible for the crimes should be brought to book has elicited expressions of gratitude from the Jewish people.

A. R. Mann

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

EACH DAY

FATHER, I do not ask
That thou wilt choose some other task
And make it mine. I pray
But this: Let every day
Be moulded still
By thine own hand; my will
Be only thine, however deep
I have to bend thy hand to keep.
Let me not simply do, but be content,
Sure that the little crosses each are sent,
And no mistake can ever be
With thine own hand to choose for me."

NO CHARM FOR HIM

WHEN I was in my teens I heard Jenny Lind. Passionately fond of music, I put all my pocket-money for a month into a concert ticket. The concert was a performance of Handel's "Messiah." There sat at my side a hard featured old sea captain, who asked me to point to him the singer whose newspaper fame had drawn him to the concert-room. Jenny Lind rose to sing "Come unto Him." The house hushed itself to listen. As she sang it seemed to me I heard the invitation of the Master floating down through the ages. All the experience of eighteen centuries of consolation, repose, inspiring strength, was in that song. When she ceased the silence was more responsive to her message than any applause could have been. It was broken by a strange rasping sound at my side. I turned about; the poor sea captain was fast asleep and snoring. He could buy the ticket, but not the capacity to enjoy the music.—Lyman Abbott.

SAVING SAXPENCE

"Seating accommodation is all sold, but," said the ticket seller, "I can let you have standing room for one shilling."

And the reply by the Scot was: "Could you make it saxpence—I've got only one leg."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—"WHAT MEANETH THIS?"

- Jan. 11—Joel 2: 28-32.
" 12—John 16: 7-14.
" 13—Romans 8: 1-12.
" 14—Romans 8: 13-17.
" 15—Romans 8: 26-30.
" 16—Acts 2: 1-12.
" 17—Joel 2: 23-32; Acts 2: 14-21.

THOSE who witnessed the miracle of Pentecost were not the only ones who have asked this question. Many in our day are perplexed regarding its meaning, as is evidenced by the confusion of thought manifested by expressions of many preachers and Bible students. Let it be always remembered that Pentecostal power was a special endowment for a special purpose. In one sense this miracle will never be repeated; but in another the endowment of the Holy Spirit may safely be said to be our greatest need. Miracles have been compared to the scaffolding of a rising building. When the edifice is completed, the scaffolding is no longer needed. Yet we must never forget that it is in vain to build a church or a character unless the Holy Spirit takes up his residence there.

SOCIAL SERVICE NOTES

Peace and Its Challenge

WIL. H. Clay writes on the need of planning for the post war period, the Christian Guest Home and a bill presented to the Victorian Parliament making the "way to divorce" easier.

Peace and Its Challenge

IT is good that the governments of the world should be planning for post-war conditions. Nations are crying the penitent's prayer, "We have done that which we should not have done, and have left undone that we should have done." Surely at such a time it is desirable that the church should demand that Christ should be heard at the counsels of the nations. Every encouragement is being given to those who have made a study of the social problems to assist the government. The Beveridge plan of England and the plan of our own Commonwealth Government, though envisaging pre-war policies, are more far-reaching than anything previously publicised, and give some indication of the radical change which is considered necessary if further wars are to be avoided. We sincerely trust that the proposals are the evidence of a change of heart, without which there is little prospect of their being implemented. To-day the Christian must urge a recognition of the principles of the Sermon on the Mount. Freedom of speech, of religion, from fear and from want are acceptable as planks of a platform from which we may move to the even higher ideals. If the Christian church fails to-day, it is fairly certain the pagans will be heard to-morrow.

A Happy New Year to All

The greatest blessing that could come to all peoples during 1943 would be the peace which our Lord Jesus Christ came to give to all men of good will. For this we most fervently pray. There are millions of all nations who pray likewise. All are hoping and praying for peace, but a peace with honor. All regard a peace which comes with defeat as a peace with dishonor. Honor will come to the victor, however, as he honorably discharges the peace. Let us then of the British nation, with a sense of the obligation which will devolve upon us toward the whole world, particularly the under-privileged peoples, pray that we may win the war and win the peace.

Christmas and the Christian Guest Home

Churches of Christ are increasingly recognising the Christian social obligation. There is a steady increase recorded in the amount contributed year by year to social and benevolent enterprises. The women's appeal for the home in Victoria has now reached £370. This is a 50 per cent. increase over last year. Amounts contributed to the Federal Board for Aborigines are most gratifying. A few years ago an appeal for any social objective such as a hospital, a home, or for needy children, made to our churches, met with a cold reception. A much wider meaning is being given to the term "evangelism," and there is now a growing recognition of a gospel of deeds which is complementary to and not a denial of the gospel Jesus had us preach. To all who have contributed in any way to the work of social service in the churches during 1942 we offer our grateful thanks.

A Letter of Appreciation of the Home

Dear Mr. Clay,
In offering you the season's greetings, I desire to advise you that I attended that very pleasing function which was held at your Christian Guest Home on Saturday, Dec. 12. I also desire to thank you and all others who, by their kindly and sympathetic interest, were

instrumental in allowing my sister to become a guest at your home. I was astonished at the very beautiful place it is, and my sister is delighted at being there, as well she should be, or she would indeed be hard to please. It was pleasing to listen to the response you had met with in your endeavors to reduce your overdraft. Indeed the entire friendly atmosphere at your Guest Home, without any trace of the usual institution in appearance or practice, certainly reflects the highest credit on the administrative staff, and not the least on yourself as the responsible directing head. Will you kindly accept the enclosed £3 as my tribute towards the funds of such a deserving social service? Thanking you, and with all good wishes to you and all at the Guest Home.

Yours sincerely,

An Easier Way to Divorce

A member of the Legislative Council of Victoria has recently presented a bill to Parliament with the object of making incompatibility between husbands and wives over a period of five years grounds for divorce. He secured a majority in one House and considerable support in the other. Many were of the opinion that the bill would receive the treatment it merited, but the vote recorded goes to prove that we can never afford to be too complacent when moral questions are before our legislators. Marriage, as a civil contract, dissoluble at the will of the parties, has been tried and has had serious consequences. Jerome tells us that there existed in Rome a wife who was married to her twenty-third husband, she herself being his twenty-first wife. It is doubtful whether this record would stand if some of our modern would-be reformers had their way.

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 cross-firing. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.]

THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

ONE reason for the difficulty experienced in sustaining attendances at the evening service is the prevalent notion that these services must "attract" those outside the church. This, it is claimed, can be achieved only by the use of a special type of music and cheap variations in other ways of essential parts of the service.

The result of this outlook is a dilution (or perhaps worse) of the spirit of worship which should prevail in every meeting of the church. The church members themselves are conscious of a lack, even if unable to identify it, and attendance at such a meeting becomes a task instead of a delight.

From the recruit's point of view the disappointment is even more certain. If attracted by the "bright" measures we know so well he finds, on becoming a member, that they were but bait and are not an essential part of the church life, in use at all meetings. If the attractions were the mainspring of his interest he stays on the fringe of the church's worship

where such are to be found; if deeper things have "appealed" to him he becomes as the member described above, whose increasing impatience with meretricious adds renders it ever harder to place himself anywhere within sight and hearing of them.

As with school anniversaries, so with gospel services and all occasions of gathering together: mere effulgence will not do. It may serve as a preliminary, an attracter of attention, but it must lead on to a steadier and more certain light.

Why is anything but the best ever deemed good enough for the service of the church?—David Plummer.

College of the Bible

THIRD TERM EXAMINATIONS, 1942

THE following records are the results of the examinations of the third term of 1942. Students gaining 80 or more marks are given honors, while 60 secures a pass.

Apologetics.—R. C. Goldsworthy and A. R. Pigdon, equal, 85; L. G. Johnson, 83.

New Testament Greek III.—A. R. Pigdon, 86; R. C. Goldsworthy, 82; L. G. Johnson, 80.

Church History II.—A. R. Pigdon, 92; R. C. Goldsworthy and Miss L. J. McDiarmid, equal, 80. Two others passed.

Ethics.—A. R. Pigdon, 89. Three others passed.

Pastoral Theology III.—A. R. Pigdon, 86; R. C. Goldsworthy, 82; L. G. Johnson, 80.

New Testament Greek II.—P. R. Thickins, 94. Two others passed.

Pastoral Theology IIA.—P. R. Thickins, 95. Two others passed.

Pastoral Theology IIB.—P. R. Thickins and E. T. Hart, equal, 90; S. G. Prentice, 80.

Religious Education.—P. R. Thickins, 95; Miss L. J. McDiarmid, 90; Miss E. L. Craig, 87; E. T. Hart, 84. Two others passed.

Church History I.—P. R. Thickins, 97; C. N. Burn, 94; R. W. Graham, 92; L. G. Crisp, 80. Twelve others passed.

Old Testament History.—P. R. Thickins, 94; C. N. Burn, 83; R. W. Graham, 82; K. N. Roberts, 81; C. B. Cartmel and V. Quayle, equal, 80. Twelve others passed.

New Testament History.—P. R. Thickins, 96; C. N. Burn and E. T. Hart, equal, 92; C. B. Cartmel, 90; R. W. Graham, 89; L. G. Crisp, 87; J. K. Bond and V. Quayle, equal, 84; W. J. Evans, R. H. Hindman and Miss L. J. McDiarmid, equal, 80. Seven others passed.

Pastoral Theology IA.—C. N. Burn and R. W. Graham, equal, 90; L. G. Crisp, 89; R. W. Saunders, 82; G. A. Grainger, 81; W. J. Evans and R. H. Hindman, equal, 80. Four others passed.

Pastoral Theology IB.—R. W. Graham, 86; J. K. Bond and C. B. Cartmel, equal, 84; W. J. Evans, R. H. Hindman and R. W. Saunders, equal, 82; G. A. Whiting, 81. Four others passed.

New Testament Greek I.—C. B. Cartmel and V. Quayle, equal, 93; C. N. Burn and L. G. Crisp, equal, 89; W. J. Evans and R. W. Graham, equal, 88; G. A. Grainger, 85. Four others passed.

Ancient Civil History.—R. W. Graham, 90; L. G. Crisp, 88. Seven others passed.

Leaving Economics.—K. W. Barton, 80. One other passed.

Leaving English.—K. W. Barton, 82. Three others passed.

Leaving French.—Two passed.

Leaving Geography.—K. W. Barton and J. A. Hindman, equal, 91.

Preparatory French.—One passed.

Preparatory Latin.—Two passed.—Fred T. Saunders, Secretary.

Here and There

In nine months' bombing of London, 150,000 homes were shattered and 375,000 homeless were housed and fed by relief authorities.

"Life isn't the fairy-tale of our childhood. It is something much deeper and stronger, yes and nobler, though the fairy tale may be our first intimation of this."

Viscount Sankey, an ex-Lord Chancellor, has been appointed to succeed the late Duke of Connaught as president of the B. & F. Bible Society. General Dobbie, the gallant defender of Malta, who is now recovering from a severe operation, has been appointed vice-president of the society.

In a recent interview the Archbishop of Canterbury stated that it was said he always spoke on politics. The explanation was that although five-sixths of his sayings dealt with religion, they were not reported, but if he used a political illustration it was featured in all the papers.

We learn from American journals that Dr. A. C. Garnett, formerly a preacher and missionary representing Australian churches of Christ and now a professor of the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A., has written a new book which has been published under the title, "A Realistic Philosophy of Religion."

Enmore choir, N.S.W., presented Maunder's cantata, "Bethlehem" with Mr. Gordon Day, L.R.S.M., conducting. The solos were contributed by choir members. It was a happy and successful day. On Christmas morning for 35th successive time the choir sang carols to inmates of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital of which Mr. Stevens is a chaplain.

The Intermediate C.E. Society of the church at Lygon-st., Vic., held a "carols by candle" service on Christmas eve, and presented an excellent programme, including a pageant of the birth of Jesus, all organised by Geoff. Barnett. The offering, amounting to £5/5/-, is to be given to the College of the Bible, the society aiming to raise £10 for a share in the debt reduction offering.

At Horsham, Vic., C. W. Jackel conducted a Christmas eve service. Sympathy is extended to Mr. Albert Houston on the death of his wife which occurred on Dec. 25. Mr. Jackel conducted services at chapel and graveside the following Lord's day. H.M. offering amounted to £50. W. B. Payne, of Echuca, addressed the church on morning of Dec. 27, and W. Wigney was speaker at both services last Lord's day.

In a penetrating study of the work of Thomas Campbell presented in the American "Christian Standard," W. H. Hanna called upon readers to recognise the fact that those who undertake to present Thomas Campbell as pleading for unity without regard for the restoration of New Testament doctrine and practice are in grave error. Mr. Hanna very properly pointed out the emphasis upon the New Testament basis in the "Declaration and Address."

Visiting speakers at East Malvern, Vic., during December were J. Turner, S. Corlett, L. J. Butler and A. Thomas. Home mission offering was £4/1/7. Mrs. L. M. Fisher gave a talk at Sunshine Circle meeting on Dec. 8. E. L. Williams introduced discussion at fellowship meeting on Dec. 3. Roger Ryall, a Bible school scholar, was baptised at Gardiner on Dec. 16 and received into membership here on Dec. 20. Mrs. R. A. Strongman is making a good recovery after operation at Bethesda.

The head teachers' branch of the Victorian Teachers' Union passed the following resolution, to be presented to the teachers' conference planned for January 26: "While coercing none, and according liberty of conscience to all, we affirm that education for life should be based upon religious teaching, and therefore we believe the Education Department should

be granted the necessary power to arrange, in co-operation with religious bodies, for a fuller measure of religious instruction for students in State schools."

The church at Swan Hill (Vic.) has entered into a new arrangement with the local broadcasting station. Each Sunday on which the morning service is broadcast, the evening sermon is also broadcast at 8.5. Following this C. P. Hughes, the preacher, arranges for the broadcast of a half-hour of sacred music, from 8.30 p.m. This session is entitled "The Magic of Mixed Voices." The date of the first of these broadcasts from Swan Hill church for 1943 will be Jan. 17. In addition to these broadcasts Mr. Hughes assists in the daily devotional at 11 a.m. in conjunction with other ministers of the town.

In his presidential address at the North American Christian Convention, Indianapolis, U.S.A., Oct. 14, 1942, Dean E. Walker said: "I am persuaded that we will not fail in this hour. I can not but think that in this global war our boys will prove the better men, for the springs of their action lie in Christian culture. I can not but think that the return to faith so apparent in the increase of worship among the common folk and so striking in the new turns of theology and in the zeal of the boys in training for the ministry and so

evident in the new note of faith in God which comes from the pulpits of the land—I can not but hold that these are true signs of a regeneration of the soul of the church."

About three months back Owen O'Neil, of Subiaco, W.A., proposed to the church that it make a birthday gift to the Federal College of one pound for each year of the college life, thus helping attain the goal of freedom from debt. He undertook to receive gifts, and had a notice put in the chapel porch. At Christmas time he sent to the college secretary £26/3/3, the result of his effort, and the gift, and his part in it, are much appreciated by the College Board. This delightful gesture of goodwill may inspire others to emulation.

What season of the year prevailed at the time Jesus was born? Was it winter or a warmer period of the year? Dean Farrar suggested it was winter, but Barnes, Plumtree, Meyer and others favor the latter season. The grounds given to support this view are found in the text. It is pointed out that people would not lightly be called upon to travel to distant places to enrol when winter-conditions would make travel difficult. The fact that shepherds were camping out on the hills with their sheep suggests warm conditions. Therefore the roads might have been "white and dusty" and the sky bright when Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem. There is room for difference of opinion; and it would be pedantic for us to be precise, since authorities differ.

From Week to Week

WITH the holiday season upon us, many have been able to enjoy a short period of rest after a busy and anxious year of service. The threat to Australia is not so serious now as was the case at the beginning of 1942. Although we are a long way from peace in the Pacific area, we can be thankful that we have been spared from what might have been our fate.

I was away from the city for a time and enjoyed the peace and beauty of Nature. It is good to break away from the mechanical civilisation for a period and think of the might and wisdom of God as revealed in sea, sky and flower. While on a walk one member of the party gathered many flowers, and showed to us under a magnifying glass the unsuspected beauty hidden in the minute creations of God. If all we slaves of this mechanical age could be made humble by our trips to the country, our holidays would contribute much to the good of home, business and society.

Upon my return to Melbourne I made diligent enquiries concerning the response to the home mission appeal. I was delighted to learn that the offering in Victoria promises to be the largest since 1925. When we take into account the urgent appeal the government was making for the Austerity Loan at the time of the home mission campaign, it is clear that churches in most centres made a special effort to raise funds to support the weaker causes. Members of the Home Mission Committee appreciate this fine response to an urgent appeal. It is only right for us to expect that wise use will be made of this money given sacrificially for the Lord's work.

I hope to receive soon information about the response to home mission appeals in other States.

Raising funds for the work of the church is not considered detrimental to the efforts of the nation at this critical hour. There is a growing appreciation of the importance of the contribution the church is making to the life of the nation. Unless the church is main-

tained and the religious attitude of citizens developed, all that is taking place on the battlefields will be in vain in the end. This is not just my own view; it was a view expressed by two responsible members of the Federal Parliament. At the meeting of a deputation of leaders of churches with Mr. Forde, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Calwell, Member for Melbourne, who introduced the party, spoke of the need of maintaining the spiritual strength of the church so that the future age will be sure of a spiritual foundation without which nothing could be accomplished. Mr. Forde likewise emphasised the need of preserving "spiritual values." As a result of this significant meeting of leaders of church and State, regulations have been drawn up enabling young men of military age to enter theological colleges. In addition, it will be possible for young men desiring to enter the ministry to be released from the army and take up training in church colleges.

One of the pleasing facts revealed by Mr. Forde, whose main task, as you know, is to direct the affairs of the Australian Army, was the high appreciation of army officers of the work of chaplains. There is much valuable work being done in the camps by Christian workers. I do not know if anyone else has noted this significant truth that it is more than likely more men are attending religious services in Australia to-day than was the case at any other time. Hundreds of thousands of men regularly attend church services in camps, and hear the truth of God's Word. This is a wonderful opportunity, and we believe our chaplains are making good use of it.

ADDRESSES

F. Hollams (preacher Cowandilla church, S.A.)—67 Arthur-st., Unley.

T. G. Mason (acting-secretary Nanango church, Qld.)—Chester-st., Nanango.

L. W. P. Smith (secretary Tempe church, N.S.W.)—23 Brooklyn-st., Tempe.

News of the Churches

VICTORIA

Warragul.—On Dec. 13 the church enjoyed fellowship with Mr. Byard, who gave interesting addresses. He had been absent for past 15 months through military duties. On Dec. 16 the Sunday school Christmas tree and concert took place.

Ascot Vale.—Church attendance is improving. Dec. 16 was observed as Family Day. Dec. 15 was birthday of the Auxiliary, when 80 attended, and a good address was given by Mr. Patterson. All the Protestant churches were represented.

Hampton.—Mrs. Kirby, Misses M. and E. Kirby have been welcomed by transfer from Ascot Vale. The church sympathises with Mrs. Mason in the death of her sister. Several members serving with the forces have been home on leave.

Frankston.—R. Geyer's message was appreciated on morning of Dec. 20. During Christmas period many visitors have been present. Mr. Bond was speaker at all services. He also conducted in a beautiful way a C.E. open-air watchnight service.

Brighton.—At morning service on Dec. 27 reference was made to the passing during recent weeks of Mrs. R. Bismire, Mrs. E. Passe and Nurse K. Pask who was called home on Dec. 22. Eighteen of the young people joined the camp at Mt. Evelyn. There were three baptisms on Jan. 3.

Preston.—At morning service on Dec. 27, four were welcomed into fellowship by transfer from East Preston. W. T. Atkin, Northcote, gave an appreciated message at the same service. On Jan. 3 Mr. Cambridge spoke at both services. A solo by Miss Dorothy Taylor was enjoyed at evening service.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—Services were well attended during Christmas and New Year Sundays. E. Turner was received by transfer from Wollongong, N.S.W. Nine young people attended camp at Mt. Evelyn. Sympathy is extended to relatives of Miss May McPherson and to Miss Bayley in recent bereavements.

Stawell.—Attendances have been well maintained. Church and Sunday school anniversaries were successful. At close of Mr. Randall's gospel address two senior scholars of Bible school confessed Christ and have been baptised. Lionel Johnston is assisting in the work of the Ararat-Stawell circuit. His messages are much appreciated.

Oakleigh.—The chapel was filled at each service on Dec. 20. At evening service, choir rendered Christmas music. Girls' Clubs concluded year's work with a concert on Dec. 21, proceeds for Women's Services Club. Kindergarten Christmas tree on Dec. 23 was well attended. Mr. Neighbour's illustrated talks to children at gospel services on "Pilgrim's Progress" are creating interest.

Echuca.—Mr. and Mrs. McGregor and C. Brazzell have been welcomed into fellowship. A new rail and desk have been installed. Ladies' Auxiliary donated money to pay for these. Bible school assisted at Christmas Sunday evening service. Edward Brazzell was soloist. Mr. and Mrs. Val. Woff and Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield (of Cheltenham) delightfully helped with a ministry of song on Dec. 27.

Ballarat (York-st.).—Mr. and Mrs. H. Edwards enter upon their second year of service. Average attendances have been maintained. Scholars have been treated at social and kinders and parents to Christmas treat. Several scholars signed temperance pledges at open school after address by Mr. Edwards. Miss Maisie Barrett and helpers are accomplishing good work in kinder department. Junior Boys' Club, under Roy Barrett, enjoyed a week-end camp at Bungaree.

Wangaratta.—On Dec. 13 the Bible school at South Wangaratta held a Christmas party; 40 children and 30 parents attended. On Dec. 19 Wangaratta Bible school held a Christmas party. On Dec. 27 Chaplain Forbes spoke morning and evening in absence of Mr. Lloyd on holiday. Mrs. Scott-Brown rendered a solo. Two Y.P. members attended young people's camp at Christmas (Maude Jackel and Lorna Campbell).

Hawthorn.—On Dec. 27 J. Turner spoke at morning service and J. E. Allan at gospel service. J. E. Allan gave a splendid address on morning of Jan. 3. Alan Tucker and Bob Tate, two soldier members, were present on leave. Mrs. Allan was able to be present after her recent weeks of illness. The church has received many interesting letters of thanks and appreciation from men and women who were sent Christmas hampers.

Brunswick.—On Dec. 19 the kinders held a Christmas party, and on Sunday church and Bible school held Christmas services. Mr. Wright spoke at three services. Choir assisted morning and evening. There were good attendances. All regret the sudden death of Charlie Mochus by accident at Bairnsdale. He was leader of the primary department and junior C.E. before enlisting in Air Force. Sympathy has been expressed to his loved ones.

Shepparton.—Meetings maintain fair attendances. The church has many visiting Air Force men and has appreciated the help recently of Trevor Howe, Mr. Marshall, of Ballarat, and Mr. Philip, of Pollarton, S.A. Sister Morrell, of Berri, S.A., has been a visitor. Pte. Les. Smith, home on leave from W.A., made his decision on Dec. 27. Mr. Mufford preaching. May McPherson, who passed away in Melbourne, was buried at Shepparton on Dec. 26.

Hamilton.—W.M.B. held last meeting for 1942 on Dec. 10. Gifts were made to secretary and treasurer in appreciation of many years' service. On Dec. 19 a Christmas tree was held for kinder and cradle roll scholars, over 40 being present. Sunday school still shows increase in scholars, 87 being the record. On Dec. 20 and 27 Mr. Chivell gave splendid messages. Sister Campbell has returned after many weeks in Ballarat for medical treatment.

Brim.—Services have been well attended. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Parkinson have relieved Mr. McPherson of the strain of preaching every Sunday whilst in harvest work. Mr. McPherson's message on Dec. 20 was appreciated. On Dec. 19 the children were given a Christmas treat. Mission Band and Guild are in recess for harvest months. At annual fair £24 was realised. Endeavor carries on in Bible study during summer, and has been well attended.

Colac.—Christmas services were held on Dec. 21. At evening meeting Miss Neala Selwood sang, and a carol was rendered by Mrs. and Miss M. Parr. Mr. Pittman's addresses were very helpful. The church expresses sympathy with Mrs. Wheadon in the loss of her nephew Jack. Visitors from Geelong and Melbourne have been present at recent meetings. On Dec. 28, members joined with Baptists in presenting the session, "Hymns Round the Organ," broadcast from local radio station.

Baywater.—Meetings over last few weeks have been well attended. Mr. Burns gave Christmas messages on Dec. 20. A young lad from Bible school made the good confession. Bible class and C.E. gave a Christmas social to young folk of Sunday school. Will Yates has enlisted in A.I.F. and his duties as "Christian" reporter will be taken over by Alan Westmore. Mr. Burns commenced a new term of service with the church on Jan. 3, and gave New Year messages. Mr. Graham, of South Yarra, has been received into fellowship.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—A number of visitors attended over the holiday season. Mr. Nance-Rivell has given appreciated addresses at both morning and evening services.

North Essendon.—On Dec. 8 a kitchen tea was tendered to E. W. Roffey (past preacher) and Miss G. Medhurst, both valued workers. A. A. Hughes officiated at their marriage in the chapel on Dec. 12. Mr. Roffey has since left for Darwin on Y.M.C.A. service. E. T. Hart (student preacher) became suddenly ill during morning service on Dec. 27, was operated on for appendicitis the same evening, and is progressing satisfactorily. In the emergency G. H. Thompson and F. J. Funston spoke on Dec. 27 and T. G. H. Westwood on Jan. 3.

Blackburn.—Meetings kept up well. On Dec. 20 Mr. Bischoff took morning service. In evening, in place of Mr. Bischoff's address, young people of the church presented a drama "The Story of Mary." This was splendidly portrayed to a crowded meeting. One young boy decided for Christ. At morning Sunday school Mr. Andrews, of Surrey Hills, told the Christmas story with the aid of lantern slides. On Dec. 19 the Sunday school picnic and Christmas tree took place in kindergarten hall owing to inclement weather.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Y.P.S.C.E. tendered tea to older church members on Dec. 14. Christmas treat for middle school was held on Dec. 17, kinder and primary treat on Dec. 19. Mt. Clear S.S. anniversary tea and Christmas tree took place also on Dec. 19. Young people sang at Base Hospital on Dec. 17 and attended gael service on Dec. 20. W. H. Benson spoke at Dawson-st. morning service on Dec. 20, and at night the birth of Christ was presented in word and song. W. W. Saunders giving a brief message. Choir assisted excellently under leadership of Miss H. Morrison. Speakers at Doveton-st. were J. A. Wilkie and T. Comer and T. Maxwell at Mt. Clear. Following recent crusade the work is in good heart.

North Fitzroy.—There were fine attendances morning and evening on Dec. 20, R. Ennis speaking. At conclusion of morning service Christmas cakes were presented to f/c Private Dodson, of U.S.A. forces, and P. Foster, R.A.A.F. Bible school teachers entertained scholars at tea, and about forty elder ones attended gospel service. Two solos were rendered by Misses Foster and Beaver, of Bible school. Although many were away on holiday on Dec. 27, there were fair attendances and bright services, R. Ennis speaking. Mrs. Gove (Camberwell) rendered two beautiful solos at night. C.E. Society handed £5/5/- to the officers towards debt reduction. Three more have been received by letter from Fitzroy—Mrs. W. Cousins, jun., Miss N. Chapman and Mrs. Sutton.

Kaniva.—E. L. and R. L. Williams conducted gospel service on Dec. 13 owing to Mr. Earle's indisposition. A Christmas service was conducted on Dec. 20, when a choir rendered anthems and Mr. Earle gave the message. A united Christmas service was held in the chapel on 25th, when Mr. Fielding delivered an address. On Dec. 27 E. L. Williams' address was appreciated. A Christmas service was conducted at Yearnings in the afternoon. Mr. Earle spoke at the watchnight service in Salvation Army hall on New Year's Eve. On Jan. 3 Kaniva young folk visited gospel service at Lillimur, when B. Goldsworthy had charge and M. Williams gave the address. E. L. Williams addressed gospel service at Kaniva, after which appreciation and good wishes of the church were extended to Miss Doris Clipstone and Mr. George Ashmore prior to their marriage. The help of visitors during holidays is appreciated.

Maryborough.—Since return of Mr. Holland from Ballarat all meetings have been well attended. Average attendance at breaking of bread, 108, was highest during present ministry. Bible school conducted temperance day, when Mr. Rowland, of Congregational church, gave an address and 30 scholars signed the

pledge. The school is thriving, 123 being highest for month. Room space is taxed to uttermost. At Christmas tree between 50 and 60 children received gifts. Cottage prayer meeting in preparation for mission was held in home of Mrs. Pascoe. Choir had a social after last practice for year. Rendering of Christmas music was a highlight of their activities. Choir and Y.P.S.C.E. attended local hospital and sang to patients. Phi Betas have sent another batch of parcels to men in services. Mr. Holland conducted a special service when replies to his monthly letter to the men were read to the congregation. Miss Lee is an inmate of hospital. Mr. Holland is forming a young ladies' choir with 27 young women, to appear once each month at night services. J.C.E. distributed flowers to each inmate of hospital for Christmas.

EsSENDON.—W. E. Jackel was speaker at both services on Jan. 3. Gordon Lamont was present on leave from another State. On Christmas day at 9.30 a.m. Mr. Jackel was speaker at a combined service of Buckley-st. Methodist, Baptist and church of Christ. Christmas greetings were received by the church from Mr. Alves, an aged past member of many years, and Keith Jenner, on service. A gift has been made to the church of a pulpit Bible, and a self-pronouncing Bible for use of readers has been presented by A. G. E. Smith.

TASMANIA

Devonport.—S.S. anniversary was held on Dec. 13. R. L. Arnold spoke in morning. In afternoon he gave a message to children and presented prizes. A presentation was made to Miss Beverley Marshall by the school for help through the year, and from church and S.S. to Mrs. Wescombe for her assistance. The children sang well; Mrs. Wescombe trained them. At night Mr. Arnold's illustrated message was powerful. Thanks was expressed to Margaret-st. church for sparing Mr. Arnold, to Mr. Arnold for help with violin, and helpers from Sandhill. Bible school picnic was held at the Bluff. On Dec. 20 B. Burt spoke morning and evening, and at night Mrs. Wescombe sang a solo.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Subiaco.—Two special Sunday evening meetings were the C.E. anniversary conducted by combined C.E. Societies, and the second of services conducted by men and women in uniform, when a lady made the good confession. The church grieves the death of elder R. L. Wolfenden after operation. He was in the prime of life, and a member for over thirty years. Prayers of the church are for the wife and three children in their loss.

Perth.—Home mission offering reached £53/15/6. On morning of Dec. 20 visitors included Miss J. Saunders (Aborigines Mission). J. Wiltshire exhorted the church. At 7.30 p.m. a quartette was rendered by A. B. Povey, E. R. Berry, W. R. Bennett and J. Wiltshire, and a duet by E. R. Berry and A. B. Povey. Mr. Wiltshire preached and afterwards delivered a broadcast address. On morning of Dec. 27 visitors included Mrs. Smith (S.A.), Mr. Ellis (Grote-st., S.A.). J. Wiltshire gave an inspiring talk. At 7.30 p.m. he preached and afterwards delivered a broadcast address.

Kalgoorlie.—Sisters' Mission Band concluded a successful year. Thirty-four meetings were held; average attendance 17. Members met each Thursday for devotion and Red Cross sewing, 2165 articles being completed from March to September. Cash and bandages donated to Bible school to assist with a first aid box. Parcel mending was done for local hospital, which is visited regularly by Sisters Pascoe and Adamson. Norseman missionaries were assisted and donations made to home missions, Woolooloo Sanitarium, College of Bible, hospital cheer and B. & F. Bible Society totalling £25/10/-. Sisters Smith, A. Maloney, Hunt and Close transferred to Perth during the year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Forestville.—On Dec. 13, in absence of J. T. Train, who was conducting services at Mt. Compass, speakers were S. Lovell and G. A. Jessup, of Unley. On Dec. 19 a social evening was held by girls' and boys' clubs associated with Bible school.

Whyalla.—At Christmas services on Dec. 20 speakers were A. G. Thurgood and G. M. Cox. Carols were enjoyed by a good attendance. Foundations for new building are completed. A good spirit prevails. S. Ryles and A. G. Thurgood enter Glen Iris college.

Port Neatunga.—Services for breaking of bread and worship are regularly observed by a few members. Young Worshipers' League is growing. Young men from Cowandilla had a holiday camp over Christmas. Ken Dixon and Neil McLean addressed children on Dec. 20 and 27.

Delwich.—The kindergarten Christmas tree passed off very successfully. All the presents were made by the teachers. On Dec. 20 the choir and friends paid a visit to Northfield Hospital and sang carols to the inmates, also giving them flowers. Miss Cynthia Maddern, one of the kinder teachers, was married during the holidays.

Brooklyn Park.—Christmas meetings were well attended. Members were pleased to have three of the church's boys in the forces attending. Evening service was led by Mr. Wilson, and choir rendered Christmas hymns. Sympathy is with aged Mr. Matthews, who has found it necessary to enter hospital, also with the family of Sister Curtis, who was recently called home.

Mile End.—Throughout recent weeks, meetings have maintained good interest with very fair attendances. The helpful messages of G. T. Fitzgerald have been given appreciated support by the choir. A number of young men are in the forces, and all have had a season's message sent them on behalf of officers and members. A girl from the Bible school confessed Christ on Dec. 20.

Moonta.—S. Wilton, of Kadina, had charge of gospel service on Nov. 29. M. T. Lawrie spoke at evening service on Dec. 6. A. Doley and D. J. Lawrie have spoken at other meetings. Sunday school Christmas party was held on Dec. 19. Opportunity was taken to present to each scholar the annual award. Sickness still detains Mrs. Bridges, Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Bald from attending services.

Hindmarsh.—On Dec. 13 Mr. Ewers conducted services at Owen. In his absence Mr. Patching exhorted the church and W. Green preached at night. Kindergarten held Christmas party on Dec. 19. Special singing by choir on evening of Dec. 20 was appreciated. An offering was taken for Hindmarsh Town Mission. Ron. Whyett, who has been sent home from Darwin with a broken leg, is progressing satisfactorily and has been able to attend church. Sister Parsons is still in hospital.

Pt. Pirie.—During November interesting addresses were given, among speakers being Mr. Jones (Henley Beach), Chaplain Adams, R.A.A.F., and J. E. Shipway. The church regrets the death of Miss Phyllis Smith at the age of 26 years. She was active in church work prior to her illness two years ago, C.E. secretary for a number of years, and a Sunday school worker. A young people's Christmas party, sponsored by the C.E. Society, was held on Dec. 17, when old folk of the church were guests.

Winkie.—C.E. meeting was combined with a Christmas social conducted by Doreas Society held in Berri on Dec. 17. A Christmas party was held for scholars of Sunday school on Dec. 19. Morning service on Dec. 20 was conducted by W. A. Hunt, and evening service was combined with Berri, when C. Williams conducted a Christmas service. Christmas letters were written by members of C.E. Society to servicemen at home and abroad. The church

learnt with deep regret that Capt. J. Minnocks was recently reported killed in action in Middle East. Sympathy is extended to his parents and sisters.

Colonel Light Gardens.—On Dec. 13 a successful Bible school anniversary commenced, followed on Dec. 16 by tea and prize-giving. G. Clark and his band of singers from Forestville gave appreciated assistance. Gifts were made to Mr. Clark and Mrs. Hauber, pianist. On Dec. 19 the kinders had a Christmas tree. Gifts were made to Mr. and Mrs. D. Pike from members of the church, to Miss Manning for service as evening organist, and to J. Samels for 20 years of service as church treasurer. All who made toys are thanked. About 24 toys, left over, were sent to children of Morialta Protestant Children's Home.

Queenstown.—Christmas greetings and a letter were sent to each member from the church officers during December. Christmas services were held on Dec. 20. There were excellent attendances. Mr. Brooker gave appropriate messages, and the choir rendered special singing. Greetings were received from most of the members who are away on active service. Mr. Brooker was speaker on Dec. 27. A young woman made her confession at gospel service. Sunday school was unable to hold a picnic during the year so the scholars were given a Christmas treat at the chapel. The teachers and helpers provided tea, followed by pictures shown by Cliff. Howe.

Prospect.—Christmas services were held successfully. In the morning the alterations and new baptistry were set apart for use. In the afternoon the Bible school presented the tableau "From the Manger to the Cross." A choral service was held at night. Prior to the service two Bible school girls, June Wright and Phyllis Goodwin, were baptised. Messages from Mr. and Mrs. Keith Crosby, Manchester, England, were given. Mr. Schwab conducted throughout the day, giving inspiring messages. Special Christmas offering amounted to £40. Members of auxiliaries gathered on evening of Dec. 19 to tender a social and presentation to Miss Eva Butler, who has been an active member in all departments. She was married on Dec. 23. Messages from boys on service report that Geo. Bonney is well and that Stan Terrace is well on the way to recovery. Mrs. Brown, from Unley, and two girls who were baptised, were welcomed into fellowship on Dec. 20. Combined clubs held their break-up with a good attendance. C. Schwab gave new year's messages on Dec. 27. At night R. Dixon rendered a solo. Mr. Schwab started his vacation on Dec. 28.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Doomadgee.—Excellent attendance marked Bible school anniversary on evening of Dec. 13. The children presented scenes from the life of Christ in poem and song. S. Reeson ably conducted the singing, and an enjoyable time was spent.

Seven Hills.—A Christmas service conducted by A. Gilbertson on Dec. 20 was well attended, special singing being a feature of the evening. Bible school Christmas tree held on 19th brought many helpful contacts with parents of scholars.

Albury.—Attendances have been small, owing to holidays and sickness. Lavington school is progressing. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Alderson in her sickness. On Jan. 3 a young lady of A.W.A.S. reconsecrated her life to the Lord. Among visitors welcomed are Misses Tui and Judith Osborne, of Lygon-st. church.

Rockdale.—On Dec. 13 D. Wakeley, of Burwood, exhorted the church, and at night A. Hinrichsen preached. Three girls from Bible school were immersed. A lantern lecture was given on Dec. 15 by Mrs. Standen, of Bama River Mission. On Dec. 20 Mr. Mackenzie, of Tempe, exhorted the church. At night Mr. Hinrichsen gave the gospel address and two young people decided for Christ.

Paddington.—Morning service on Dec. 20 was well attended. Mr. Greenhalgh gave a Christmas message. Young People's Fellowship enjoyed tea together, Mr. Hill being the guest and speaker concerning his experiences in New Guinea. Y.P.C.E. had a social evening on Dec. 15, Kingsford C.E. Society being guests.

Three.—Successful Bible school anniversary services were held on Dec. 13, A. G. Saunders being the messages. Miss Gwen Graham led Sunday school choir. The scholars presented a good programme on prize-giving night, Dec. 16. Good meetings were held on Dec. 20, Mr. Saunders speaking morning and evening, also bringing a helpful message to Wingham church.

Lidcombe.—Attendances improved during past few weeks. Mr. Gilbertson addressed church on Dec. 13. Mr. Wenderson preached at night. First church monthly bulletin was printed on Dec. 6 and much appreciated. New scholars are still being enrolled in connection with the State scholar drive; over 50 have been added. On Dec. 12 the Christmas tree was held. Christmas service was held on Dec. 20. A special item was rendered by Bible school scholars, and Mr. Henderson's message was appreciated.

Tempe.—On Dec. 13 F. Hunting spoke at morning service. Dec. 20 was observed as reunion day. A. A. Hinrichsen gave the morning address. Sunday school scholars provided carol singing and recitations at afternoon service, when J. McKenzie addressed the young people. Tea was held in chapel at which about fifty guests were welcomed. At the song and gospel services which followed there was a record number present, and a solo and two duets were given. Miss Tierney has been welcomed back to fellowship on recovery from sickness.

Bexley North.—T. V. Weir continues faithfully in the Word. Two young people confessed Christ on Dec. 20. Mr. and Mrs. Scholes were welcomed in. Young People's Fellowship was well attended. A choir of 20 sang at Christmas Sunday service under leadership of Mr. James. Miss M. Baker has been elected Bible school superintendent and L. C. Yelds secretary. 103 scholars were present on Dec. 20. Miss G. Bills, of Chatswood, addressed teachers on kindergarten work at their quarterly tea. Miss R. Peterson is now out of hospital.

Auburn.—All services on Christmas Sunday were well attended. After evening service a big open-air meeting was held in front of district hospital, when carols were sung. At morning and evening services Christmas Hymns sung by choir were much appreciated. Ethelbert Davis was preacher. On Christmas Day a service was held at 8 a.m. Church annual business meeting was held on Dec. 16. Reports by evangelist (Mr. Davis) and church auxiliaries showed there had been much activity and success. Election of officers took place. W. Youngusband was speaker on morning of Dec. 27.

Sydney (City Temple).—During Christmas week two special Christmas parties were held. The first was in connection with the men's services held every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. 60 men sat to a tea provided free; about 20 helpers assisted and a wonderful time was enjoyed. There was special singing, and an inspirational gospel address was given to them by A. C. MacLean. The second was in connection with the women's meeting held every Monday at 2.30 p.m. To this 36 women sat down. A Christmas present was given to all, and refreshments were partaken of. A band of helpers assisted. Much good has been accomplished at these two meetings throughout the year.

Belmont.—Recent meetings have been well attended, and addresses by Messrs. Weir, Paterson and Corlett appreciated. Christmas services were held on Dec. 20. Special singing was rendered by choir. There was a splendid

attendance on Christmas morning, when all members of the forces attached to the church were mentioned by name and prayers offered for them. E. C. Hinrichsen gave an inspiring message. On Dec. 9 the C.E. held annual concert and prize distribution; a good programme was given. Proceeds for boys' home at Pendle Hill. On Dec. 15, P.B.P. and K.S.P. held a Christmas social for comforts fund, which has provided parcels for all members of auxiliaries serving in forces. Bible school work prospers; attendance has reached 153, and new scholars in drive total 43.

Hornaby-Asquith.—During recent drive for new scholars 16 were added at Hornaby and 20 at Asquith Bible schools. On Dec. 12 a Christmas tree and party for children and adults took place at Asquith in which 70 participated. Hornaby kinders were entertained by Father Christmas on afternoon of 19th, followed by a combined social for older scholars at night. An interesting programme was arranged by M. Thompson in absence of J. Hanna, superintendent, who on that day became seriously ill and was conveyed to hospital. He has made a speedy recovery. On Dec. 3 a lantern lecture on Libya was given by Mr. Rainey, P.R.G.S., of B. & F. Bible Society, an offering of 14/4/4 being taken to provide free Testaments for the troops. Dorcas arranged break-up social for Dec. 10. Reports of work were encouraging. The speaker was Mrs. Tyrrel, of Salvation Army. Under direction of A. Morris a party of 16 Endeavorers on Christmas eve sang carols in district of Hornaby. Members of fighting forces were remembered, and parcels were sent to them from the church.

QUEENSLAND

Roma.—On Dec. 20 Lieut. Bedwell, of Salvation Army, addressed morning service. Gospel service was conducted by L. R. Pitman. On Dec. 27 A. S. Cooke was in charge of gospel service.

Maryborough.—Sunday school anniversary was held on Dec. 13. On 15th the concert was held, when prizes were distributed. Christmas tree and gifts to scholars and teachers took place on Dec. 17. Attendances on Dec. 20 were very fair. A. Turner presided for first time over Sunday afternoon meeting at Urraween. A Sunday school scholar who was in hospital with meningitis has recovered.

Annerley.—The church has welcomed into fellowship Mr. and Mrs. Jack Larsen and family. B. R. Smith, for many years active in the church, will be sorely missed during his extended stay at Gympie. On Dec. 20 Girls' Club assisted with Christmas message in song, and three young women made the good confession. At a great meeting on Dec. 27 Chaplain Will H. Sessions (U.S.A.) was speaker, and the three young women were baptised by Mr. Greenwood.

BIRTH

GRAY (nee Beaty Dean).—On Dec. 31, at Mosgiel Private Hospital, Surrey Hills, to Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Gray, of Box Hill—a son (Edwin Vince). Both well.

DEATHS

JURY.—On Nov. 30, at Castlemaine, Albert Thomas (Albie), dearly loved fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jury, and loving brother of Jim, George, Owen and Bill. Loved by all. Aged 39 years. "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

THOMPSON.—On Dec. 4, 1942, at her residence, "Hurlston," Carysfort-st., Blackheath, N.S. Wales (formerly of Katoomba), Sophia, relict of the late John Thompson and loving mother of Jessie Selma (Mrs. W. H. Hall) and Allan, and dear grandmother of Sophie and Jessie Hall, Blanche (Mrs. P. Verco) and Norma, Joan and John Thompson. Aged 82 years. "In thy presence is fulness of joy."

McPHERSON.—On Dec. 24, at Melbourne, May, dearly loved daughter of late Martin and Annie McPherson and loved sister of Dugald, Kenneth, Mildred, Donald, Bella (Mrs. Mottram) and Elsie. Aged 33 years.

IN MEMORIAM

BUCKINGHAM.—In loving memory of our beloved eldest son, Edward Marcel (Ted), who died, result of accident, Jan. 11, 1933, aged 22 years. (Late Malakoff-st., St. Kilda.)

Remembered still, though time speeds on its way;

Some kindly act of his comes to our minds each day.

—"Bangalore," 40 Emma-st., Caulfield, Vic.

FEATHERSTONE.—In loving memory of our dear sister Margaret, who passed away on Jan. 2, 1941, result of an accident. "Food memories."

A life made beautiful by noble deeds,

A generous heart for others' needs.

—Inserted by Isabel (Mrs. Anderson), Muriel (Mrs. Fitzgerald) and Harriet, Fairfield.

PATERSON (nee Foster).—Loving memories of our beloved and only daughter and sister Nettle, who fell asleep in Jesus Jan. 5, 1941. (Our pal.)

"We'll catch the broken threads again,

And finish what we here began;

Heaven will the mysteries explain,

And then, ah then, we'll understand."

—Inserted by her loving mother, father, brother Jack and sister-in-law Elva.

WANTED

Christian gent wants full board in Christian home, between S. Yarra and St. Kilda. Government employee.—E. Patrick, 5a Craven-st., E. Prahran.

The Bible school at Burnley, Vic., is in great need of consecrated teachers. If you can help, contact L. Cunningham, 303 Burnley-st., Burnley, E.1, superintendent. The matter is urgent.

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China and the Burma Road

EVENTS during the past few weeks show that China is determined to hold the territory in West China in and around the Burma Road. A short time ago it was reported that the Chinese had repulsed the Japanese at the important town of Teng-yueh. Much missionary work has been done along the whole area from the Burmese border to the important city of Kuenming (Yunnanfu). The present move of allied forces entering Burma is fully related to the move of the Chinese on the border—the re-opening of China's life-line from the Indian Ocean. Should this move eventuate, it will mean much to missionary work in the whole of the Yunnan-Szechuan Provinces, and the Christian colleges transferred from East China will be able to carry on with less interruption. It would also greatly help our partners, the Chinese Home Missionary Society, who have their headquarters at Kuenming. This society has important work in Southern Yunnan, and to the north our own work in the town of Hueill. The society also conducted a Bible school for Christian students in their areas. The re-opening of the Burma Road will be necessary if the society are to effectively carry out their plan to reach the tribes in Western China.

News of Pearl Anderson

After a long silence we have just received a letter written by Pearl in the month of October. The arrival of this letter proves that there is some improvement in the mail communications in Western China. After the bombing of Yunnanfu, Pearl and a friend travelled to the North-west of Yunnan Province to the town of Chao Tong. Here they worked in the mission hospital for several months. Pearl and her friend are now at Ping Gee, two days' motor journey from Chao Tong. She is thus nearing the nation's capital, Chungking. She says she is happy and well, and has had no further trouble from the Japanese since they left Yunnanfu. No mails have reached her for a considerable time, but now mails are freer she should be getting mails. She sends greetings to the people of the churches of Australia.

INDIA

Greetings

GOOD mails have been received from missionaries just prior to Christmas. Many of them have not sent out the usual Christmas cards, and desire us to wish all the compliments of the season.

Dhond

Our workers report difficulty in securing workers for the hospital and problems regarding domestic help. Domestic help is a sheer necessity in the East if sufficient time is to be given to the important work of the mission. Mrs. Oldfield was left in the lurch for a cook when little John was born, whilst Miss Foreman tells of the difficulty of securing help in the hospital. At present they have to carry on with three untrained nurses; and whilst they try hard, it is not easy for the ones in charge. Fortunately the three helpers at present were some of our own girls from the Shrigonda home. Suitable girls are offered in munition and other works about three times the money that the hospital can offer.

Evangelistic Work

"I very seldom get out on this work. Bhorlai continues to take the classes. There are less women attending, as many of them are doing coolie work. Now that grain is so expensive, everyone has to earn as much as possible. Once a month the women of our Christian class go out witnessing. Last Fri-

day we went to the village and to the Telugu Christians' homes, and had a very good reception. The month before we visited Christian homes of folk who had newly come to Dhond, invited them to the Sunday services, the women's meeting, and the children to Sunday school. We had Bible reading and prayer, and sang a hymn in each home. I think we did some good work, as we have seen some of those visited along to the services."—L. M. Foreman.

ISLAND WORKERS ARRIVE AT A.O.B.A.

THOUGH no direct news has come from Mr. T. Hammer and Mr. Finger concerning their safe arrival, we are happy in being able to state that Mr. Purdy, of Sydney, has advised us that the men were now on Aoba. There is a good deal of sickness on the island, so our workers will find their hands full.

THE MISSIONARY CAUSE

"THE whole missionary cause is the greatest committed to men, and nothing must be allowed to take its place of primacy in our minds. However urgent other claims may be, this is one thing to which we must hold."—Dr. Temple.

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-st., Tranmere, South Australia.

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Obituary

Mrs. R. Bismire

DESTING before entering hospital for an operation, Mrs. Ruby Bismire, of Brighton, Vic., suddenly collapsed and died. Mrs. Bismire was born in South Africa, but was associated with the Brighton church from her early years. She was baptised during the ministry of J. C. F. Pittman. For some time she was a member of the choir and organist of the church. Her three boys, Douglas (R.A.A.F.) in England, Max and Daryl are all members of the church, Daryl lately having been baptised. We remember Mrs. Bismire as one with a particularly happy and lovable nature, devoted to her husband and boys, and with a love for the church; and to Mr. Bismire and the sons, her father (Mr. Regis), sister and brother we express our sincere sympathy, rejoicing with them in the knowledge of their loved one's faith in Christ.—A.B.W.

Mrs. A. Crouch

ON November 22, at the age of 49, Mrs. A. Crouch passed suddenly and peacefully to rest. Our sister had been a member of the churches of Christ for 28 years. She was baptised by J. E. Thomas, and for 10 years was in fellowship with the church at Doncaster, Vic. Coming to South Australia, she with her husband was transferred to Cowandilla, where she continued in membership until the time of her death. She was a loyal member of the church, and served faithfully on the Social Committee and in the Dorcas Society. To her sorrowing husband and family the church offers its sincere sympathy. Her mortal remains were privately laid to rest in the "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."—F.H.

Mrs. L. L. Esnouf

MRS. LOUISA LYDIA ESNOUF, of the Albion church, Qld., fell asleep in the Brisbane Hospital on Dec. 14, and was buried at Lutwyche Cemetery on the same day. Six weeks before, she fell and broke her shoulder; she being 78 years of age, the shock of the accident had a very serious effect on her, but her death came with unexpected suddenness from heart failure. She and her husband joined the Albion church by faith and baptism on Nov. 14, 1937. Mr. Esnouf died a year before her. Two sons predeceased him, and Mrs. Esnouf was left with no relatives. A woman of simple faith, she found solace and hope in the Saviour, and looked and longed for the life above where there is no separation. Verily she has her reward.—H.G.P.

Mrs. E. J. Passe

MRS. ELEANOR JANE PASSE, whose death occurred on December 15, was one of the best known members of the Brighton church, Vic. Mrs. Passe, who was baptised in Ballarat at the age of 18, was a member of the church for over fifty years. After her marriage she was for some nine or ten years in South Africa, but her long connection with the church was mainly at Brighton. A gifted and unselfish woman, Mrs. Passe used her fine voice in the church and among the afflicted, particularly the blind, a group of whom she visited for many years. To her dismay she herself was similarly afflicted at the last. Coming upon suffering already being borne, it was especially hard to endure, but perplexed as she was, her faith did not fail. Mrs. Passe was predeceased by her husband earlier in the year. Her two sons are both away, Jack in the South African Air Force, and Dr. Garnett Passe, also on national service, in Scotland. Mrs. T. R. Morris, of Brighton, and Mrs. Chaffer, are sisters of Mrs. Passe, and Mr. E. H. Price, of Ballarat, a brother. We extend our sympathy, but know

that these all have their comfort in hope and faith in God.—A.B.W.

Mrs. S. Thompson

MRS. S. THOMPSON, of Blackheath church, passed into her Saviour's presence on Dec. 4. She was the mother of Mrs. W. H. Hall, of Sydney, and was one of the foundation members of the church at Blackheath. Baptised 56 years ago at Petersham, N.S.W., she has given a lifetime of service to her Lord and Master. For years Mrs. Thompson kept a guest house at Katoomba, and many have been helped by her words of hope and cheer to those who came into the circle of her home. Many times her kindly words of encouragement and appreciation have been an uplift and inspiration to the writer. Her unflinching cheerfulness and attendance at all the church meetings will be greatly missed. A beautiful and wonderful realisation of the Christian hope was felt by all who attended the service in the chapel, and then at the grave, as the body of our sister was laid to rest. The writer was assisted by the Baptist pastor, Mr. Harper. Loving sympathy is extended to the sorrowing relatives, who look forward to the dawning of that day when we shall all be reunited in Christ Jesus.—A. Carter.

R. L. Wolfenden

ROBERT LESLIE WOLFENDEN was called from this life on Dec. 15. He had undergone an operation two weeks before his death, and gave every promise of a speedy recovery. Two days before his end he was removed from the private hospital to Perth Public Hospital to be under the observation of specialists. It is understood that he succumbed to hemorrhage of the brain. Mr. Wolfenden was a prominent worker both at Subiaco and in brotherhood departments. He was for many years an elder of the church at Subiaco, and for some time its school superintendent. Since the cause was started at Nedlands he gave a great deal of his time to the oversight of the work there. He has served on many conference committees, and was one time secretary of the Home Mission Committee. He has been for many years the secretary of our Church Extension Building Committee. Our late brother became a member of the church at Northam about 30 years ago, when Arthur Eaton was evangelist there. He was ambitious to go to Glen Iris and train for the full-time ministry when a young man, but being disappointed in this, he did all he could to serve in every other way. A brief service was held in the chapel at Subiaco, and from there the funeral proceeded to the Karakatta cemetery. Mr. Hunt assisted the writer in the service at the chapel, and Mr. Wiltshire at the graveside. The conference president (T. A. Marsden) paid a brotherhood tribute. The whole brotherhood extends sympathy to Mrs. Wolfenden, to Robert, Ronald, and Merle, all of whom are in fellowship with the church.—R. Raymond.

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Tom's Proposal

(2 Tim. 2: 15)

TOM'S proposal was approved by the com-
pany—"That we read our Bibles more in
the coming year."

"What would anyone suggest by way of in-
creasing the interest?" enquired Nancy. "I
think of R. L. Stevenson's word, 'Make a cer-
tain effort of imagination and dally like a
portion of the Bible.'" Gwen was emphatic
that one act of realism should be to provide
one's self with a well-printed Bible. "I am
sure the tiny, cramped type has a very dis-
couraging effect," she added. Alan submitted
that "purposefulness is an important factor,"
pointing out that interest soon wanes when
one reads scraps here and there in haphazard
fashion.

Producing a neat little booklet and running
his thumb across the leaves, Eric said, "This
is my year-through companion to the scrip-
tures. Planned daily readings, related to vital
weekly themes, I find this invaluable." "The
Endeavorer's Red Book," said Gwen, exam-
ining it, "with study series on 'The Victorious
Life,' 'Christian Standards for a Better
World,' 'Fundamentals of the Faith,' 'Bio-
graphics,' and so on." "Endeavorers or non-
Endeavorers," said Eric, "that is the book
young people need as an aid to purposeful
Bible reading."—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

"Have not I commanded thee? Be
strong and of good courage; be not
afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for
the Lord thy God is with thee
whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1: 9.

PREACHERY PROVIDENT FUND

With which is incorporated the Aged and Infirm
Evangelists' Trust.

Established by the Federal Conference of the
Churches of Christ in Australia.
Members of Committee: T. E. Rees (Chairman),
H. E. Bell, J. Crawford, C. Graham, F. S. Steer,
Dr. C. A. Verco, W. H. Hall (Hon. Secretary and
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Representative in Victoria: W. Gale, T. & G.
Building, 147 Collins St., Melbourne, C.I.
Representative in South Australia: General S.
Price Weir, 2nd Avenue, East Adelaide.
Representative in Western Australia: Roy Ray-
mond, 260 Bagot Rd., Subiaco.

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1st. To assist financially Aged and Infirm and
Retired Preachers.
2nd. To control and manage an Endowment Fund
to which Preachers may contribute.

In order to do this effectively, the Committee
needs the practical sympathy and support of all
the churches and brethren throughout the Com-
monwealth.

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