

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

CIRCULATING AMONGST CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND.

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

Vol. XXV., No. 15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1922.

Subscription, 9/- per annum; posted, 10/6.

## The Most Important Work in the World.

The most important work in the world is that of advancing the kingdom of God, and of leading mankind to accept Jesus Christ, to conform with his will, and to apply his principles to all the relationships of life. If we may make any distinctions, we may say that the most important part of this great work is to win

### *The most important people in the world.*

This special number of the "Christian" deals with this part of the church's task. The importance of child life is, happily, being recognised to-day as it never was before. The State realises it, and seeks to care for the children's welfare in health and education. The church of the twentieth century is making an endeavor to buy up the opportunity presented to it.

In all the importance we attach to child life, we are but showing that we are coming to an increasing appreciation of the implications of our Master's practice and precept. It was Christ who set the example which the world is beginning to follow. One has said that "none of the religions of the world, except Christianity, take any special account of the child, or have any word for him or about him. Only Christ took a little child and set him in the midst. Only Christ was a little child, and this has made all the difference in the world to children." Only Christ made the child-like spirit the supreme essential of character.

The future of the world is with the children. What we of older years may think and do is for us important, but what they think is most important for the world. It is the rising and not the setting sun which gives its glory and its light to the coming day. Our greatest contribution to the new era will be our influence upon the men and women who will make it. Herein is the greatness and the glory of our teachers'

task. They are sowing seeds of truth which must produce an abundant harvest. They are not only saving souls, but lives as well. To give a child a bias in favor of good and right and truth is not a little thing. Eternity alone will reveal the effect of the words which the humble, and at times discouraged, teacher speaks to the children in her care.

### *The most productive work in the world.*

Save an old man, and you save a unit; save a child, and you save a multiplication table. The years of opportunity for service will tell. Add to this thought that of the devotion of those who give their lives early to the Lord. It has often been shown to be the case that those trained from childhood in the nurture and admonition of the Lord are less likely to lapse than are those converted in adult years. Spurgeon's testimony to the value of child consecration is supported by the experience of practically every preacher. So let us never use the dreadful expression which, while not nearly so common as once it was, is still allowed to fall from the lips of Christians: "It was only a boy," or "only a Sunday School scholar" who made the confession. Would it not be better to say, "There was one confession, and, thank God, that of a child"? Were we to appreciate aright the probable consequences and relative values of early and late conversions, we should certainly adopt in preference the latter mode of speech.

Dr. Tyng, of New York, once went to preach, but a snowstorm came on, and only one little girl was present. Yet he went through the service as carefully as if many were present. He spoke to the little girl, whose heart was won to God. He felt that no sermon of his was better repaid, for, to his knowledge, the girl was the means of

bringing some twenty-five persons to Christ, including some of his own sons.

We have not before us all our Conference statistics, but choose two sets of figures to hand. Our New Zealand schools show an increase of 199 scholars for the last year; and from the schools there were added to the churches 155 out of the total of 312 who were baptised during the year, 49.6. Victorian returns tell of an increase of 478 scholars, and show that 455, out of a total number of 1005 who confessed Christ, were added to the churches from the schools. In New Zealand, then, 49.6 per cent., and in Victoria 45.5 per cent. of the additions by faith and baptism came from the Bible School. This is a wonderful thing. We are not going to be so foolish as to claim all credit for the teachers. Till the day of judgment, at least, we shall be unable to say what portion of the credit will be given to parents, teachers, preachers or others. It may fairly be said that these converts were most easily won, will stand the test best, and (since in this business-like age we must make reference to finance) cost the least. Bible School work is the most productive work in the world. At present it is the cheapest, in the sense that we spend far less on it than we do in other departments of service. If we spent most on it, it would still be the cheapest in proportion to the results.

The poet has beautifully put the supreme lesson of the productiveness of the work into the following lines:—

"An angel paused in his onward flight,  
With a seed of love and truth and right,  
And said, 'Oh, where can this seed be sown,  
Where 'twill yield most fruit when fully grown?  
To whom can this precious seed be given,  
That it will bear most fruit for earth and heaven?'  
'The Saviour heard and said, as he smiled,  
'Place it at once in the heart of a child.'  
The angel whispered the blessed truth  
To a weary teacher of precious youth.  
Her face grew bright with heavenly light,  
As she led their thoughts in the ways of right."



# Invest! Invest! Invest!

W. R. Hibburt.

A few days ago there was forwarded to our Central Church Office a shareholder's certificate for ten shares, with the instruction that it was to become the property of the Home Mission Committee. In high glee we hastened around to the Company's office, to learn its value, but to our disappointment we were informed that the Company was in liquidation, and that a share was only worth 4/2. Upon returning, our attention was called to an advertisement headed, Invest! Invest! Invest! The mind was in such a mood that it revolted against the idea of investment after our recent experience. It asked for a certain guarantee before it could entertain the idea.

## An investment.

During the last few years the church has been urged to invest and invest and still further invest in Bible School work. The statement has been made that it is a good and wise investment. But now we are in such a mental frame that we ask for the guarantee.

## A guarantee of large dividends.

The business instinct surrounding an investment leads one to make an inquiry upon the merits of the proposition. In arriving at a decision, we canvass the members of the church, and find that over 80 per cent. of the membership has been drawn from the Bible School. We instantly turn to our Western Australian records and learn that over 1300 scholars have confessed Christ and become members of the church since the year 1900. To test these conclusions, we seek the advice of others whose opinions are respected. Lloyd George says:

"All the best training I ever had was in a Sunday School. It is what has chiefly enabled me to do my work. The best university is the Sunday School, and it is by far the most excellent way of conveying religious instruction."

Wm. E. Gladstone states that:

"The Sunday School is the world's greatest institution for popularising the world's greatest Book."

The Hon. John W. Foster issues a challenge, saying:

"I challenge you to name any institution which has done as much for the greatness and welfare of our country as has the Sunday School."

H. J. Heinz testifies that:

"The Sunday School pays larger dividends than any other investment I make. It is doing more for character building and good citizenship with the coming generation than any other Christian agency."

## A great spiritual transformation.

The "West Australian," our morning daily, has just illustrated another potent reason for the investment in the headline, "A Great Economic Transformation." In

1894, Western Australia was a great gold State, aroused from its long apathy, and made great by gold, and dependent almost entirely upon the mining industry for its prosperity. In that year the State Parliament passed the Agricultural Bank Act, and in 1895 the Agricultural Bank commenced business. Little did the legislators who passed the measure realise that the infant bank, virtually by its financial activities, was destined within three decades to place the State's prosperity and progress upon a foundation of golden grain instead of one of golden ore.

The church is in a very real sense a bank, a repository of much of God's power, his servants' power, knowledge, ability, energy and opportunity. But this must be invested before it can be reproductive. The Bible School offers the church the opportunity to play a counterpart in the spiritual realm to the Agricultural Bank in the realm of economics. In the Bible School there is much

fertile ground that needs to be cultivated and seed sown yielding a harvest of grain, ripe, golden grain, in Christian character. This tilling and teaching cannot be done without the church investing itself fully in providing the necessary machinery, men and women to prepare the soil, sow the seed, protect the crop, and gather in the golden grain from this fertile field. The fact that it is grain newly matured gives to it the life and power to create other life. There is no greater factor in transforming the kingdoms of this world into the kingdom of our Lord than boys and girls, young men and women.

The Bible School has been referred to as the "gold mine of the church," and it is true in that the school is the church's wealth, and in that the school pays quick returns. We nevertheless prefer to see in the Bible School not the potentialities of a gold mine, but a field of golden grain, which when gathered has life and power to produce another harvest. The Bible School investment is so secure that every church should invest to the utmost limit and every member put his talents into the school to the fullest extent.

# "Wise Unto Salvation."

Horace Kingsbury.

We have heard sometime, somewhere, of a man so incensed by the waywardness of youth that he exclaimed with feeling, "When I was a boy, there was no young and rising generation!" Now, of course, he was wrong. More than likely, when he was a boy, he helped make the boy-problem, and taxed the ingenuity of his seniors to train him in the way he should go, and to hold him for the better things of life.

How easy it is to bewail the times! And who has not been guilty? What if the movies are increasingly popular? What if the card-tables and the dance-floors are seductively appealing? What if parental control is slackening, and respect for morality declining? Well might the angels weep in contemplation! But, weeping will not save us. We must face things as they are, and help to make them as they ought to be. We must accept the challenge of the present hour, and go into the battle of right against wrong in the strength of the Lord.

Our organised work among children and young people deserves the prayerful and practical interest of the brotherhood. Who questions the wisdom of fostering the young life of our churches? Observation of unlovely traits in established characters makes us wonder if better nurture would have given better results. "Vice is preventable: begin with the children," was a favorite slogan with Robert Raikes, of Sunday School fame. Prevention is better than cure, and formation than reformation.

Commissioner Richards, of the Salvation Army, was called to Canada after many valuable lives had been lost in the St. Law-

rence disaster, and the ranks of the officers had been sadly thinned. Cast down, but not forsaken, he went to work with a will to gather in the young and to rebuild for God, and his labors were crowned with success. We may be sure his Australian work will be characterised by this same wise policy. Even a Salvationist realises there is something better than salvage evangelism.

There is hope for the church of the future, if the church of to-day cares for the children, and safeguards the youth. Many a lad's life has written all over it, "Use me or lose me." Perhaps there never was more need than now for an adequate programme of Bible study and expressional activity. Neglected lives soon develop in forbidden ways. Many strong Christian men and women of to-day have cause to thank God for the Bible School of yesterday, and for the choice spirits who fed and tended them in the years of childhood.

And now comes the call for a renewal of interest in the work, and for an expression of confidence in the workers—a call that stirs the hearts of those who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity. Large returns come from wise investments in the work of teaching and training the young in the Word and the will of God, whether those investments be of time or talent, of mind or money. We do well to remember, at such a time as this, that Jesus was moved with indignation when his disciples rebuked those who were bringing children to him, and that he left his own attitude on record in the ever-memorable words: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."



# Bible School Evangelism.

Ira A. Paternoster.

The Indians have a saying regarding the death of a child: "It was written on his forehead." Of India we are not surprised to learn that the estimated death rate for infants is one in every five. In western lands the physical care of the child is a matter of growing concern. So much has it become a charge on the conscience of people that special departments of government and social service have been set apart wholly to care for the child.

With the growth of Christian ideals, the mortality among children has proportionately decreased. From the "World Survey," by the Inter-church World Movement of America, we learn that deaths per 1000 babies in their first year are as follows:—

- China, 550.
- Central Africa (estimated), 530.
- Siam (estimated) 430.
- Japan, 175.
- United States, 120.
- Australia, 75.
- New Zealand, 50.

We are forced to the opinion that the teaching of the principles of Jesus Christ and his example toward children is the chief factor in these figures.

In the American Volume of the World Survey certain facts are revealed, and the first is stated thus:

"1. A Dangerous Situation due to the neglect of the religious training of childhood and youth by the American people, imperilling the safety of the nation, threatening the future of the church, and seriously impeding the Christianising of the world."

Wherever the education of the children from the spiritual aspect is neglected, these results must follow.

Bible School evangelism, therefore, becomes a work of education, and is the business of the church, for from this field we have the right to expect our strongest and most useful Christians.

Doctors are "made" in a Medical School, lawyers in a Law School, and so on. The Bible School is the atmosphere where the heart and mind of the child is prepared for the Christ. This is the purpose, or should be, of all instruction, and parents should be encouraged to expect their children to graduate from the school into the church. Not infrequently parents of other churches delight to send their children to "the Church of Christ School," but object to the said children coming into the church fellowship.

This is something we can never understand, and would suggest that parents should be kept informed of the objective of Bible School teaching.

To the school the preacher must look for his most encouraging returns. This fruit will be "hand picked," and come as the natural response to the training received. For this reason the preacher should be closely

linked to the school. We once went to preach for a church where we were told we would not be expected in the school, but could reserve the Sunday afternoon for visiting, conducting anniversaries, or in whatever way we pleased. Needless to say, this method did not suit, and soon the school became our most active field of endeavor.

No age limit can be set in Bible School evangelism. Parents often object to a boy or a girl as too young. Too young for Christ? Not too young to disobey. Why too young to obey? Our own two boys came to Christ, one before 10 years, and the other before 9 years of age. We learned a valuable lesson in child evangelism during our ministry at Hindmarsh several years ago. A lad had confessed Christ, and we were exercised about baptising him. We stated our doubt to Bro. Wm. Brooker, then superintendent of York Bible School. He replied something like this: "Many years ago, before the chapel at Hindmarsh was built, and baptismal services were conducted in the Torrens River, two little fellows who were considered by some too young to be baptised, were taken into the waters of the Torrens, baptised, and later carried up the steep banks. Those two boys were Bro. Mathews, superintendent of Mile End (at that time) and myself." We South Australians who know Bro. Wm. Brooker, senr., and Wm. Mathews, know their worth to the kingdom of God.

What a golden opportunity the Bible School offers! These returns are not the immediate financial help church officers are looking for, but the pity is we judge too many of our converts by the size of the

pocket-book. Think what many of these children are saved from, and the immense possibilities of their lives. Saved to win others! The strong, robust Christians are those grown in the Bible School where they have been taught at an early age by Spirit-filled teachers to early choose the good food and shun the evil. It is not necessary for a child to be first lost, in order to save him. Why allow the lambs to wander off into the wilds, and then labor, often in vain, to bring them back?

Jesus said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me... for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

The wise church is the one best organised to meet the spiritual needs of the child life. One may be an expert physical instructor, and starve a church or Bible School, for no amount of club life and physical exercise will ever satisfy the spiritual longings of the soul, and where those longings are not functioning, it is the church's duty to provide an atmosphere in which they will.

Some one has said that an aged person won to Christ represents an unit, while a child represents a whole multiplication table.

Support the Bible School with your presence, your praise, your prayers, and your purse.

## Sowing and Reaping.

"The seed I have scattered in springtime with weeping,  
And watered with tears and with dew from on high,  
Another may shout when the harvesters, reaping,  
Shall gather my grain in the 'sweet by-and-bye.'  
"The thorns will have choked and the summer sun  
blasted  
The most of the seed which in springtime I've sown,  
But the Lord, who has watched while my weary  
toil lasted,  
Will grant me a harvest for what I have done."



This shows the first meeting of the Kindergarten Training and Preparation Class held in Melbourne on March 28th. This class is open to all Kindergarten and Primary workers.



# The Value of the Preparation Class.

Miss E. C. Gill.

Efficiency in any department of work demands careful preparation on the part of the worker. The extent of the preparation will be in proportion to the importance and the magnitude of the work undertaken. The work of the Bible School teacher is the highest in which one can be called upon to engage, and if a teacher wishes to attain to the highest standard of efficiency, and to bring the greatest benefit to herself, to her class, and to the work, she will need to affiliate herself with others who are seeking the best of the training or preparation that comes in their way. In past years many teachers have had to depend solely on private preparation, but now the "Preparation Class" is becoming a marked feature of the work in many Bible Schools. While it must be admitted that individual preparation on the part of the teacher is most necessary, still it is evident that class study possesses many extra advantages—the main one being that it stands for unity of aim and thought in the work for the following Sunday, and so is conducive to a better atmosphere in the work. If we consider the aim of the Preparation Class as being not merely to prepare for the lesson of the coming Sunday, but as also including the deepening of the spiritual life of the teachers, the increasing of their knowledge of the Bible and of the child, and a training—in some measure—in methods of teaching, we shall see that the benefits to be derived from such a class will be three-sided—spiritual, mental, social.

*Its Spiritual Benefit.* The study of God's Word, which reveals his will concerning us, helps our spiritual growth.

The united prayers of the class for the work of the department, for the whole body of the teachers, for the children under their care, and for the advance of God's work in the Bible School, will make the work more successful, and the members will become a greater power in their efforts to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Spiritual benefit is also found in the self-sacrifice that must often be made in order to attend these meetings. Many hindrances in the form of attractive entertainments, inclement weather, distance, fatigue of body, come before the teacher, and oftentimes the inclination is to absent one's self. But the consideration of our work as a joy rather than as a duty, will make us glad that we are able to render this loving service to the One who sacrificed his life for us.

In the study of the child, we shall receive spiritual blessing. "A little child shall lead them." The teacher will learn many valuable lessons from the study of the child's simple faith in and loving dependence on his heavenly Father.

*Its Mental Value.* Bible study will bring with it a mental as well as a spiritual culture. To young teachers, especially, is Bible study a necessity, since they are deprived of the advantage of being members of the Senior Bible Class. Every teacher needs to have a knowledge of the Bible, much wider than the knowledge of the lesson chosen for the following Sunday. It will be the duty of the leader, or some other qualified person, to impart this instruction to the members of the class. Mental training is also carried on in the study of the child, by the teacher's own observations, and by the study of books on the subject. The members of the class have an opportunity of discussing problems affecting the children, and of arriving at conclusions as to the best methods of dealing with certain temperaments.

Then, too, the study of the lesson affords mental training. If the lesson is to be given in story form, it must be analysed, simplified, or perhaps more detail added.

The essentials must be stressed, the unimportant parts left out. The method of presenting the lesson must be studied and discussed, the point of contact considered, the aim of the lesson thought out, so that there will be unity throughout the whole of the service on the following Sunday. Mental as well as spiritual benefit is received by

the interchange of thought and experience, and the contributions of different members will prove of value, and be helpful to all.

*Its Social Value.* The meeting together of teachers in a class tends to bring about an intimacy between the members. The backward and shy ones are encouraged and strengthened, and feel better able to appear before their classes at the appointed time. A strong sense of fellowship is developed, and instead of being isolated units, each feels herself to be a member of a united family. This sense of fellowship acts as a magnet, drawing each member to class, and even if teachers are forced to be absent on the Sunday, they will attend the class for the love of it, and for the comradeship they meet there. Not only the teacher reaps the benefit of this class, but it is obvious that the benefit the class bestows on the teacher will be felt by the child through the increased value of the work.

If we would approach more closely to the ideal placed before us by the Master Teacher, we shall need to avail ourselves of every opportunity that presents itself to more fully fit us for His service.

"A year ago I came to Europe and made a diagnosis of the economic situation. This year I came back to Europe to try to write an economic prescription. I am becoming more and more of the opinion that the only solution of the present world difficulties is a spiritual solution."—Frank A. Vanderlip, American Expert in Finance.

# Something Better Than Immigration.

It has been pointed out before that the church's task of extension cannot be achieved in a better or surer way than by the church carefully looking to its own nursery—the Bible School.

The preacher labors to win people, and often enough there seems little response. Frequently what response is made comes from the folk of the "teen" ages.

This condition is daily faced in our churches, and yet the true significance of the problem is unseen or overlooked. That it is infinitely better and easier and cheaper to increase our church membership by building up our population—to wit, serious and continuous Bible School activity—than it is to pursue the oftentimes difficult policy of "immigration"—making our main or sole effort in this latter way—never seems to impress any of us very much. But to sit quietly and think all round the problem, we can come to no other conclusion. "Preach the Gospel!" Yes, and never let us ease up. But why allow preaching to the children to "go slow" as we do.

I know a preacher who sat at his table one day and began to map out his work. First he decided that he and the church had a definite task—to "make disciples." Now what was being done to that end? In connection with that church there was a gospel service, a Bible School, Endeavor Societies, clubs, and what not. The preacher decided that the chief agency in his hands was the Bible School, for reasons something like these: (1) He reached more people. There are bigger attendances at the school than at any other service, and the number of homes opened to him, indirectly, through the school, gave him a wider scope. (2) He got the folk while young. We all know the value of winning a young life, yet most

# The Swelling Tide.

There are indications from many quarters of a rising tide of interest in Bible School work. In our Victorian schools there has been a net increase of teachers and scholars of 604 as against a decrease the previous year of 83. Two schools have come into existence during the year, Boronia and Thornbury, the latter having already passed the century in attendance, though only nine months' old. Many schools made new records of attendance during the year. Ararat, where the Hinrichsen-Brooker missions have raised the church membership from 10 to 175 in less than 12 months, now has a school of over 100 in attendance. Very keen interest is manifest in the Kindergarten and Primary Department, and at least three schools have now in course of erection, or shortly to be erected, new halls to accommodate this and other departments of the school. Teachers are showing a lively interest in the work, and many are taking advantage of Training Classes and other means of better equipping themselves for their task. It has been the privilege of the Organising Secretary to visit many schools, during the year, and he feels that we are facing still greater things in the realm of the Bible School. There is a tide of renewed interest in things religious that is sweeping right round the world. If we can take this tide at the flood, it will lead us to greater things than some of us have ever dreamed of. To help in organisation, to train, instruct and inspire teachers and those who are to be teachers, to encourage and foster the young people's activities in all phases of church life, is the aim and desire of the Bible School and Young People's Department. The results of the year's work show what can be done and of what importance it is. But the tide is just beginning to come in. There are wonderful opportunities opening up before the church in the young people's work. Upon these grounds the Department comes before the brotherhood and asks for endorsement by a liberal offering on May 7th.

of us forget the practical opportunities of doing so in the Bible School. This preacher, however, made most of the opportunity to "start" a life right. (3) He secured a "whole" life for service, and worked for this result as infinitely better than offering the last few years to the Master.

The gospel service was not ignored, but fell into the scheme of things, and had its part in providing an opportunity for the Bible School work to bear its fruit, and remained the "Call" to all who should come to hear the message, whether of the Bible School or not. He considered the Bible School was intensely evangelistic, both in method and aim, and that Bible School teachers were carrying out the Master's "Go preach" in the plainest and surest way.

This emphasis on Bible School work brought about considerable improvement in all directions, and the gospel service, particularly, was better attended as a result.

This is the question: "Where is the emphasis being placed?" and it seems only reasonable to place it on something we have, rather than on something we hope to have. That is, build up the population within our gates.

The Bible School worker sees her work come to fruition when the child of her class is accepted of the Master, and set again in the midst of all. And even if this does not happen in the teacher's knowledge, there is set on the road—a life rightly directed, and none of us can measure the ultimate gain.

It seems that there is no better way of establishing the present life, as well as the future prosperity of a church than by a whole church, wholly interested, the whole time in its Bible School.—C.H.



# God's Beautiful Flowers.

The delightful little essay given below was written by Kathleen Booth, a member of the Lygon-st. Junior Endeavor Society. This little worker made no less than thirty visits to the hospitals with flowers last year. No wonder she can write so well about God's beautiful flowers. She wrote and read the paper as part of the programme for a recent J.C.E. meeting at Lygon-st., and it appears here just as it came from the hand of the little essayist.

God has given us many beautiful and wonderful things. Among these are the flowers.

There are many things we can learn from, even the most common weed.

We could liken ourselves unto a flower, for we know that the flowers are looked after by God, and we, like the flowers, are kept and shown the right way to live.

But all flowers are not as good as others, for sometimes grubs and worms and insects get into them, and they are blighted for their season of living; this is another likeness of flowers and human beings, only the insects in the lives of the flowers are not in our lives, but we have some one worse, who is Satan, God's greatest enemy, trying to take us from God.

Flowers are like a human being's kind words to a person who is ill or in sorrow.

If flowers are given to a sick person, or one who has sadness, they brighten them immensely; this is like a person who gives another a kind, cheery word.

Although we see the beautiful flowers every day, we do not think of the Maker who made all things.

When we look into a flower, we see the way they are so exquisitely colored, and put together, as no human hand or machinery could do. Therefore there must be the Power of God behind it all.

There are not many people who dislike flowers. Do you think anyone should? Why, no! Every one should be glad to think that God thinks so much of us as to give us such a beautiful class of nature.

Think of it! If there were no flowers, there would be no fruit, and no beautiful gardens, and we would not have proper air to breathe in.

The fruit comes after the flower, and so we see that there would be no fruit. If there were no flowers we would not have any of the nice gardens and rockeries we have. Just think! If we went to the Exhibition or Botanical Gardens, would it not be horrid if there was no grass or no flowers?

Now, as there are a lot of lilies growing in Australia, they are not prized as they should be. In England they are not as numerous as they are here, and they take care of them, and they are only used on special occasions. People over there are counted well off if they have a bunch for a wedding.

If God gives the flowers their roots, stems, petals, centres, leaves and their beautiful colors, He must care much more for us.

"All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord hath made them all.  
Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings."

# Kappa Sigma Pi.

The saving of the boy is vitally related to every problem of the nation and the Christian Church. The church itself does not touch the multitude of the boys in many communities, and, as valuable as secular education and social organisations may be, they do not meet nor solve the boy problem.

The centre of the boy's life depends upon religious training and his personal faith in God. Just as soon as boys begin to seek the company of other boys, then do we know that a period of discrimination is about to take place, and at this period just "any kind" of an organisation will not do. The form of the boy's organisation should be determined by the purpose to be expressed or shown in the order, and by the religious point of view of the organiser.

It is observed that many workers think that they "must do something for the boys," and often take up the first plan that is offered, or try to work out some crude plan of their own. Very few go to the basic principles of either the boy nature or the moral and religious laws involved; but these must not be overlooked.

Every consideration is given to these laws by the Kappa Sigma Pi Organisation, as will be seen from the following outline of its aims and objects:

The name "Kappa Sigma Pi" is the Greek equivalent of K.S.P. or (Modern) Knights of St. Paul, and it aims to unite the big boys in a fraternal brotherhood under adult Christian supervision and influence to ensure their moral safety, their salvation to Christ and the church, and their training for Christian leadership.

It was not made; and there is nothing artificial about it. It was born in the experience of a pastor in his effort to save a Sunday School class of seven uninterested boys, and to gather in forty more who were running the streets without religious influence. It is based on the realisation that a broader vision and revised methods are necessary to reclaim the boys for the church, and

to break the church of the habit of following the line of least resistance in dealing with boys.

The organisation meets the boy on his own plane, with its physical, moral, social, spiritual, and fraternal features. It provides a normal approach to the Christian life, leading the big boys of the Sunday School into the church, and interesting them in church work at a period when most boys feel that they are too old for Sunday School, drift out, and are lost.

The work is in three degrees, leading the boy naturally into the life of Christian service. The order of Jerusalem enlists him in the Sunday School and pledges him to lead a right life, such as Paul led as a boy; the order of Damascus reveals to him the heavenly vision and commits him to the Christian life; and the order of Rome affiliates him with his own church and trains him for heroic service and leadership.

Further, the organisation is international as well as interdenominational, and is rapidly becoming the foremost Christian organisation for boys in the entire world, having for its principles "the acceptance of Christ as the boy's Saviour and Commander, and the selection of St. Paul as his type of heroic and manly character."—From "Young Manhood" Department of the "Southern Cross," by H. Campbell.

"When once the Church sees the possibilities of the Bible School, and goes to work with consecrated business sense, we may rightfully expect to see the knowledge of Christ cover the earth, as 'the waters cover the sea.'—P. H. Welshimer.

# Building the Breach.

Reg. Enniss.

Rather more than a year ago the Committee controlling the Bible School and Young People's Department yielded to the writer's urging, released him from part-time service and appointed Bro. Blakemore to devote his time to work among our schools and with our young people. At the time some questioned the soundness of the undertaking from the standpoint of finance, others seemed uncertain that one could profitably use all his time in such work, and all felt that the move was in the nature of an experiment.

To-day probably nobody questions the wisdom of the Committee's action, and all feel that the Organiser has done a notable work. Sunday School teachers and those specially interested in young people—those best able to judge the practical value of the work done—speak most highly of the help received.

The work of the Department is indicated by the above title. Our churches have done well in years gone by. The gospel has been preached faithfully, men and women have diligently taught the children the Word of God, and the preaching and teaching has been blessed to the conversion of young and old. But somehow many of our young people failed to develop as we wished them to do; the world made successful inroads upon our young life, and we have been very conscious of a serious breach somewhere, through which a considerable percentage of our gains were lost to us. Bro. Blakemore and his Department exist, among other things, to build again the breach.

During the year much has been done to this end. Members of Sunday Schools, Bible Classes, Christian Endeavor Societies, Physical Culture Classes, Improvement Societies, Musical Societies, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, have been made to feel that they have a Department of Conference specially seeking their good. Our young people in High Schools and at the University have been led to see that the church, through its organised Young People's Department, has a care for them. Our noble band of Sunday School teachers and leaders of Young People's organisations have been instructed, inspired, encouraged.

The brotherhood throughout Victoria will not lack in appreciation of what has been done. The brethren will understand the bearing of this work upon the future of our churches; they will applaud the plans of Bro. Blakemore and his department; they will on May 7 give liberally of their means to enable the good work to continue.

## A Word from the Chairman

of Victorian Bible School Department.

J. Sharp.

The education of a child is defective unless attention is given to the proper development of his bodily, mental, and spiritual powers.

No matter what may be the bodily and mental attainments, unless the spiritual side has been given due prominence, the education is a failure. The State does not undertake this essential. The responsibility of imparting religious education rests with the parents and the church. The Bible School supplies, in a great measure, this great need.

To be successful, the teacher should be well equipped for the task. A consecrated life is the first essential, without which the requisite influence on the scholars will be wanting. To the consecrated life, knowledge and the power to impart it should be added. It is the function of the Bible School Department to help teachers to obtain this knowledge and skill. Teachers are invited to forward to the Organiser their problems and difficulties. As far as possible help will be given. Suggestions will receive due consideration.

Upon the training of the young, the future destiny of our nation depends. The church, the parents, the teachers must realise, and inculcate in the growing mind the truth, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven, and all these things shall be added unto you."



# Helping and Holding the Adolescent

W. Gale.

Adolescence is the golden period of life. "Come this period when it may," says John Watson, "at twelve or sixteen, it closes the door on childhood and opens it on manhood." To watch the unfolding life, as one would the unfolding of a beautiful rose from its bud, is a most fascinating and instructive employment. From such a study one comes fully conscious of the crisis of adolescence—for crisis it is, indeed. This is a period, "dwarfing the years that have gone before, and swallowing those to come." Adolescence is like to spring, when the sap stirs within the trees, and powers undreamed of clamor for expression, the individual an enigma, not only to others, but also to self. Now it is that the great world makes its first most telling appeal, and a vision of life's duties and possibilities dawns upon the soul. It is at this time, especially if the past has been nurtured in a Bible School or Christian home, that the soul becomes most deeply impressed with the call of God. All unknown to self, with strange imaginations, a host of unknown voices calling, youth lays the foundations for character, and selects the path to be trodden, which not infrequently determines the eternal destiny.

Happy the adolescent who has a wise, alert, and painstaking Bible School teacher or Bible Class leader, to whom he can breathe his confidences, and from whom he can receive guidance—conscious and unconscious.

Here it is that the Bible School may become one of the greatest factors in settling the course, or correcting the course of life. It has been the "Helping Hand," assuring a "safe passage" to un-

told numbers who have placed their feet upon the stepping-stones set into position by the Bible School at this ford in the river of life. Youth craves for friendship, though oftentimes it is slow to express it, and confidence comes but slowly. Here the many excellent organisations—as the K.S.P., C.E., etc.—together with the Bible School—assist at one of life's most critical "crossing-places."

Youth requires to be built around with a wall of Christian influences, and congenial company. Opportunity should here be provided for self-expression—channels should be opened for the expression of the awakening spirit of altruism, and the desire to serve. Do something he must, for the pressure runs high in the gauge, and into the channels of missionary activity, Christian Endeavor's manifold operations, the modern departmental Bible School's specialised departments, the wise and feeling teacher and leader will pilot the adolescent, and here encourage the loosing of youth's seemingly superfluous energies into channels that will make for adequate self-expression, and the direction of life's course into the "way everlasting."

We must not slacken here. Bro. Blakemore's work is telling in a thousand lives; yea, and more—ten thousand teachers and scholars in our Victorian schools, and hundreds of others in the young people's organisations look to him for guidance, and from him draw inspiration for this arduous task.

"Greater than ever" must be our slogan for offering and effort in this new Conference year.

The Bambra-road school has just completed its second year. The average attendance for March was around the 150 mark. The prospects are very bright for this splendid new cause.

£350 from our churches and schools on May 7th is the amount needed to carry forward the work of the Bible School and Young People's Department. Every church and every member should have a share in the offering.

## Cans and Can'ts.

"It can't be done. We haven't the money, and what's more, we simply can't get it. No use trying. Better let visions and optimists and all such things severely alone. Better go slow—at least until we pay off the mortgage on the chapel. It will be time enough then to talk about building a hall for the Sunday School, and for those young people's clubs." So wailed the Can'ts.

Then the Cans came forward, and said, "It can be done. The children are at our door by the hundreds; we are losing our adolescents for lack of accommodation for young people's activities. We believe that progress is as essential to the church as to other institutions. The need is urgent, the field is promising. We have caught a vision of greater things. We are poor, it is true. But it can be done."

Whether such a discussion ever took place in the North Richmond church, the writer of these notes does not know. If they ever had Can'ts there he is not aware of them. What he does know is that they have a good number of the Can family in that congregation. A few years ago the men and women of that church caught a vision of bigger things for the Bible School and their young people's work. They had little financial strength, their resources were limited. But the work could not make progress without more room and better equipment for the young people. They had vision and faith. The Cans said, "It must be done."

The result—a commodious hall in which the large and increasing Bible School is housed, and where various young people's organisations meet during the week. Since the erection of that hall, the church has moved steadily forward. But a debt of three hundred pounds was left on the new property. Enough to give the Can'ts something to wail over till Doomsday. Six months ago the Cans said, "We ought to clear off that debt by the 19th of March, just a few days before the mortgage falls due."

Sunday, the 19th of March, was the last day for the raising of the money. It was the evening of the writer to be present afternoon and evening for the Bible School anniversary services. The gatherings were large, the singing by the school was excellent, the tone of both meetings was uplifting, and to cap it all, the announcement was made that the £300 was in hand. On Monday evening, the 27th, a church social was held to celebrate the paying off of the debt. Then the Can'ts said, "We can hold up a while now. Better go slow." But the Cans are saying, "We can't. Have to have a hall for our Kindergarten and Primary Department." And so the church is already planning to continue its building to meet the needs of the work. What a wonderful thing it is for a church to get the Bible School vision!

Success comes in cans,  
Failure in can'ts.

**MAY 7th.**  
ANNUAL OFFERING  
for  
VICTORIAN BIBLE SCHOOL  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.  
**A Day for Gilt-Edged  
Investments.**

£350 required to carry forward the  
Department's Programme.

Every Church and Every Member  
Have a Share.

## Victorian Bible School Notes.

455 scholars were added to the church last year by confession and baptism.

There are 1313 teachers in our schools; this is 12½ per cent. of the total church membership.



We are pleased to present to our readers Miss Tidd, of the Brighton (Victoria) Bible School, who is in her twelfth year of unbroken attendance. She, along with others, will receive the Bible School Department's Gold Medal at the United Demonstration on the 18th inst.

The St. Kilda school is enjoying a season of renewed interest and increased attendance. The average for March was 95, the highest in the history of the school. A new hall for Sunday School and young people's work is being planned.

The Organising Secretary of the Bible School Department visited French Island in February, and organised a little Sunday School, the only one on the island. A recent report indicates good interest and an increase in scholars.

The Bible Schools of this State have reached their highest enrolment, 10,799 teachers and scholars.

Since 1902 there have been 5953 scholars added to the churches.

The Bible School and Young People's Department is now in a position to confer a gold medal

upon all teachers and scholars who have attained a ten years' record of unbroken attendance at Bible School. The medals to be conferred at the forthcoming Conference Demonstration are kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. T. Mitchell, of the Swanston-st. church.

Very fine interest is being shown in the Kindergarten Training and Preparation Class organised by the Young People's Department. Over fifty teachers were in attendance on the first two nights. The class will meet weekly on Tuesday nights. Watch the "Christian" for announcement of place.



Miss Elsie Burgess, of the St. Kilda School, has a record of 12 years of unbroken attendance. She will receive the Bible School Department's Gold Medal at the forthcoming Conference Demonstration. Miss Burgess belongs to a family whose record for faithful attendance would be hard to beat. She, two younger sisters, and a younger brother, have a combined record of unbroken attendance of 32 years. One of the sisters, aged nine, has attended since she was two years old without missing a Sunday. Much credit must be given to the father and mother, both of whom are faithful workers in the school, for the interest and faithfulness of their children.



# New Church Building

at Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Queensland.

The erection of a Bible School and chapel at Harlaxton has been an ideal with the Toowoomba brethren for the last ten years.

Last year through the generosity of Bro. A. Marriage, we purchased a block of land from a brother.

The suggestion being made that we should attempt its erection in a day, the writer was commissioned to organise with that end in view. Fifteen skilled carpenters gave their services.

Our especial thanks are due to Mr. F. H. Chamberlain and his sons for their most generous help and backing in getting out the plans and specifications for the building; to Alderman E. P. Kimmins, who, with his entire staff, helped by Mr. F. Johnston, was responsible for the roofing and plumbing of the building; to Bren. Elliott and Hindmarsh as the Building Committee, and to the hand of willing sisters who supplied breakfast, dinner and tea, with generous supplies of refreshments between. Sister Voll, from Meringandan, generously cocked a half-dozen fowls, and sent them in ready to be dished up to the workers. Bro. Mark Wilson, from Warwick, kindly journeyed to Toowoomba on the Friday evening, began work at 6.30 on Saturday morning, and toiled until after

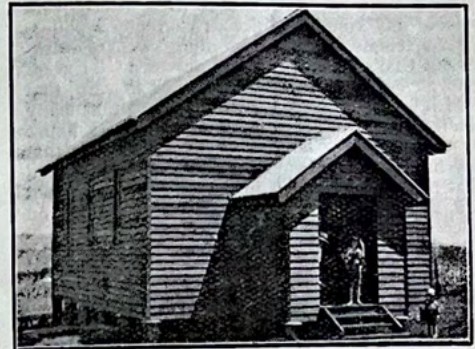
6 o'clock in the evening, rushing off at the last minute to catch his train home to Warwick.

On Sunday, February 26, the building was opened by Mrs. W. H. Groom, mother of the Hon. L. E. Groom, Federal Attorney-General, and widow of Toowoomba's Grand Old Man, the late Hon. W. H. Groom, and dedicated to the service of God and the people of Harlaxton. The writer conducted the dedication service.

This building is the only church building in a populous and growing suburb of Toowoomba. We have an excellent staff of local preachers who will regularly hold forth the word in it.

Mention must be made of the Bible School work. Some ten years ago, during Bro. Parslow's time in Toowoomba, the work was started among the children. Bro. and Sister Virgen opened their home for this work, and at one time nearly 100 scholars were enrolled. After some time a tent was erected and used until it fell to pieces and was destroyed by the weather. Then the school moved into a dance hall for a time, but this being sold and removed, for a brief space the scholars met in a private house. Finally application was made some three years ago for the use of the Harlaxton State School. This was obtained, but the children

were not favorable to attending under those conditions, and many scholars left. During these ten years the following brethren have acted in the capacity of superintendent: Bren. J. Virgen, T. Crane, Reeve, senr., Little, E. Reeve, junr., and E. Hindmarsh. The last-named is our present superintendent, and is rightly esteemed for his devotion to the work.—G. E. Burns.



New Building at Harlaxton, Qld.

## An Easter Service.

By last American mail Bro. Kingsbury, of the Swanston-st. church, Melbourne, received a copy of "The Expositor," containing a programme of a suggested Easter service which had appeared in "The Continent," prepared by Mr. E. A. McAlpine, junr. It was thought that the service was within the scope of most congregations, especially of those without help of extra musical talent, and the author further remarked that the effect should be exceedingly helpful and provocative of spiritual uplift for hearers brought so near to the cross by the Scriptures used and the great hymns of the church available, which were so appropriate to the occasion. While specially appropriate at Easter period, the service would be helpful at any time. The programme, slightly adapted to local needs, is printed, so that our churches may have the opportunity of using same should they desire, and is as follows:—

### A MUSICAL EASTER SERVICE.

"The Seven Words From the Cross."

(Hymns from Sankey 1200 Edition.)

Voluntary—"We would see Jesus" (Mendelssohn) (Sankey, 925.)

Hymn No. 139—"Beneath the Cross of Jesus." Invocation.

Announcements.

Scripture Lesson—John 19: 1-24.

Hymn No. 316—"Sweet the Moments."

Talk—"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Solo—"There is a Green Hill Far Away."

Or Hymn.

Talk—"Verily, I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

Prayer.

Choir, Hymn No. 1173—"Though your Sins be as Scarlet."

Talk—"Woman, behold thy son!"—"Behold thy mother!"

Hymn No. 115—"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

Talk—"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?"

Hymn No. 237—"Rock of Ages."

Talk—"I thirst." "It is finished."

Hymn (or quartette), No. 1184—"Tis Finished." (Or 236 in Church Hymn Book.)

Talk—"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Hymn No. 581—"Nearer, my God, to Thee!"

Benediction.

Vesper.

Choir Hymn, No. 134—"Near the Cross."

# In the Religious World.

## Bible Society Secretary Resigns.

It is announced that, after ten years hard and valuable service willingly rendered at all times in the work of the Society, Mr. Edwin Daniel has, for private reasons, resigned his position as General Secretary of the Victorian Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Executive Committee has requested Mr. Fred. G. Barley to return to the office temporarily, and he has consented to do so in an honorary capacity.

## Dean Inge and Quakerism.

"The Quakers, in their uncompromising condemnation of war, have testified consistently to their belief in the wisdom of the New Testament, and may claim that if they had been able to make their views prevail, Europe would have been spared four years of scientific butchery and most unscientific expenditure," writes Dean Inge in the "Contemporary Review." "It is not surprising, then, that some notable conversions to Quakerism among persons of high intellectual culture have lately occurred, and that even in the Anglican Church attempts have been made to introduce the most characteristic Quaker service, the silent prayer meeting."

## Bishop Brent Joins Fight on Narcotics.

The abuse of narcotics in this country is a serious evil, and it is now being combatted by the Narcotic Drug Control League, says the "Christian Century," U.S.A. At a meeting of this organisation recently, Bishop Brent said: "When we take up the abuse of narcotics we approach a symptom rather than the disease itself. The disease is the chief disease of human nature—lack of self-control, speaking negatively, or self-indulgence, speaking positively. Whatever we may do in the way of restriction and legislative enactment to combat this evil, its elimination and cure is to be found only in the creation of character. We can minimise the temptation for the weak. We can protect children and the ignorant, we can treat the addict. This is the limit of our possibilities. But it is worth doing. In short it is our solemn duty to do it."

## American Pri-oners.

Certain goals in the United States have repeated the experiment of releasing some of their long-term prisoners for a holiday in the Christmas sea-

son (says "The Christian"). On giving their word of honor that they would return to prison on a certain day after the festival, the prisoners were allowed to go home and spend the short time with their friends and families. The prison reformers who suggested the kindly experiment are greatly rejoiced with its entire success. Every prisoner thus released returned to his prison punctually at the time appointed. This encourages the authorities to move still further in the direction of concessions from the rigor of prison life and servitude. The idea that the discipline of a gaol ought to be curative, rather than vengeful, is gaining ground. Patience, good-will, and trustfulness are suffered to play their part in lifting up the fallen. This is Christlike. Great Britain might well follow!

## Sydney Agricultural Show on Good Friday.

The well-known tea merchants, Messrs. Griffiths Bros., have for many years had a kiosk at the Sydney Agricultural Show for the sale of tea and such like refreshments, says "The Australian Christian World." The firm, although they paid for the use of the kiosk on Good Fridays, as on other days, never opened on Good Friday. This year they were told by the Agricultural Show authorities that unless they opened on Good Friday they could not have the kiosk they had rented for years—or indeed any other similar place in the show ground. This is a most hopeful move, however scandalous in itself, towards the closing of the show on Good Friday. The old saying that whom the gods condemn they first demet was never better exemplified. Anything more foolish, to say nothing of its wickedness, it is difficult to imagine. There is a tide of public feeling rising against the opening of the show on Good Friday, and we venture to say the authorities at Moore Park have greatly helped the conscience of the community to a healthy decision by the action they have taken.

Messrs. Griffiths Bros. issued a circular explaining why they would not be represented at the coming Sydney Show. Commenting on this the "Church Record" says: "If only other firms and patrons of the show who share the Christian conviction as to the sacredness of the Day of the Cross would follow this excellent example, the committee would probably find it necessary to review their past decisions."



# The Family Altar.

J. C. Ferd. Pittman.

## BUILDING FOR GOD.

David knew right well that it is utterly vain to build any kind of edifice; a character, a philosophy, a temple, unless, in so doing, we are working out God's plans as well as our own. "Except Jehovah build the house, they labor in vain that build it." An architect once complained that many clients came to him asking him to build a house for them, only to let him speedily discover that they have already designed it for themselves, and what they really want is his sanction of their own plan, and the satisfaction of seeing him draw on paper what they have fully in mind.

In the spiritual world, also, too many build according to their own designs. We must do all things "according to the pattern" shown us "in the mount." All our edifices will be overthrown unless the omnipotent One builds for us. However strong the building may appear to be; however carefully it may have been reared; the whole fabric will fall to pieces, and leave us homeless—unless we commit our all to Him who is willing to help us to build, and to keep secure against attacks of enemies, our building shall fall as a house of cards amid a strong wind, and all our labor will be in vain.

APRIL 16.

### Saul's Jealousy.

And Saul cast the spear; for he said, I will smite David to the wall.—1 Samuel 18: 11.

"Trifles, light as air,  
Are to the jealous confirmations strong  
As proofs of Holy Writ."—Shakespeare.

"Stones are not thrown except at the fruit-laden tree." "The most fruit-laden lives invite criticism, and excite opposition."

Bible Reading.—1 Samuel 18: 1-16.

APRIL 17.

### Jonathan's Love for David.

And Jonathan caused David to swear again, for the love that he had to him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.—1 Samuel 20: 17.

Jonathan's love for David led him to sacrifice his own interests. Dr. Macleod has said, "A man may be a miser of his wealth; he may tie up his talent in a napkin; he may hug himself in his reputation, but he is always generous in his love. Love cannot stay at home; a man cannot keep it to himself. Like light, it is constantly travelling. A man must spend it; must give it away."

Bible Reading.—1 Samuel 20: 1-11.

APRIL 18.

### The Cave of Adullam.

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.—1 Samuel 22: 1.

"Once Dr. Andrew Bonar went to see an old bed-ridden man who reminded him of a sermon he had preached ten years before. "I mind," the old man said, "you spoke about the cave of Adullam. Do you like the cave, and do you like the Captain? Then come in—come in—no other condition." Man, it sank into my heart like oil."—Jane Stoddart.

APRIL 19.

### Sacrificing for Another.

Fear not; for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee.—1 Samuel 13: 17.

A chaplain was visiting a dying soldier. "Would you like me to read the Bible?" "Sir, I am thirsty; I would rather drink." The chaplain brought a drink. The soldier said, "Sir, I want a pillow

under my head." A pillow was brought immediately, and placed under his head. The chaplain put his haversack under the pillow, and made him comfortable. Then the soldier said, "I'm so cold." His friend put his coat over him. Then the soldier said, "Now, sir, thank you; and if there is anything in that book that teaches a man to do anything like what you have done for me, please read it to me."

Bible Reading.—1 Samuel 23: 15-18.

APRIL 20.

### Wonderful Love Remembered.

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant hast thou been to me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.—2 Samuel 1: 26.

In a letter written in 1868, Canon Ainger wrote, "How pleasant it is to love people! I often get a strong flush of comfort out of these great words—'Hereby we know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.'"

Bible Reading.—2 Samuel 1: 17-27.

APRIL 21.

### David Plans to Build a Temple.

The king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.—2 Samuel 7: 2.

In the work of building up the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we should all be most earnestly engaged. Dr. Dan. Crawford, the African missionary, says that the wild tribes among whom he labored are skilled in carving in red mahogany, and that before starting a day's work they offer this prayer: "O God, Thou hast made all things beautiful, but we must lend thee a hand."

"Build it well, whate'er you do,  
Build it straight, and strong, and true;  
Build it clean and high and broad;  
Build it for the eye of God."

Bible Reading.—2 Samuel 7: 1-13.

APRIL 22.

### Kindness to Mephibosheth.

And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake.—2 Samuel 9: 1.

"At Jerry McCawley's death, a friend came, with every sign that he had once been a drunkard, and leaned over his coffin, weeping, and saying, "I have lost the best friend I ever had; he came and lifted me up."

Bible Reading.—2 Samuel 9.

PRAYER.

O Lord, I pray Thee to give me grace to build for thee. May I also remember that all human effort is unavailing unless thou dost plan and build for us. Every human edifice will one day be overthrown. Father, I would build for thee, and with thee. I desire to help build up the church, the Sunday School, and any agency of service of which thou dost approve. Strengthen me for this task, and let thy presence and blessing ever be with me, lest my work be in vain; for Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEREAVEMENT NOTICE.

Mrs. A. D. Morris, son and daughter-in-law, desire to thank their many friends for their letters, cards, visits and personal expressions of sympathy, in the passing away of their beloved husband and father. Will all friends accept this intimation of our deep gratitude to all friends?—Mrs. A. D. Morris, Goulbourn-st., Cheltenham.

## DEATH.

PALLOT.—On April 7, at Maud-st., Shepparton, darling little Marjorie, 4 years old, taken home to Jesus; only child of Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Pallot, and loving little grandchild of Mrs. W. Pallot, Mulwala, N.S.W.

Around the throne of God in heaven,

Thousands of children stand,

Whose sins are all through Christ forgiven,

A holy, happy band.

## Anzac Day Celebrations.

The President of the Federal Conference has received the following announcement from Mr. P. E. Deane, Secretary to the Prime Minister, and begs to direct the attention of churches thereto:—"I am directed to inform you that arrangements have been made by the Commonwealth Government for the observance of Anzac Day on Tuesday, 25th April. It is considered that the day should be observed in a manner worthy of the solemnity and significance of the event it stands for, and the Commonwealth Government has asked through the press that memorial services be held in all the churches on the morning of the 25th April—11 a.m. being suggested as a suitable time. In the afternoon arrangements have been made between the Defence Department and the Returned Soldiers' Association for presentation of Victory Medals in every centre throughout Australia at which there are recipients. It is understood that in some of the churches consideration is being given to a proposal that memorial services should be held in the afternoon. It is hoped however, that the holding of services will be confined to the morning, as otherwise a large number of soldiers and others, who would be desirous of attending the services, will be debarred from so doing. In the circumstances, the Commonwealth Government would be glad if arrangements could be made to ensure, as far as possible, uniformity of action throughout the Commonwealth in regard to the celebration of Anzac Day."

## WANTED.

Wanted, work by young married man, with family in desperate circumstances. Laborer, handy with carpenter's tools (has own tools). Urgent. Particulars, Jas. W. Nichols, Secretary, Churches of Christ Benevolent Department, "St. Leonards," 8 Edgar-st., East Malvern.

## IN MEMORIAM.

STUBBIN.—In loving memory of Leonard Harold Stubbin, who died for his country April 18th, 1918, aged 20 years and 2 months.

"Life's highest mission he fulfilled,"

And bravely answered duty's call.

Gone, but will never be forgotten.

—Inserted by his loving grandmother, L. Colvin.

SYMES.—In loving memory of our dear mother, who passed away April 12, 1912, at Harcourt.

Ten years, its changes bring.

"Though death divides, fond memory clings."

—Inserted by her daughters, A. F. Michell and O. M. Horton.

## COMING EVENTS

APRIL 16.—Church of Christ, Swanston-st., Melbourne. Conference Sunday Arrangements.—It is intimated that our accommodation will only allow entertainment at Lunch and Tea for Conference Delegates, Interstate Visitors, and Invited Guests. We regret that we cannot provide for suburban friends.

APRIL 22 (Saturday).—Back to Brunswick (Glenlyon-road). Home-coming and opening new hall by Conference President, Bro. J. E. Thomas. Tea meeting, 6 p.m.; tickets, 1/-; children, 9d. Public meeting, 8 p.m., free. Good programme. Special speakers. Many of the old members and friends have announced their intention of coming. Will others do the same? Communicate with W. B. Jenkin, 26 Warburton-st., Brunswick. Phone, Bruns. 662.

APRIL 30.—Hampton Mission Commencement. Visitors heartily welcomed. Help to develop the work in this growing district.

Prahran.—Great Gospel Mission in the Chapel, High-st., near Hornby-st., continues throughout this week and Sunday next. Ira A. Paternoster, evangelist; Miss Campbell, soloist. Special service, next Sunday evening, commencing at 6.45. Subject, "Days of Waiting." Special music by the choir, under the leadership of Bro. Hudson. Come and visit the mother church of Victoria.

MAY 7.—Annual Offering in all Victorian Churches for Bible School and Young People's Department. An opportunity for gilt-edge investments.



# Here and There.

One confession at Berri, S.A., on Sunday evening week, Bro. C. H. Hunt preaching.

All meals in connection with the Victorian Conference will be served at Lygon-st. in the school hall at the cost of one shilling.

We learn that there have been 60 decisions in the Hinrichsen-Brooker mission at Maryborough, Vic. The mission was to have closed on Monday night.

Bro. Fred. T. Saunders, of Balaklava, S.A., is to succeed Bro. Clive Taylor as evangelist at Carnegie, Vic., and Bro. W. L. Ewers, of W.A., is to take the work in the Balaklava district.

For help in collecting and preparing material for this special issue, we are indebted to Bro. W. B. Blakemore, B.A., Organiser of our Victorian Bible School and Young People's Department.

The following telegram from W.A. reached us on Tuesday:—"Result Harward mission Claremont, twenty-two souls taken alive for Christ. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, and offer unto him thanksgiving.—Marsden."

Last Saturday evening the members of the Adult Bible Class connected with the Grote-st., Adelaide, church, invaded the home of Bro. and Sister Hagger, and presented them with some beautiful tokens of their love and appreciation, in view of their early departure for W.A.

Bro. Robt. Harkness, B.A., evangelist with the church at Unley, S.A., is to meet W. H. Scott Bennett, Rationalist lecturer, in debate on the evenings of May 9, 11, 16, and 18, in Adelaide. The propositions to be discussed are: "Has Christianity been of any benefit to mankind?" and "Is the Jesus of the Gospels a Myth?"

The South Australian Sunday School Union, as well as the Victorian Bible School Department, makes the annual appeal to the churches and schools on May 7 for financial support. In view of the importance of this work, and the opportunities now open for carrying out an aggressive programme, there should be a liberal offering.

There will be no meeting of the Kindergarten Training and Preparation Class next Tuesday, the 18th, on account of the Bible School and Young People's Demonstration at the Masonic Hall. The meetings will be resumed on Tuesday, the 25th, at Lygon-st. chapel, when there will be two sessions of the class meeting at 6.45 and 8 o'clock respectively.

The Executive of the South Australian Sunday School Union had an invitation to utilise some of the space in this special Bible School and Young People's issue, but up to the time of going to press their copy had not come to hand. The brethren of South Australia are reminded, however, that the offering is to be taken on the first Lord's day in May for the support of the Sunday School Union's work.

The coming of Bro. J. R. Combridge to take the lead in the work in Ballarat East has given fresh hopes for the future in that populous centre. The promising school gathered in under Bro. Connor's guidance is a very encouraging feature, and increasing attendances have come to hear Bro. Combridge at the gospel service. At each of the last two Sunday evenings there has been a decision for the Master.

Good times are being experienced at Malvern-Caulfield, Vic. After the strenuous mission Bro. Illingworth was invited to join a motor party going via Gippsland to Sydney, and during his absence the church has become indebted to Bren. Huntsman, Bagley, Whately, Russell and Ball for their help in addressing the church. The Bible School is gaining new scholars each Sunday, and interest is excellent in the J.C.E.

At Norwood, S.A., on Sunday, April 9, Bro. Beiler was farewell after three years' ministry with the church. Bro. Beiler gave farewell messages to the church at the morning meeting, to the Sunday School in the afternoon, and preached a powerful sermon at the evening service. At the close two young girls confessed Christ. Sister Mrs. Letchford rendered a solo sweetly, and the choir gave a special farewell anthem. The services were well attended.

H. G. Harward, Federal Evangelist, is leaving Perth, W.A., on April 15. Correspondents may address letters to 99 Alt-st., Ashfield, Sydney.

Two or three churches in Melbourne have already availed themselves of the advice and services of a young man, who is now at Glen Iris, and who has had splendid success in boys' club work, and who can help other churches in this way. If any are concerned about their boys' work, want to start a club or society, and do not know the best way to go about it, they could not do better than to ask the Organising Secretary of the Bible School and Young People's Department, 70 Power-st., Hawthorn, to put them in touch with this capable man.

This special issue exalts the child and honors the faithful Bible School teacher. We cannot esteem too highly the devoted men and women who give their time and labor to the work. Deep consecration, a love and knowledge of God's Word, and a sincere affection for the scholars, are the characteristics of a successful teacher. There have been cases where misguided superintendents put in unconverted people ostensibly to teach children the way of life. Such a practice is akin to packing a church choir with singers who never made the decision for Christ. Personal consecration is the first essential. An unconverted preacher on the public platform would be no greater anomaly than an unconverted teacher.

At Prahran, Vic., since last Tuesday, when the tent was blown down again, the mission services have been conducted in the chapel. Every evening has seen some decisions for Christ. A fine gathering on Sunday morning, and a full house at night to hear Bro. Paternoster's address on "Christian Union." At the close two young men confessed Christ, and a young married woman, who had been out of touch, renewed her vows. At a young people's service in the afternoon six girls from the Bible School confessed their faith in Jesus as their Saviour. So far there have been seventeen confessions and three restorations. The meetings continue throughout this week, and probably next week. Visiting brethren especially welcomed.

During the past month Moreland (Vic.) services were very bright. Record gatherings at both Sunday and evening services. Bro. Fretwell, from Mildura, spoke both morning and evening of April 2 before splendid gatherings. Church quarterly social held on Thursday evening, 6th inst.; good attendance. Bro. R. Lyall presided, and a splendid programme was enjoyed; afterwards supper. Four young men of the Church Training Class entertained the church to a well-given debate. Bro. Gale spoke well, and made an appeal that every member attend some service through the week. Report given that the officers had the plans well in hand for the church building extension, and work is hoped to be definitely started very soon.

At Carnegie, Vic., on April 4, the annual social of the Octagon Club was held, and a very enjoyable time spent, despite the partial failure of electric light. The retiring president, Bro. Modral, presided, and visitors were present from Bamba-rd., Malvern, Oakleigh Sunshine Club, Junior Boys' Club, and church officers. Over 60 sat down to a splendid repast, and vocal items were very good. On Sunday last Bro. Hatwell, from St. Kilda, gave a very much appreciated address, and at the gospel service Bro. Taylor gave an impressive message on "Bearing His Cross." To the regret of all, Bro. Taylor has declined a further engagement, and is planning to leave for U.S.A. in June. Bro. F. T. Saunders has accepted the invitation to take up the work at that date.

"The West Australian" of March 18 states that "Members of the Licensing Commission when sitting at Northam on Tuesday, sustained something in the nature of a shock when they heard clerical witnesses advocating Sunday trading and extolling the virtues of the locally brewed beer." Archdeacon Moore is reported as favoring the manufacture of light wines, and as speaking as follows regarding Sunday trading: "I suggest it would be

better to do away with the bona fide traveller provision, and frankly open hotels on Sunday for, say two hours a day, from 1 to 2, and again from 5 to 6. This would do away with all the sly business. Everyone knows there is any amount of Sunday trading." To Mr. McCallum, he said, "we have not educated the people yet to go without a drink all day for one day in the week. It is better, therefore, to let people have it at certain times on that day, under strict control. If you try to enforce prohibition, to which the general public will not submit, you drag them into breaking the law." Further, the Archdeacon is reported as being "opposed to the system of local option at present, on the ground that the people were not educated up to it." The "Rev." W. H. Watson, of West Northam, is said to have supported the Archdeacon in his views regarding light wines, and in addition to have "entered a plea for the long distance traveller in the country being able to obtain refreshment on Sunday at the end of his journey." In the same issue of "The West Australian" the following brief letter appeared from the evangelist of Northam Church of Christ: "Sir,—At the sitting of the Licensing Commission at Northam, only the two Anglican preachers extolled the virtues of Northam beer. The preachers and the people of the other Protestant Churches are in opposition to the views expressed. When I see what a curse drink has become to many lives and homes, it surprises me to know that any Christian can tolerate it. It was a pity that these views and others were not placed before the Commission when it sat here, but circumstances ruled otherwise.—Yours, etc., C. P. Hughes."

A letter just received from Bro. W. Waterman announces his safe arrival at Yunnanfu, China, on Feb. 4. Bro. Waterman says that Mr. and Mrs. A. Anderson "returned from a really dangerous trip to Hweili and Nunguen a fortnight after I got there. A few days before they got in, Bro. Taylor (son of Hudson Taylor, founder of C.I.M.) was taken by robbers and is now held. His life is in extreme danger. I count it the hand of God that brought our two people back in safety to Yunnan. We are all well, and in the best of spirits. The Civic Governor, his wife, child, and five other of his near relatives, have succumbed to diphtheria, which is now sweeping through the town. Arrangements made with the Government and robbers for the release of Dr. Taylor seem now to be upset. The natives are holding all sorts of pilgrimages to their temples, and also a series of processions around the city with the city god, a big image carried in a chair by coolies. It has moveable eyes which seem queer in the way they respond to the movement of the chair. The incense is seen as a smoke-cloud above the city. If any one at home wants a petition to bear to the throne of grace, let them know of Yunnan with its robber legions, its scourges of disease, and agonies of misgovernment, its endless superstitions, and senseless, though fervent idolatry." Bro. Waterman's letter closes with a sad postscript: "News just through that Dr. Shelton, one of our American brethren at Batang, has been murdered by robbers, a week before Andersons got back." The story of Dr. Shelton's capture by and release from the power of brigands a few years ago created a great interest. The news of his tragic death will be a shock to many.

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# Foreign Missions.

Conducted by G. T. Walden, M.A.

## Federal Foreign Missionary Committee.

President: J. Warren Cosh, 13 Clifton-st., Malvern, S.A.  
 Treasurer: O. V. Mann, 8 Commercial-rd., Hyde Park, S.A.  
 Secretary: G. T. Walden, 74 Edmund-ave., Unley, S.A.

### Notes from Missionaries' Letters.

Mrs. Waters in her last writes:—"Isobel, our little house girl and my companion, is a rock of strength and comfort to me. With her love for God's word and her sweet spirit of song, it is beautiful to see her growing in grace and in the knowledge of God, and she does truly love his appearing. I said to her the other day, 'Isobel, if Jesus comes first, you will get a big reward. If Mr. Waters comes first, you will receive a small reward.' Her only response was a sweet, almost heavenly smile, and I well understood."

Bro. Escott, of Diksal, in reviewing the year's work, reports:—"Twenty villages are being evangelised round Diksal. Not only are public meetings held for the proclamation of the word, but house-to-house visitation is also carried out. The bazaar centres are visited regularly, one at a distance of 12 miles from Diksal. Over 300 Gospels and booklets have been sold, and several hundreds of tracts distributed. The preaching of the gospel has been listened to with respectful attention, for which we have cause for praise. The Sunday Schools have been well attended throughout the year. Christmas was made an occasion of bringing cheer and gladness into the lives of the children. Gifts of grain, clothing and sweetmeats were made. During the famine through the generosity of the home brethren we were able to afford relief to numbers ranging from 40 to 100 each day. In addition to this display of practical Christianity, a great opportunity was afforded for the preaching of the gospel. The Dispensary work has been a very encouraging feature, and has maintained its reputation as an agency of the gospel. For a time this branch of the work was carried on under adverse circumstances for want of a suitable building. We rejoice through the generous gift of Bro. McClean, of Melbourne, that we are to have a spacious and suitable building. The number of patients treated during the year was 2780. We are glad to report the baptism of our son Edgar, for which we greatly rejoice. The work at Indapur has been maintained. We have a school and dispensary at this important centre."

Miss Vera Blake writes:—"The children kept well in health during the month of December. Christmas festivities were much enjoyed. Our annual picnic was held on December 27. Most of the children have done well in school examinations. Have begun a class in early mornings with low-caste children. Some of the children seem bright; many are ill clad and half fed. We give a little help in the way of grain each day. Want is great among many, as grain is very dear, and it

is our cold weather. Have taken on an additional Bible woman. Sarubai has continued her good work, preaching the gospel from house to house to 45 women, 22 children, and 10 men."

Bro. Watson reports:—"For the month of December, good attendance at the Sunday Schools, a total of 123 children, 2 baptisms. The church now numbers 24. Day school at Paragon has an enrolment of 20, with an average attendance of 20 scholars. 492 treatments have been given at the dispensary."

Bro. Leach reports for December:—"There are 65 boys at the Orphanage; 3 have left during the month. During the month one boy, Bhasker, who had been ill for some weeks with dropsy and dysentery, was suddenly and unexpectedly taken. There has been a great deal of sickness during the month, but all are well again."

Bro. Coventry reports that the classes in carpentry, masonry, and tailoring are well kept up, the boys taking great interest in their work. In the Industrial Settlement they now have 301 men, women and children. The church numbers 50, with 21 others in regular attendance, and the children who attend number 88; total of 159. They hold five meetings at the church on each Lord's day, and four during the week, and have five Sunday School classes each Lord's day. The gospel has been faithfully preached by Bhalsung and Tersingh during December. They have conducted gospel meetings in the outlying villages daily. Patole has conducted a number of study classes for young people and enquirers. He has also done a large amount of personal work in the town, and occasionally has accompanied the other preachers. We believe that God is owning his servant's labors. The results this year will indicate this, and the credit of man's part must be given to our faithful Indian preachers, who have in these days no pleasant or popular task.

### "Indian Searchers After Truth."

Ethel D. Jones.

Last Sunday afternoon we had a visit from two exceedingly fine people, a man and his wife, high-caste Marathis, whom we had met on a few occasions previously at one of our bazaar preaching centres. They call themselves "Searchers after Truth," and we feel they are indeed conscientious searchers. Already they have endured persecution because they have tried to live up to the measure of truth they have found. They entirely disregard caste, and have taken into their own home a number of orphan children whom they feed, clothe and educate. They do not, of course, worship idols, and they realise that the Hindu's hope of gaining salvation through his own merit is vain. They believe there is one All-wise, Supreme God, and have been seeking him, but have not sought him through Jesus, and have not found peace. There was such a ring of sincerity in their frank confession of failure. It was truly a joy to Mr. and Mrs. Escott to be able to show these seekers for truth our Christ, who is the Way, the

Truth, and the Life. Until they heard the Scriptures explained in this way, they had not believed that God could have been made manifest in the flesh.

During a lull in the conversation the man turned to me, and asked me if I had full peace, and told me how earnestly he desired it himself. Before he left Mr. Escott gave him a copy of Rambhai's translation of the New Testament, and he said he would study it with prayer during the next month. We, of course, will pray too. I thought maybe some people at home would like to help. We feel we must encircle them with prayer, for no one knows better than our arch-enemy what a splendid help this class of people would be in the Indian church to-day. They have what is a rare thing among high-caste Hindus—the courage of their convictions. The thick mists of Hinduism are already cleared away from their minds, they have backbone, stamina. What bright jewels they would be for Jesus! But as I have said, *nobody knows that so well as the devil*. Who will pray hard with us? It is such a privilege.

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**West Wimmera (Vic.) Conference.**

The above was held at Kaniva on March 15, and was in every way the success it usually is. The attendance at all the meetings was large and appreciative. Bro. W. Gale, preacher for the Moreland church, and kindly made available by the officers of that church, was the conference speaker, and his addresses were much appreciated. The conference was also favored by the presence of our returned missionary, Miss R. L. Tonkin, who gave two interesting and instructive talks on her work in China.

The Lord's day preceding the conference, known as "Conference Sunday," is quite an important part of the conference. The Mechanics' Hall was three times filled on that day. At the morning meeting Bro. Benn presided, and Bro. Gale exhorted. At the afternoon meeting Sister Tonkin gave an address, and Bro. Gale preached a gospel sermon. In the evening Bro. Gale was again the preacher.

The first meeting on Wednesday was of a devotional character. Bro. Gale giving a most helpful address. The afternoon session was presided over by Bro. Goldsworthy in the absence of the president, Bro. L. E. Verco. The usual reports from the churches were presented. Correspondence was received from Bren. Verco and E. Edwards, expressive of their regret for not being present. A telegram from Bren. Finey and Smith, of Claremont, W.A., conveyed greetings. A letter from Bro. Bagley conveyed the good wishes of the H.M. Committee. Bro. E. Rowe was elected president, and Bro. D. Milne secretary. Bro. Gale gave a talk to the children, and Sister Tonkin gave an address descriptive of her missionary work.

The evening meeting, presided over by Bro. Rowe, was the largest of the conference, and proved a fitting climax to a series of good meetings. Addresses were given by Bren. Benn and Gale, and an offering was taken for the starving children of Europe. During the conference the Bordertown singers rendered some splendid pieces in good style. Messrs. A. and H. Williams, Miss Williams, and Mrs. Mann, rendered valued help in the musical line. Mr. W. S. Wylie presided at the organ. The meals, as usual, were a well patronised feature of the conference, and reflected credit on the sisters concerned.—A.R.B.

**Northern District, South Australia, Sisters' Conference.**

The annual conference of Northern District sisters was held at Moonta on March 22. The devotional service was led by Sister Oram, of Moonta. The president, Sister Shipway, then took the chair. Minutes of last annual conference were confirmed. A letter was read from Miss Garland, asking the sisters for an Easter offering for Home Missions. Sister Harkness's resignation as obituary reporter was read.

Treasurer's report by Sister Rootes showed a balance in bank of £1/3/3; cash in hand, 19/5/2. Executive report (Sister Laffin) told of four meetings held since last annual conference, which were very helpful and inspiring. Sister Mrs. Oram, of Moonta, extended a hearty welcome to delegates. Sister Miss Webb, of Balaklava, suitably responded. Sister Ingham, of Wallaroo, sang a very nice solo. Sister Bennett, of Wallaroo, read the first section of reports—Foreign Missions, Bible School, Dorcas, Prayer Meeting, and Home Missions. Sister Harkness read the obituary report, which told of three sisters having received the home-call. The hymn, "Asleep in Jesus," was sung.

Sister Shipway read a paper written by herself, entitled, "The Spirit Behind a Revival," which was much enjoyed. Sister Bottrel, of Pt. Pirie, read the second section of reports—Christian Endeavor, Temperance, and Young People's. All reports were very encouraging, and showed deep interest.

Resolved, That Sisters Laffin and Bennett be appointed to collect the Easter offering. £1/10/- was forwarded to Miss Garland. Officers for forthcoming year:—President, Sis-

ter Rootes, Kadina; vice-presidents, Sisters Durdin and Oram; recording secretary, Sister Laffin, Kadina; corresponding secretary, Sister Bennett, Wallaroo; treasurer, Sister Ingham, Wallaroo. Sister Shipway welcomed incoming officers; Sister Rootes responded. A successful conference then closed with hymn and prayer. Collection, 11/6½.—Mrs. F. Laffin.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOME MISSION FUND.**

The following amounts have been gratefully received during the month of March, 1922:—

Duplex Envelope Offerings.—Mile End Church, £7/12/4; Gawler, £12/3; Strathalbyn, 18/3; Balaklava, £3/10/-.

Famine Fund.—Semaphore Church, £2/4/-; Broken Hill (Wolfram-st.), £1.

Refund by Secretary.—Goolwa Church, 12/9; Strathalbyn, 10/-.

"Living Link."—Murray Bridge Junior C.E. Society, £1.

Christian Union Expenses.—Balaklava Church, £4.

Subsidies from Churches Assisted.—Port Pirie, £20/5/-; Barmera, £7/10/-; Berri, £6; Wallaroo, £4; Gawler, £4; Murray Bridge, 5/9.

Conference Promises.—(a) General Fund: "A Brother, £20; S.H.W., £12/-." (b) Forward Movement: G. D. Wright, £3; W. Simons, 10/-; T. Hagger, 10/6; G. A. Jessup, 10/-; F. K. Glover, 5/-; H. J. Matthews, 2/-; F. J. Shill, 10/-; H. Taylor, 5/-; H. R. Ackland, £6/10/-; A. W. Lawrie, £1.

Annual Offering.—Balaklava Dorcas Society, £1; Balaklava C.E., £1; Mrs. Lunn, 10/-; E. F. Lunn, £1; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Moyle, £1/10/-; N. J. Good, £1/10/-; Mrs. M. A. Daniel, 3/-; L. E. and E. A. Pearce, £1; Mr. and Mrs. H. Day, 10/-; Dr. R. Magarey, £5.

Church offerings will be acknowledged when list complete.

H. J. Horsell, Financial Secretary.

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# News of the Churches.

## Tasmania.

At Launceston the chapel was well filled on Sunday, 9th inst., when Bro. P. R. Baker delivered a very stirring address on "The Prodigal Son." Great interest was manifested. At the close three ladies and two men confessed Christ, and five put him on in baptism.

## New Zealand.

On March 19, at Nelson, Bro. Botton spoke at the gospel service on "Love in Four Dimensions." On Lord's day, March 26, there was a very large meeting in the morning, when Bro. W. G. Carpenter, of South Melbourne, commenced his labors with the church. He spoke at both services. At night, owing to unfavorable weather conditions, attendance was poor. Bro. Carpenter gave an inspiring address on "The Great Work."

## Queensland.

Good meetings at Albion on April 2. Bro. Davis spoke both morning and evening. Bro. and Sister Taylor were received into fellowship with the church.

At Toowoomba on April 2, a good number broke bread. Bro. Vanham gave a helpful exhortation. A brother was received into fellowship. At the gospel service several strangers were present. Bro. Burns delivered a splendid stirring message on "The Story of a Great Revival." A deeper interest is being manifested in the mid-week prayer meetings.

South End, Toowoomba, report further progress in attendance, and much interest at all meetings. The church letter called "The Christian Messenger" is in circulation, and it is believed will serve the purpose intended. On April 2, Bro. A. Coleman exhorted on "Christ, the Meat Offering." Open-air service was conducted by Bro. V. Adcock. Gospel service was very well attended. Bro. Stitt preached on "Adding to the Church Membership."

At Roma attendances of late have been greatly affected by the absence of a number of members on holiday, and not a few owing to sickness. Among the latter is Bro. Philip Browne, who has been confined to his bed for the past three weeks, but is now improving. Each Lord's day afternoon some of the brethren meet and break bread with him and Sister Browne. The church has recently enjoyed the fellowship of Sister Syberg, of Wallumbilla, and Bro. Adcock, of South End, Toowoomba, who exhorted on March 26. Bro. Purden, of Hobart, has arrived in quest of health.

Good meetings at Brisbane on March 26. Bro. and Sister Field, Wyalong, N.S.W., were visitors. Ray Cumming was received into fellowship, having been baptised the previous Wednesday evening. On April 2, the S.S. anniversary was celebrated. It was also the "Go to Church" Sunday in Brisbane. In the morning, to a large gathering, Bro. Rankine addressed the church on "If the Church were Removed from the World." At night his subject was "Living with a Purpose." The children occupied the choir seats, and rendered several pieces nicely. At the close four decided for Christ, two being senior scholars of the Bible School.

## West Australia.

Subiaco on April 2 had a fine gathering around the Lord's table. The increasing attendance at this service is gratifying. A particularly helpful and instructive address on "The Cross of Christ and its Meaning," was given by Bro. W. H. Clay. One lady was received into fellowship. At 10 a.m. the Sunshine League enjoyed the presence of Sister Malcolm, of Carrollup. Letters from the native children were read and enjoyed. The gospel service was well attended, and a fine spirit prevailed. One man who previously confessed Christ was baptised by Bro. Clay. The Girls' and Boys' Clubs spent a happy evening on April 4, the occasion being a double kitchen tea in honor of two young ladies and gentlemen (members of the two respective clubs) who are shortly to be married.

## Victoria.

Splendid meetings continue at East Camberwell. Last Lord's day Bro. Ball addressed the morning service, and Bro. Gibson in the evening, when one young girl made the good confession.

Middle Park are having bright and inspiring services, and have cause to rejoice. One was received into fellowship on Sunday morning, and in the evening there was an attendance of 135, when one made the good confession, Bro. Allen Brooke being the preacher.

Good meetings at Hampton on Sunday. Bro. J. Tinkler has preached for two Sundays. The church is looking forward hopefully to the mission. Recently Sister Mrs. Holloway was tendered a farewell social and presentation on her removal to Mildura district.

At Emerald on Sunday, Bro. Tease presided. Bro. Eric Newel was received by letter from Northcote. Bro. T. Collis gave the message. A fine meeting at night. Then a meeting was held to consider the building of a vestry and baptistry, with promises of £30/10/-. It is hoped to have the building up very soon.

At Horsham last Lord's day Bro. J. H. Millar gave an address in the morning, and Bro. Bassard delivered the gospel message at night. A good attendance at the circuit meeting held on April 1. The resignation of the evangelist, Bro. Bassard, was received. He has accepted an engagement with a church in Queensland. Regret was expressed by the brethren at his approaching departure.

Hawthorn Sunday School anniversary was continued on Sunday. All meetings were largely attended. Bro. Clive Taylor addressed the school in the afternoon. Bro. Scambler spoke morning and evening, and a young man was received into membership by transfer. The members of the church were guests of Bro. and Sister Scambler at a reception on April 5. Opportunity was taken to welcome Bro. W. F. Nankivell to Hawthorn.

At Lygon-st. Jas. E. Thomas spoke at both services on Sunday, and two were received into membership by transfer. One young lad from the Bible School made the good confession at night. At the morning service amongst the visitors were two sisters from Bet Bet—Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Baker. Douglas Renton, one of the Lygon-st. young men, is congratulated on his success on passing his final medical examinations for the degrees of M.B., B.S.

At Newmarket on Sunday morning Bro. McIvor exhorted helpfully on "The Cross of Christ." Miss N. Dewar, Maylands, S.A., and Bro. and Sister Stevens, St. Albans, were welcomed by Bro. McConchie. The Sunday School anniversary is planned for May 21. Bro. Hall is training the children. A Bluthner piano has been purchased, and is in use at gospel services. Bro. McConchie has moved into the district. His address is now Finsbury-st., Newmarket.

Very good meeting at Swanston-st. last Lord's day morning, and excellent address. Amongst the visitors during the day were Bro. and Sister R. Burns and Miss Tonkin, from Unley, S.A. Crowded attendance at evening meeting at special service, when Bro. Kingsbury gave short messages based on "The Seven Words from the Cross." The audience engaged very heartily in singing the great hymns bearing on the subject. For the information of other churches the programme is given elsewhere.

At Footscray Girls' Guild last Monday evening a presentation was made to Miss May Pearce, the treasurer, on the eve of her marriage. The choir also made a presentation. Miss Pearce has been a most consistent member of the choir for over ten years. The Sunday School have accepted a tender for the building of the new kindergarten. Mrs. Warren has been greatly inconvenienced in her work on account of the overcrowding of her big family of little children. As usual the choir and orchestra did well on Sunday night. Bro. Warren preached on "The Crucifixion." He continues his series of addresses till the end of this month. The Sunday School are getting ready for their anniversary.

The church at Harcourt is sorry to part with Bro. and Sister A. J. Wilson, who had endeared themselves to all. Fellowship with Bro. and Sister Patterson for a season was enjoyed, also a recent visit from Sister Turner (Berwick). The church decided to retain for the ensuing year the brethren who have been in office for the past year, with the additional help of Bren. Gartside and Jackel.

At Brunswick since last report meetings have been well attended. Bro. Killmier's addresses are appreciated. One young sister made the good confession, and was received in on Sunday week with her sister (who came from Geelong). C.E. Society work of collecting goods to the value of £21, and forwarding to India, has received letters of thanks from the missionaries. All are looking forward to home-coming and the opening of new hall on April 22. Bro. C. Nankervis is training S.S. scholars for anniversary services.

North Richmond Bible School anniversary was a great success. Bro. Blakemore was present afternoon and evening, and his talks to children and friends were greatly enjoyed by all. The singing, under the baton of Bro. Hall, was excellent. The Bible School hall is now free of debt, the last £300 having been paid that week. The anniversary entertainment was also a great success. Most of the training of scholars was done by Sisters Meyer and Gregory, and the result reflected great credit upon their untiring labors. All spent a very happy evening with the children.

At Warrnambool on March 19 the postponed Children's Day Exercises were rendered by the school, when the collection amounted to 15/6. The chapel was prettily decorated for Lord's day, April 2, when thanksgiving services were held. There were good meetings all day. In the morning Bro. Arnold spoke on "God's Complete Provision," and at night on "Unplucked Fruits." On Monday night a social thanksgiving service was held, after which the gifts of produce, etc., were sold. On Sunday the fellowship of Bro. and Sister Manning, of Carnegie, was enjoyed.

Bro. Anderson closed his ministry with the church at Dandenong on April 2. At the close of his farewell address two young people were baptised, and another confessed Christ. Bro. Anderson has preached sermons of a high order right throughout his ministry. The best wishes of the church go with Bro. and Sister Anderson to their new sphere of labor. A farewell social was tendered them, at which Bro. Main and others spoke, and Bro. and Sister Anderson were presented with a wallet of notes as a mark of appreciation. The Dorcas Class recently held a successful sale of work, which was opened by Sister Kemp.

Thornbury Bible School has reached the century mark. All branches of the work of the church are showing continual progress. There is a membership of 80, though only just over ten months old. Bro. Swain is doing a great work by his indefatigable and self-denying efforts. An Easter fair was held on April 4 as a means of raising money towards the anticipated church building. Over £40 was realised. The members are looking forward and utilising every possible method for the purpose of erecting a meeting-house on a piece of land which has been secured, at the north-east corner of Smith-st. and St. George's-road.

Ballarat anniversary services on March 26 were very successful; about the largest attendance in the church's history at morning service. Inspiring address from Bro. A. W. Connor. The recently instituted Church Attendance League for Young People has been very effective, over fifty boys and girls being present some mornings. The organisers—Sisters Miss C. Wilkins and Miss R. Ramage—with their assistants, deserve credit. A good attendance heard Bro. Connor in the evening, and the training given to the choir by the gifted organist, Miss M. Jolly, was evident in their delightful and effective singing. One of the Bible School scholars made the good confession. On the Monday a tea meeting with 130 present was followed by the larger gathering in the chapel. Bro. Charles Morris presided, and short messages were given by Bro. P. G. Lennox, of Coburg, Bro. A. E. Pittock, church secretary, Bro. A. W. Con-



nor, and Bro. J. A. Wilkie. A Young Ladies' Choir, led by Miss M. Jolly, gave several pieces. The catering was provided entirely by the sisters, so that the piano fund benefited to the extent of over £7. On April 2, the church was favored with a visit from Miss R. Tonkin. She was welcomed at tea on Saturday by the Girls' Mission Band, and a happy conversational time ensued. Her addresses to the church and the evening service, as also to the school, were very effective.

At Maryborough ten were received in on Sunday morning. Bro. Brooker presided and Bro. Hinrichsen spoke. At night many of the members attended the Methodist service to hear an address on "Baptism, Who and How." At the gospel meeting the tent was packed, and hundreds stood outside, the sides of the tent being lowered. Bro. Hinrichsen first dealt with the address delivered by the Methodist minister, and then delivered a powerful address on "Not Good-bye, but Au Revoir." At the conclusion fourteen stepped out for Christ, making a total of 60. The Sunday School picnic was held on 1st, and a church picnic on 8th, when about 100 journeyed to the grounds and spent a most enjoyable time. The closing meetings of the mission are to be held during this week.

At Essendon on March 22, two women who had previously made the confession were immersed. At the anniversary social about 120 were present. Bro. Clark, chairman, in a neat speech on church work, gave some instructive ideas. He stated that he had accepted the offer to remain at Essendon. A splendid programme was well rendered by Sisters Hare, Barkla, Pitt, Burdeu, E. Burdeu; Bren. Simpson, Clark, Buckley. Coffee supper supplied by Ladies' Guild, under the leadership of Sister Ferguson, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was accorded. March 26, harvest thanksgiving was celebrated by the kindergarten. A special programme was presented. The decorations were effective, and great credit was due to Mrs. Cheal and her helpers. The expression work by the children showed care in preparation. Mr. Clark preached; one confession. April 2, good attendance at all services; two received by letter. At the close of a splendid address by Mr. Clark, two young people made the good confession.

Meetings at Colac have kept up well since last report. A ten-minute song service is being held each Lord's day evening prior to the gospel service, and is much enjoyed. At the annual church business meeting on April 5, the usual business was transacted, officers elected for the ensuing year, and reports received. There was also read a very interesting account of the thirty years' activities of the brotherhood in Colac. While no department of the work has declined during the past year, and some phases of the church's activity are in excellent condition, yet reports showed that no great progress had been made. When the usual business had been dealt with, each of the six officers of the church gave a five-minute talk to the members, putting before them plans for a tent mission which had been discussed in detail at several previous officers' meetings. These remarks were supplemented by Bro. Cornelius. A tent mission fund has been opened with Bro. F. Funston, of Colac High School, as its treasurer.

### South Australia.

Forestville report good addresses of late from Bren. New, Jackson, C. Caldicott and Hollams (the preacher). Excellent musical help has been received. Bro. and Sister Shearing, formerly of Henley Beach, have been received into fellowship.

At Mile End on Sunday four were received into fellowship, one by faith and baptism, and three by letter, and at the close of gospel meeting there was one confession. School started practising for anniversary in June; selections from "King of Glory" songs.

Good work is being maintained at Hindmarsh. The Bible School and other auxiliaries are thriving splendidly. Good results have attended the preaching of Bro. Paternoster. At the service on Sunday evening, April 9, two confessions were received, and three young people followed Christ in baptism. This was the theme of the gospel message given by the preacher.

St. Morris church on March 30 held a farewell social to E. J. Paternoster, and welcome to W. Garrett. April 2, splendid services. W. Garrett, speaker. Morning subject, "Bitter and Sweet Waters"; evening, "The Forgiveness of God." Bible School attendance, 139.

Croydon work is steadily progressing. Good meetings last Sunday. The choir-leader wants copies of cantata, "The Captive Maid of Israel." Some brethren may oblige. Write W. Hewitt, Robert-st., Croydon. The choir does good work. All auxiliaries are doing well.

At Gawler two have been received into fellowship since last report—Sister Miss Jedrick, from Grote-st., and Sister Miss Walker, from Balaklava. Meetings are fairly well attended, and the interest is good. Bro. Raymond is working hard, and preaching earnestly. Several new scholars have been added to the Bible School roll. A Training for Service Class has been commenced, and the church is planning for a mission in June.

The eighth annual conference of the Eyre Peninsula Churches of Christ was held in the Tumbly chapel on March 27, when there were good meetings, and splendid addresses by Bro. Bart. Manning, of Mile End church. Bro. Jacobs, of Mount Compass, was also present; he made it possible for Bro. Manning to come. The meetings were bright, and the churches received a blessing.

At Balaklava on April 9 there was a fair attendance at meeting for worship. Bro. Saunders spoke on "Tenderness and Power." Bible School secretary, Bro. Townsend, is in the local hospital, suffering from pneumonia. At the gospel service Bro. Saunders gave an interesting and instructive address on "Not like Other Churches—and Why." In the evening the aged Sister Mrs. Devine was called home to be with her Lord. She was 86 years of age, and had been longing for the Master's call. The sorrowing ones are commended to the Father's care and keeping.

At Unley on March 28 Bro. G. McKie, from the Semaphore, gave a lecture on his twenty years' missionary work in China. There was a good attendance, and the lecturer was listened to with rapt attention. Last Wednesday evening five young people were baptised, and on Sunday morning were welcomed into the church. The Sunday School anniversary services were a great success. At the morning meeting the evangelist of the church exchanged with Bro. Hagger, of Grote-st., who gave a good address to a fine audience. In the afternoon a service of song was rendered. Bro. F. Messent ably conducted the musical part, and the connective readings were well given by Bro. Roland Cutts. At night the children again sang well, and a young lady took her stand for Christ.

Bro. Taylor was absent from Glenelg on Sunday. He took the anniversary services for the Methodist Church at Cudlee Creek. R. Digance and H. L. Vawser spoke morning and evening respectively. At the evening service the choir gave a creditable rendering of Myles B. Foster's "Story of the Cross." Home Mission offering totalled £31/10/-, being next to the largest the church has raised. Mr. and Mrs. E. H. and Miss Alice Kentish have been welcomed into membership from Unley. The Dorcas Society had an open meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 5th, to signalise the beginning of the year's work. Improvement in the condition of Sister Mrs. T. Ferris is reported. Collectors for the recently established penny-per-week building fund for the purpose of keeping the premises in repair without drawing on the general funds of the church have been appointed, and are carrying out their duties with enthusiasm. The Young Worshipers' League has completed its first year, and prizes in the shape of church hymnals, presented by Bro. T. G. Storer, were won by Misses Mavis and Joan Towill for attendance.

### New South Wales.

The work of Auburn church is being well maintained. Last Lord's day was the anniversary of the Bible School. Big meetings were the order of the day. Bro. D. Simpson exhorted in the morning. Bro. Stuart Stevens spoke at the afternoon services, and Bro. A. E. Forbes conducted the evening meeting.

The church at Parramatta is still conducting meetings at the home of Bro. James, but is looking forward to launching out into bigger things in a hall before long.

On March 22, Merewether church held a social in celebration of Bro. Martin's third anniversary. Several spoke of the good work accomplished. Bro. and Sister Martin have left for a well-deserved holiday in the mountain district. On April 2 Bro. B. W. Collins presided; he is on a visit to Merewether, accompanied by his daughter, Sister W. Collins. At night Bro. T. Newburn's theme was "The Man Fettered and Bound." On March 27 one lady confessed Christ.

Good attendances at church and Bible School at Lismore on April 2. Bro. P. J. Pond preached at night on the subject, "Is Christianity Failing?" Good percentage of non-members present. Visitors from sister churches were Bren. Willis (Sydney), F. Withers (Melbourne), Riley (Bowral), and Sister Moffat (Brisbane), and Miss Stewart (Tyalgum). The Sisters' Missionary Society was addressed at this month's meeting by Mr. Tugwell, B.A. (Anglican), on experiences in slum work in the cities. Sister Mrs. Oakes, isolated for many years, has come to reside at Lismore.

Good meetings at City Temple on April 9. Fine practical exhortation from Bro. Saxby at morning service. Visitors included Bro. and Sister Howells, Caulfield, Vic.; Bro. Carslake, Narrabri; Sister Ludbrook, Vic.; Bro. Butler, Moree. At night Bro. Jno. T. Brown, from America, gave a splendid gospel address on "The Wonderful Christ." Lord's day evening, April 2, Dr. Porter, of the Baptist Church, conducted the service. Sister Miss Etta Fox and Bro. George Fancourt, active members of the church here, were united in marriage during the week, Bro. Eaton officiating.

On April 2 and 3, the church at Dumbleton celebrated its second anniversary. Bro. Stow spoke at both services on the Sunday (80 being present at night), and Bro. Clydesdale, from Rockdale, on the Monday evening, when 86 were present. Special singing by the choir at both services. On April 9 Bro. Clydesdale addressed the church on "Ye are the salt of the earth." In the evening the largest congregation yet assembled, 96 being present. Bro. Stow's text was "The Power of the Cross." One young lady made the good confession. Two others were baptised.

At Paddington, on April 2, Bro. F. J. Sivyver, B.A., spoke at the morning meeting. At the gospel service, Bro. S. Stevens gave an earnest address on "Christian Baptism." A young girl from the Bible School and a young man confessed Christ. Good meetings on Lord's day, April 9. Bro. M. Blok gave a soul-stirring address on "Christian Hope" at the morning service. At the evening service Bro. Stevens gave a fine address on "Church Reunion." At the close the two young girls and the young man who previously confessed Christ were immersed.

Marrickville tent mission was brought to a close last week. During the special effort 60 made the confession, of whom 54 have already been baptised and 46 actually received into fellowship at Marrickville. It is anticipated that practically all who confessed will ultimately be linked up with the church either at Marrickville, or with other of the congregations. The mission services have created a splendid wave of interest throughout the community, which was in evidence at all meetings on Sunday. It is believed that Bro. Whelan's faithful ministry will bear much fruit in the future. At the closing meeting on Wednesday last the church presented a gold watch suitably inscribed to Bro. Whelan, and a wallet containing bank notes to Bro. Crisp, as tokens of love and appreciation. Thanks and appreciation were also expressed to Bro. Mercer for his splendid service, and to all others who so kindly assisted in the mission. Fine attendances at all meetings on Sunday. Two baptismal services were held, and a large number were received into fellowship. Bro. Crisp spoke in the morning, and at the conclusion of his address a young woman took her stand for the Christ. Following a splendid address by Bro. Crisp on "The Mould of God," at the gospel service, four made the confession.



OBITUARY.

McNAUGHTON.—For a long time after coming to Lygon-st. I did not know who Miss Jessie McNaughton was. I only knew her as Aunt Jess. Everybody that knew her called her by that name, and she seemed related to so many in the church that it seemed quite natural to call her that. She was one of the oldest members in this old church, having been immersed by G. L. Surber and united with the church 52 years ago. There are not many of the old guard left now, for they are joining their comrades in that land where they never grow old. Aunt Jess was always faithful to the church. She was always there when able to come, and with her cheery word she encouraged the preacher, and helped to make people feel welcome. The last meeting she attended was the mid-week prayer meeting, where it was always her joy to be. She lived in the home of Bro. Frank McClean, whose wife is her sister. She had ministered to all in that home, and they and all that knew her will feel that they have lost a very dear friend. By simple life, and loving service, she witnessed for her Lord. She died on Saturday morning, March 25, at the age of 66 years. A few days before she died it was my pleasure, along with Bro. Kingsbury, a former preacher of Lygon-st., to break bread with her and her dear ones. She was looking forward to meet her dear ones where the family circle will never again be broken. She had been for a long time a patient sufferer, and the Master's summons was a glad home-going and happy release to her. We laid her body in the Melbourne General Cemetery on Monday, March 27. Bro. McClean spoke a word of appreciation for the large family circle, and Bro. Horace Kingsbury made a fitting tribute at the grave. We deeply sympathise with all the bereaved, and share with them the glorious hope of her and all our dear ones, where we shall together serve our Lord Jesus, and rejoice in his glorious presence for ever.—Jas. E. Thomas, Carlton, Vic.

RATCLIFFE.—On March 15 there passed to rest, after a life of sixty-five years that was not without its share of suffering, Bro. David Ratcliffe, of the Moreland church. During the latter years of his life our brother suffered much, and towards the end, very severely. Yet withal, he preserved a calm, patient, and sweet spirit, which was a wonderful testimony to the practical interpretation in his daily life of the teachings of the Master. A firm believer in prayer, and one fully assured that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much; it was fitting that his last letter should be addressed to the church

with the request that he might be remembered by them before the throne of grace. One of the most remarkable scenes of his life was that in which he consciously faced the knowledge of certain death, when, gathered around the bedside, were the entire family, save one on the island of Nauru, and he committed to the keeping of the heavenly Father each in turn, as he kissed them farewell, pleading with them to complete the journey of life in the faith, so that they all might meet again when travelling days are over. The last scenes of his life were a bright and beautiful Christian sunset, lit with the ever-changing colors of the Christian graces, confidences, and hope—the setting of a life to rise and shine on the deathless shores of eternity. Bro. Ferdinand Pittman, an old friend of the family, assisted the Moreland preacher in the service at the graveside in the Melbourne Cemetery. We regret not his passing from this life of pain to the painlessness of life "present with the Lord," commending his dear wife and family to the care of the loving heavenly Father, the God of all comfort, who only doeth all things well.—W. Gale, Moreland, Vic.

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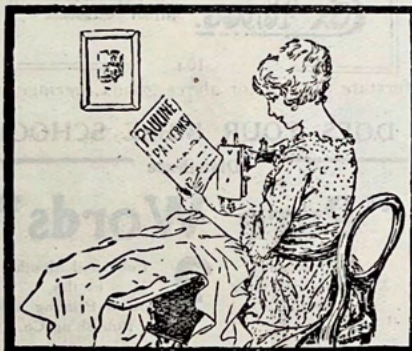
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