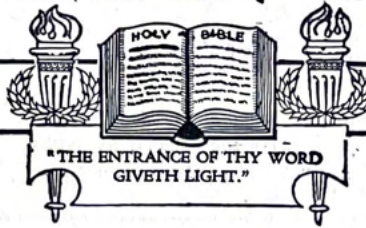


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A Good Man's Prayer

WHAT a beautiful prayer Paul raised on behalf of his generous friends at Philippi! When Paul was in prison at imperial Rome, the Philippians had shown the quality of their love by sending, by the hand of their beloved leader, Epaphroditus, a gift of money. In a letter of appreciation sent when Epaphroditus was returning home, Paul outlined a prayer he was making on their behalf.

THE apostle desired that the love of his brethren grow "more and more." There is a saying that you can have too much of a good thing. That proverb proves to be true in the realm of material values. A few sweets may be beneficial, but too many may be injurious to a child's health. After a good meal, food does not make an appeal. Only for the hungry man does a plate of meat and vegetables have immediate value. If physical needs are met, what virtue is there in a prayer that requests "more and more" material values? A man can get more material things than he needs. However, because he is a "spirit come from God," he cannot reach the point when his soul loses interest in truth, beauty and love.

Do not confuse this love (*agapao*) with passion (*erao*), or with the fellowship existing between friends (*phileo*); for it possesses a divine quality, requiring a response from body, mind and soul in the interests of the kingdom of God. This is the love that is more profitable for life than the gift of tongues, or knowledge of all mysteries: it is the spiritual quality that finds no delight in hating an enemy or in retaliating against those who injure. It is the foundation of a Christian life and the "greatest thing in the world."

WHERE there is pure love, there will be a desire to increase knowledge of what is good, true and beautiful for the highest life. In the present crisis we see the consequences that are arising from the foolish action of divorcing education from moral righteousness.

By making secularism a basis of knowledge, we have trained a community with little interest in the good life. Paul's prayer urges the need of building knowledge upon the spiritual foundation of divine love. Knowledge reaches us through the senses. By seeing, hearing, feeling, etc., or, in other words, by perceiving and judging, the mind gathers facts into a very uniform system.

● *"This I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ"*—Phil. 1: 9, 10.

We see and perceive those things that have most interest for the soul. If hatred dominate the spirit, then we shall see the worst in others and in the world; but when divine love is the driving force, only the beautiful, the true and the good will grip the attention.

WE need to be familiar with the best to retain a sensitive appreciation of the highest spiritual values of life. A classifier of diamonds had at his side a gem of rare beauty so that he might turn from the inferior diamonds to it, and thus quicken his sense of appreciation. By perceiving beauty in the best, he was able to judge and select other excellent stones from those before him. Let a man, because of divine love, grow familiar with what is good, and he will, almost instinctively, select the path in life that is excellent.

Toward the end of a life full of varied experiences, Ulysses, the Greek hero, said, "I am a part of all that I have met." Our experiences become woven into the pattern of the soul. He who contacts evil only, becomes evil. However, by perceiving, learning and doing good, a man guided by divine love, becomes good: he becomes a part of the Good. The purpose of Paul's prayer was to help the Philippians "to be sincere." He did not want them to be hypocrites whose goodness is superficial and a pretence.

THE Greek word translated by "sincere" suggests a picture of something being "tested by sunlight," and then found to be pure. A sincere and pure person would not be, either in word or deed, a stumbling block to any pilgrim seeking the celestial city: he would, when tested, be found blameless.

Men may deceive others and even themselves for a time, but they will not always be able to conceal the secret sins of the heart. In "the day of Christ" nothing will remain hidden, for the light of glory will shine upon the heart. Every false intention and evil desire, every idle word and wicked thought will be brought to light by the glory of the Lord and the Sun of Righteousness. "The day of the Lord" may be any time of judgment and crisis on the earth. It seems to be a fact that, so long as things go well, the false man can withstand the strain of circumstances, but the moment he is enmeshed in tragic events he breaks down, and reveals to the world what he really is—an evil man. In such a crisis, how different it is for a good man! He can then shine like a star against the gloom of the times.

WHILE history brings judgment days, one after another, and some unrighteous persons escape untouched, there is a judgment—"a day of Christ"—that none can avoid. When human history reaches its culmination, there will come a celestial judgment. Then those who have allowed divine love to guide them to spiritual truths and to approve things that are excellent, will be found sincere and pure.



Triumphs in Chaotic Days

Stuart Stevens, of Enmore, president of C.E. Union, N.S.W., presents the demand for faithful witness "at such a time as this."

CHRISTIANITY was born in a time such as this. The early Christian community won its amazing victory against the opposition of a pagan world, and the church was established amid the ruins of a collapsing empire. The evidence of history is that Christianity made its great advances and won its resounding triumphs in chaotic days.

Forty years after Christ had set up his church at Jerusalem, that city was doomed. Soon its gleaming temple would be like a pile of ruins. Rivers of blood would pour down the white steps of the temple and through the streets. The last vestiges of the Jewish state would be obliterated. All that the people of God held dear seemed thrown to the winds. It was a terrible time for Jews and Christians; all that the Jewish people had erected was swept away, and all that the followers of Jesus had laid their hopes upon seemed to suffer a similar fate. All around a sickening fear haunted men's hearts, for it looked as if everything that made life worth living was shattered beyond repair. They sighed for the quiet comfort of former days. Altogether it was an age of revolutionary change—dynasties, philosophies and faith were tottering everywhere.

The Christian church fought its way to strength in such circumstances. As the early Christians saw it the situation was not a call to fear, but a call to faith and receptiveness of God's grace, whereby to advance into new positions.

Things are Shaking

This is just the time to make men discriminate between the real and the artificial. The removal of those things which can be shaken will show what are the things which may remain.

The world is being shaken and needs to be shaken. To-day the world's battlefields are being irrigated with the blood of our fair youth. The next age will be different. How different? This is the day of destiny. From the seed of to-day will come the harvest of to-morrow. Let none think that the position is hopeless. It is only such if we permit it to be. This is youth's chance. Nothing is impossible. History records what others have done, and suggests what is possible now. Out of the black slough the white lily grows. O'er decaying logs the wild flower springs. E'en on gravestones the moss grows green. The child is father of the man.

There will be hard work and many failures, but the end is sure. When one singer makes a discord, man does not give up the love of music.

This is not a crazy world. As a plan turns a pile of bricks into a house, a mob into an

army, scattered sounds into a symphony, warring sections into a nation, so faith in God turns our feeble efforts into triumph.

The feeling of Christ's final triumph never failed the martyrs. It gave what every emergency demanded—courage.

Did Esther quake and quit when confronted with a task which involved her life? "He who does not attack and plunge his standard into the thick of the enemy's ranks must soon pull down his flag," said a great general as he reasoned with his men on the necessity of an aggressive programme.

This is a Time for Action

Our task is to make Christ's will potent in society. Alone we have little to offer. Christ believes in men. As the mother hangs over the cradle with pulsing love, so he lingers by prodigal and outcast, by publican and brigand. His hot tears fell over Jerusalem. A boy in

South Africa threw a diamond at a stranger, but the traveller picked up the gem with beating heart. A man may be rough without, but there are flashing crystals within. These are there to be discovered and released. It is man's infinite worth that explains Christ's attitude to him. The regard and esteem Christ gives man matches man's worth. The cross pronounces Christ's conception of man's condition. "He died that we might be forgiven; he died to make us good. Christianity is a message of hope. In our time Christianity is a message of hope. In our time many fear and forsake. For all men Christ is the way of hope. Before Christ lived and died, the Tuscans made each tomb face the west, for the soul's sun, they said, had set never to rise. The unthinking oak lives many centuries. Christ said, "Because I live ye shall live also." Christianity, while chiefly busying itself with teaching the art of right living and of character building here, as a preparation for the life hereafter, has accomplished many incidental results for man's happiness and welfare. Orchards are planted primarily for one purpose—to secure food for the long winter. But having met the requirements of hunger, the orchards go on to delight the eye with blossoms; to fill the air with perfumes; to provide grateful shade for man and beast, and homes for countless birds. Thus Christianity is a tree that bears the fruit of immortal life; but it bears also a thousand other fruits for the life that now is.

The many-sided qualities of our witness make its practice a valued contribution to the well-being of society and an unrivalled factor in establishing the kingdom of God. This, then, is to be our contribution to our time.

The Church Militant

H. J. Patterson, of Balwyn, Vic., calls Christians to recognise the need of fighting evil in the world.

WE like to think of the church as a happy fellowship—a company of people more like a united family—but we ought not to exclude the figure of a fighting church. The company of the believers should be a courageous fighting force in the world. We find the idea in some of our hymns, more of which we should have—"Fight the good fight," "Onward, Christian soldiers," "Soldiers of Christ, arise." But one has heard of Christians singing these songs and then of their going home to lie on their backs or to rest in an easy chair the rest of the day while their comrades in arms were wrestling with grave problems of an inadequate Sunday school staff and the preacher languished for want of prayer partners and the presence of men to support him in preaching. How much fight against the common enemy has your church shown?

The Fight

This fight is between truth and falsehood, righteousness and sin, God and the devil. Sometimes even professing followers of Christ become dupes and slaves of the devil. The fight is age old. Israel fought it on a national basis, and in spite of Moses, Solomon and the prophets were beaten. Jesus Christ as the new head of the race fought and conquered, although it looked at one stage hopeless. Paul fought a good fight, and had the victory through Christ which strengthened him. John said there was "a victory which overcometh the world, even our faith." But it is a fight and no Christian ought to forget it.

The Fight is Against

1. *The World.* The term world is used with different meanings. We know God loved

the world of men. But we are told that the "world lieth in the evil one." This present age, with its earthiness, its self-centredness and its passing show, opposes the church. It is a world of force and violence, and our God is holy and loving. The church must subdue the world with its suffering and violence, and give God's peace and holiness of life in its place. The church is in the world but not of it. It fights the world of evil.

2. *The Flesh.* The church is to fight against all bestiality, and must remember that man was made in the image of God. We must each conquer and bring into subjection the powerful impulses latent in the body. The sex instincts are troublesome, and make slaves of not a few. There is a warfare always in progress within. "The flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh."

3. *The Devil.* Some people don't believe there is a devil. Hitler didn't believe there was an overwhelmingly powerful striking force in the Red Army, but his belief didn't alter the fact. Was Jesus only shadow-sparring in the wilderness? Was it only make-believe when he said to Peter, "Satan hath desired to have you"? If there are good spirits why not evil spirits, as there are evil and good men? Paul said, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." A terrible battle is in progress just now. How the church will emerge from it remains to be seen. Every man must do his duty, and with faith in the generalship of Christ we shall not fail. But every man and woman must fight for God's righteousness.

PREACHERS' PAGE

Hindrances to Progress

The third article of the series arranged in co-operation with the Social Service Department is by Principal T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed. By a thoughtful analysis of historic events he replies to the question: Why is the rate of Christian progress unsatisfactory in some parts of the world?

THE rate of progress has not always been unsatisfactory. On the day of Pentecost three thousand accepted Christ. It has been computed that probably twenty thousand people united with the church in Jerusalem in the first year of its existence.

Then persecution came. It scattered the church, but did not hinder the rate of progress. Those who were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word. The growth of Christianity attracted the hostile attention of Roman emperors, and ten of them sought by deadly assaults to destroy the faith. They failed. "While the Roman empire was invaded by open violence, or undermined by slow decay, a pure and humble religion gently insinuated itself into the minds of men, grew up in silence and obscurity, derived new vigor from opposition, and finally erected the triumphant banner of the cross on the ruins of the Capitol." (Gibbon.)

Constantine professed Christianity, and the union of church and state had a much more disastrous effect than persecutions had had. Yet progress continued through centuries. A fine passage in Principal Cairns' "The Success of Christianity" describes the conquest of the great gods of the ancient world—a victory so complete and absolute that it was greater than if the idolatries of India, China and Japan today were one and all to fall. All Europe became nominally Christianised.

The Tide Turns

In recent years there has been a deliberate attempt in Europe to build society on pagan or purely secular foundations. "We are witnessing the emergence of a consciously post-Christian world. . . . There has been a deliberate and public repudiation of the Christian understanding of life. All the modern techniques of propaganda have been used to eradicate it from the minds of the rising generation and to instill into them contrary principles of life." J. H. Oldham, in these sentences, is describing what has happened in Germany and Russia and areas of South-Eastern Europe.

In Australia the Christian faith has not been cast off in this deliberate way. But there has developed a spirit of unbelief, as far as the need of the gospel is concerned. Some little time ago a Sydney newspaper asked its readers to state in order the things they valued most in public life. Health, home-building and freedom from unemployment headed the list. Out of eighty thousand voters, only four hundred placed religion near the top. That result probably indicates very well the general feeling towards our Christian faith. Certainly there is appalling indifference to the gospel.

That, however, is not the saddest part of the condition. The church people, too, have largely lost conviction. The remnant who still retain a vital faith meet in forlorn little groups to listen to a gospel message which the unconverted rarely come to hear. Our morning worship meetings in which Christian people attend to their own spiritual interests, more or less, are normally quite good in attendance, but the majority, the large majority of Christians, are no longer interested in the gospel of salvation. The one-time conviction that all Christians had, that the gospel matters, and that it is of supreme importance

that people receive it, is held only by few today. Many who have lost this conviction will repudiate this statement, but no words can alter the sad fact revealed in our small gospel meetings. The same condition exists in every religious body, and in every State of our nation.

How It Happened

To trace the reasons for this situation, we need to go far back—perhaps to the Renaissance itself. It is an interesting though painful story, and requires a book to tell it. Evidences of it are to be found in nearly every form of intellectual development that has played on Christianity.

An adequate survey of the subject would require at least that we trace the development of modern theology, and of the science of Comparative Religion. We should study the effects of the phenomenon known as non-theistic Humanism, so destructive a generation ago in its attack on the Christian faith, and so subtle in its deadly influence. Let us, however, by way of illustration, notice but two of the mighty streams of unbelieving thought which have tended to undermine the foundations of Christian faith.

Karl Marx's materialist interpretation of history and his whole system of political

economy became a factor in the destruction of faith. Myriads of men were influenced by his teaching. It would be difficult to exaggerate the extent to which his doctrines tended to unbelief. His teaching was largely responsible for the Russian revolution. Millions of men in England and her dominions eagerly studied his system, and learned to think apart altogether from Christianity. Religion was discounted. It was the opiate of the people, said Karl Marx. It must be eradicated. Thus the thoughts of men were turned from the gospel, and looked to other forces for the redemption of society.

The evolutionary hypothesis became another mighty enemy of faith. Not that the physical features of Darwinian evolution, despite the uproar it caused, were so very important. It is quite possible that God's work of creation was carried on by descent. The extension of the idea of evolution into a universal law which is responsible for all progress was what became dangerous. Herbert Spencer said that the law of progress must continue until perfection was reached. "Thus the ultimate development of the ideal man is logically certain . . . so surely must the things we call evil and immorality disappear; so surely must man become perfect." Other great thinkers accepted the same ideas. John Stuart Mill believed that man might work out salvation for himself—there was no need of the salvation that was in Christ. This idea of progress took possession of the minds of Christian thinkers too, and it has affected the whole mentality of modern Christian people. The majority will say that they have not been affected by these movements of philosophic thought. Consciously and directly they have not. But we are all members of the great human organism, and our minds tend to take

(Continued on page 521)



Man's Way or God's?

Thomas Hagger

SINCE the fall man has, to a very large extent, trusted in his own wisdom and power, instead of relying upon the Omnipotent. He has always thought that he could do things. To-day man is no better, neither in the world nor in the church.

He will be ready to admit that the world is in a chaotic state; that hatreds and resentments abound; that man is largely occupied in destroying, devastating and killing. The spirit of goodwill is not much in evidence, although there are occasional glimmers which give us hope. In face of present conditions man is convinced that we need a new age, better social conditions, real security. Realising something of our need, he is busy trying to evolve some scheme to secure the conditions hoped for. But it seems to be man's wisdom again that is the object of our trust. How much better if man would seek God's mind and will! In Jesus Christ he revealed himself, and showed man how the better life could be; but man has not that Jesus taught.

yet been willing to live in the way

that Jesus taught. And the church! It is organised, controlled, and yet divided, and somewhat powerless. Man seeing this is trying to secure better machinery, better organisation, and a platform of union. As E. M. Bounds has well said, "Man is looking for better methods." But Bounds goes on to say, "God is looking for better men." True! And better men can only come as they yield to God completely. They can carry on his work effectively only as they rely on his power, and not on their own.

As I see it, there is no hope for Christian union until men yield to the Lord and desire to know and do his will. There cannot be better social conditions until the kingship of Jesus is recognised and his will becomes paramount.

It is up to the church to lead in this matter. And that means it is up to the individual disciple to do so. Are we willing? Is it to be a further reliance on human wisdom and power or on the divine?

Notes on Current Topics

Religion and Life

THE Religion and Life Conference held recently at Newcastle has attracted much attention. Representatives of various communions met and proclaimed their faith and their "common desire that our Commonwealth should be Christian in fact as well as in name." Denominational differences should not stand in the way of co-operation in an endeavor to secure a post-war civilisation which is Christian in its basic principles. Protestants and Roman Catholics are not in agreement on some vitally important subjects, but they ought to be able to work together in an effort to secure social righteousness. Anglican and Roman Catholic speakers at the conference deplored the effect of a merely secular training. Mr. L. C. Robson, headmaster of the C. of E. Grammar School, North Sydney, made a strong plea for instruction in fundamental Christian faith, saying that "the school should recognise that the first of its duties was training character in accordance with the Christian ideal." He urged the churches to meet on common ground in the interest of the nation's future.

Differences and Difficulties

At times the Religion and Life Conference revealed wide differences amongst the speakers. The addresses of Dame Enid Lyons and Mr. G. S. Watts (Anglican) furnished a striking example. It would not be sufficiently high praise to say that Dame Enid's address was better than that of Mr. Watts'; she gave an able and helpful speech on marriage and divorce and on the value of home life.

An address by the Mayor of Greater Newcastle (Alderman Dunkley) led to sharp words. He is reported as having said, at a civic reception to the convention speakers, that

churches, by encouraging raffles and "house house" were nurseries of crime, and that the churches should be more strict in their attitude to the drink evils. Later in the conference Alderman Dunkley said that the churches by tolerance to drink were condoning evil. Dr. P. J. Ryan (Roman Catholic) said that "the conference had been marred by an intolerant attack," and stated that prohibition would do no good; "the abuse of alcohol did not destroy the right to its proper use." The Anglican Bishop of Newcastle closed the debate. In a later interview he said that raffles and other gambling in aid of church funds was expressly forbidden by an ordinance of Synod. Regarding drinking, he said that the Bible contained plenty of condemnation of drunkenness, but none of drinking in itself. The president of the Methodist Conference (Mr. R. J. Williams) and the convener of the Presbyterian Committee on Church Life and Work (Mr. C. A. White) later stated that their respective churches were opposed to gambling and forbade all forms of it in connection with church work. Other Protestant communions, as well as churches of Christ, could give a similar denial, and also indicate their opposition to the drinking evil. The outburst of the Roman Catholic representative, though regrettable, is easily explained. It would be a very fine thing if the Roman Catholic church—hierarchy and the membership at large—were to support, in an adequate manner, movements of social reform for the elimination of the crime and misery caused by drinking and gambling. As it is, R.C. use of gambling to aid church funds is a scandal.

A. R. Main

C.E. World President Speaks

W. W. Saunders

MINUTES are men. Every hour of delay in winning the war means the sacrifice of young lives. Slow-downs and strikes, indifference and selfishness, and failure to do one's utmost are, for me at least, passive treason (if there may be such) when freedom is burning at the stake and when the whole world rocks.

But let others deal with the military situation and the political implications. What of the church? And specifically now, what of C.E.?

The church must be the church. At home and abroad, on every front of action and to every life engaged, to friend and foe alike, the church must be the church. To her young people, wherever in the line of duty and in faithfulness to Christian conscience they may go, the church, with her divine grace and truth, and through her human instruments, must go to strengthen, reassure and empower. Through her men and women must be prepared to break the evil might and to win the peace.

C.E. is not the young people's church, nor an agency apart from the church. C.E. is within the church, an agency and servant of the church.

I have promised our British associates, and I now extend that promise to all officers of the world's union, that at the earliest possible moment following the armistice, somewhere in Europe we shall convene an executive committee meeting. The city may be London, or Geneva, or Oslo, or Budapest, or even Berlin or Moscow; but, wherever held,

this particular session of C.E. will be to the marching orders of Christ's command, "Go ye into all the world."

Perhaps C.E. has and will have a unique opportunity to speak for the invisible body of Christ, which is not limited to buildings that may be destroyed, nor defeated when pastors are slain and formal worship liquidated; that invisible body of Christ which, when the war ends, may open the door to the unlimited resources of God. As Christian Endeavorers, "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength," we must prepare now for that hour of high opportunity that will come when the next armistice is signed.

That we shall not fail and that we shall greatly succeed, I call upon you to strengthen the hands of our executive associates in every state, every country, every district, and every city. I call upon you to enlarge your boundaries, to lift your vision, to increase your gifts and to multiply all that you have previously done.—Daniel A. Polling, D.D.

IN THE STATES

AT the C.E. session of the annual conference of churches of Christ in S.A., awards were presented to the most progressive and efficient societies as follows:—Junior, Henley Beach (metropolitan) and Aldgate Valley (country); intermediate, Maylands; Y.P., Unley (metropolitan) and Tumbay Bay (country). H. E. Paddick, of Semaphore, succeeds A. E. Hurren, of Grote-st., Adelaide, as chairman of conference C.E. department.

One of the features of the C.E. calendar in W.A. is the annual field day and sports, when a full programme of inter-society and district union competitive sports is conducted. Increasing success has marked these occasions since their inception five years ago, and it is expected that the fifth, to be held on Nov. 15 at Leederville Oval, will be no exception.

The 52nd annual convention of N.S.W. Union was held from Oct. 7 to 11. The Victorian union will conclude its annual convention, which commenced on Oct. 29, on Saturday, Nov. 6, with an evangelistic rally at night and a junior rally and united conference session in the afternoon.

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

THE ANGEL OF PATIENCE

THOU who mournest on thy way,
With longings for the close of day,
He walks with thee, that angel kind,
And gently whispers, "Be resigned,
Bear up, bear on, the end shall tell
The dear Lord ordereth all things well."
—Whittier.

PRAYER NEGLECTED

WHAT about the sins of omission? What about the sins of men and women who are not training their children to love the Lord Jesus Christ? I know a lady who is a governess in a house, and the grandparents of the children of that house were pillars in the church when I was a boy. The grandmother and grandfather were the grandest Christians you could ever see, and gave their lives in service, and their money in thousands, to the work of God. And that governess told me this, that their children are not teaching the grandchildren even to pray, and she looked at me and said, "I tell you why; because they do not say their prayers themselves."—Lionel B. Fletcher.

A little girl friend on a visit to some friends, asked a little boy his name.

"Fred," he replied.

"Why," she said, "that's not a name, it's what they sew buttons on with."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—HELP FOR THE HOPELESS

- Nov. 8—Psalm 116.
- " 9—Romans 8: 18-26.
- " 10—Hebrews 4: 11-16.
- " 11—Hebrews 13: 1-8.
- " 12—1 Peter 1: 3-13.
- " 13—Acts 27: 1-8.
- " 14—Psalms 124, 125; Acts 27: 9-26.

ACTS 27 presents a graphic illustration of utter despair being exchanged for hope. The crew and passengers were in dire straits. All hope was abandoned. Yet here, as in thousands of similar instances before and since, "man's extremity" was "God's opportunity." Surely there is not one Christian adult who has not, at one time or another, felt that the boat would never weather the storm. Then, casting oneself upon the mercy of God, the storm-tossed soul has found, that in the direct trouble there has been a Presence, and in the worst experience a divine purpose; and always a glorious deliverance. Let the storm burst upon the soul with fiercest fury, there is One who comes to us with the word of good cheer, "It is I; be not afraid." Then comes to the soul "a great calm."

Crime Increase in Queensland

P. C. D. Alcorn reports efforts to save children from becoming criminals; the need of attending to problems in the "Near East"; and a record overseas mission offering.

QUEENSLAND crime statistics showed an increase of 42,963 over last year. There was, however, a decrease in juvenile crime, but the position in this connection is far from satisfactory. There were 833 cases brought before the Children's Court, which is an increase of 148 on the previous year's figures. The Commissioner of Police appealed to parents for their co-operation with the object of effecting a reduction in juvenile crime.

China, India, Ourselves

The Far East is the Near East to us. Along with people in other States, we have felt that as a Christian nation we should do something to relieve the famine-stricken people in China and India. The matter was discussed by the Council of Churches, and it was decided to ask the Lord Mayor to open a fund, stipulating that the Council of Churches would not be in favor of raising money by gambling. The Lord Mayor replied that he was in sympathy with the request, but his committee was of the opinion that it was impossible to raise money apart from gambling. The churches affiliated with the council cannot see their way clear to launch an appeal at present. It has now been decided to ask the Prime Minister to take up the matter.

Referring to missions in India, the secretary of the Queensland Baptist Overseas Mission committee said that Britain may not be welcome in India after the war, and arrangements were being made for the handing over of the mission fields to Christianised Indians.

Child Neglect

Travelling home from week-night meetings, we have noticed a number of children about the streets. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty has recently expressed concern about this. One member reported the case of a little girl about ten in a hotel bar. In some instances

the cause for children being out late was that some were selling papers till 9 p.m.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union has also drawn attention to "the long queues waiting for bars and wineshops to open, the larger proportion of which consists of women who have the care of young children."

Forward Moves

Our Home Mission Committee has decided to appoint H. E. Greenwood full-time organiser from the end of November. Recently Mr. Greenwood was appointed secretary of the National Council of Religious Education (Queensland branch). We understand that he is the first church of Christ member in Queensland to be elected to this position.

After worshipping for ten years in a hall the Stone's Corner church decided to disband. It was then suggested that they meet for monthly prayer meetings with a view to opening a cause in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane. A church site has now been selected at Camp Hill tram terminus and a deposit paid. We trust this will mean a definite advance.

Senior Chaplain Retires

After twenty-four and a half years' service, Senior Chaplain R. Sayce recently retired on account of failing health. During a recent visit of Chaplain-General Allen Brooke opportunity was taken by the United Churches Chaplaincy Board to express their appreciation of Chaplain Sayce's services and to make a presentation.

Missions Well Supported

The overseas mission annual offering has now reached the sum of £1054, which is a record.

The Brisbane City Mission recently appealed for £500 to give children a fortnight's holiday at the seaside, and in ten days the fund was oversubscribed.

Hindrances to Progress

(Continued from page 519)

their tone and color from the intellectual environment in which we live.

The Loss of Conviction

Probably the great mass of people accepts the fact of God. Only a few will take the trouble to deny him. But he is accepted as an abstract idea. He does not matter. He is not taken into account. Unfortunately Christian people also have lost a vital conviction. How seldom do we hear the confident note and the absolute claim of the first preachers of the gospel! "There is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved." "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow." The audacity of their claims in regard to Christ, and the boldness of their attitude towards the world, were startling. They were aggressors. They had that without which the world would collapse upon itself. The truth was a burning fire shut up in their bones, and they could not be silent about it.

There are still some in every congregation who keep the altar fires burning, and who verily believe their gospel. But there is probably not one church of any size in which the majority of the members have such a conviction concerning the need of Christ as Saviour that they will be present next Sunday evening at the preaching of the gospel. He will be a fortunate preacher who has a dozen people in his congregation who need the gos-

pel of salvation. The unsaved rarely attend the church now. Why should they, when Christian people have lost conviction to such an extent that there is no longer a burning passion in their hearts to proclaim the gospel to sinful men? This condition is but a symptom, perhaps, but it reveals the church facing

A Major Crisis

The matter is deep-seated and fundamental. It is an occasion for earnest searchings of heart. There have been other similar calamitous days. Such a time was described in the letter to the Laodician church in Rev. 3: 14-22—a church which had become lukewarm, comfortable in its worldly goods, and unconscious of its spiritual poverty. Such a condition actually existed in England in the eighteenth century. Green's "Short History of the English People" paints in lurid colors the moral degradation in all ranks of society in those dark days. The religious life was so low that Bishop Butler, when he was offered the archbishopric of Canterbury, declined on the ground that it was too late to try to uphold a fallen church. God had a way to deal with that situation. He raised up Wesley, and set on foot the spiritual revolution which did so much to regenerate England. Unfortunately the church did not want Wesley—he was not permitted to use the church buildings for his work. Perhaps it was just as well, for the church had become so cold and indifferent that

any association with it might have rendered a great spiritual revival impossible.

The results of that work of regeneration are described by Green: the appearance of a new moral enthusiasm, the disappearance of the profligacy which had disgraced the upper classes and of the foulness which had infested literature, and—a yet nobler result—the steady attempt to remedy the guilt, the ignorance, the physical suffering and the social degradation of the profligate and the poor.

Can we be revived again? Has the church still within it those elements of spiritual resources that can be renewed, and used once more in wide-reaching redemptive movements that will bring multitudes to salvation at the cross? Or is it (as R. L. Williams, "The Australian Christian," Oct. 20, suggests) that the church in its institutionalised form of to-day is dying, that the mass of formal adherents will be lost, and that a faithful remnant will bring the church to a new resurrection? We do not know, but it is time to renew our consecration, assured that with our help or without it, our Lord shall see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.

Obituary

Mrs. C. B. Cockroft

ON Oct. 13, at Greensborough private hospital, Annie Florence Cockroft, of Eltham (Vic.), aged 62 years, passed away suddenly. She was the second daughter of late Samuel and Mrs. Green, pioneer members of church at Boonah, Qld., and converts of Mr. Parks. Brought up in a Christian home, she gave her life to Christ at the age of 15 years. R. J. Clow baptised her. Later she was married to C. B. Cockroft by T. G. Mason at Boonah. From there she moved to Brisbane, and was a member at Ann-st., and later at Annerley. From there she came to Victoria with her husband and family, and was at time of her death an isolated member of Preston. She leaves a husband, three daughters (Ruth, Edna and Beth), and one son, Keith, who is in New Guinea. Since petrol rationing they have been supporting the H.M. church at Ringwood, and attending the Methodist church at Eltham. A large congregation attended the service at Eltham conducted by A. H. Pratt. Mr. Woodford (Methodist), Chaplain Young and W. Gale also spoke. C. J. Robinson led in prayer. Chaplain Young conducted graveside service and A. H. Pratt paid tribute to the departed and to her parents, knowing them all as a brother-in-law. To sorrowing husband and children and four grand-children (Graham, Gweneth, Donald and Yvonne) sincere sympathy is extended.—A. H. Pratt.

L.A.C. Cecil C. Wright

ELPPING church (N.S.W.) has been saddened by loss of one whose life was intimately bound up with life and work of church. On Sept. 25 L.A.C. Cecil Clifford Wright passed away as a result of enemy action, near Finschhafen, New Guinea. Cecil was among those who gathered in the first session of the Bible school, and became a member of church ten years ago. Before enlisting he had served as superintendent of Intermediate C.E. Society for several years, as a Sunday school teacher, and as a valuable helper in morning services. He served on State executive of C.E. Society. A memorial service was held on Oct. 10, at which a large gathering of friends paid tribute to him as one who cherished Christian principles, who readily entered the service of his country, and who was beautifully devoted to his family. We extend heartfelt sympathy to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ern Wright, his sister Joyce, his brothers, Gordon and Leslie, and his fiancée, Rona Clark, of East Malvern, Vic.—W.M.McC.

Here and There

We received this telegram on Nov. 1:—"Splendid fifth Bible school anniversary, Georgetown; crowded sessions; three decisions.—Amos."

At a well-attended meeting at Ivanhoe, Vic., 3 young men conducted gospel service on Oct. 31. Girls presented an appreciated item, entitled "The Message of the Cross." Two young ladies from Bible school made the good confession.

This telegram from Toowoomba, Qld., reached us Oct. 25, and was too late for last week's issue: "Highly successful anniversary; record thankoffering approaching £200, expectations exceeded; wonderful blessings.—Boettcher."

The Victorian Sunday School of the Air session over 3DB will be conducted by churches of Christ schools during November. Camberwell, Moreland, Coburg and Blackburn will contribute choral items, and R. L. Williams, V. C. Stafford and C. H. J. Wright will present lesson story.

The following telegram reached us Tuesday, Oct. 25, too late for inclusion in last week's issue: "Hinrichsen-Morris mission, Dandenong, Vic., marquee crowded out again, Sunday night; wonderful interest; 29 decisions to date.—Marshall." In another message reaching us Nov. 1, additional news of progress of mission is given: "Interest in Hinrichsen-Morris mission, Dandenong, continues unabated; audiences still increasing; 45 decisions to date.—Marshall."

Sunday, Oct. 31, proved a day of encouragement in Bible school work in several Victorian rural schools. L. Mountjoy, superintendent of Hamilton school, reports the achievement of a long pursued aim to reach the century mark in attendance: 101 were present, including 48 in kindergarten department. W. R. Hibbert, Victorian youth leader, shared in the Horsham anniversary services, and reports record attendances. The school is in a healthy condition, and commenced its new year with two new teachers and 15 new scholars.

Under auspices of the C.E. Committee of Victorian Conference, 150 young people gathered at College of the Bible, Glen Iris, on Oct. 23. The programme comprised of field games, tea on the lawns and group conferences on "C.E. in action in conference committee, personal problems, post-war world." The leaders were D. C. Ritchie, A. W. C. Candy and W. R. Hibbert. Preceded by a song service led by Mr. A. Haskell, and presided over by D. C. Ritchie, chairman of committee, an inspiring rally was held in chapel at night; N. Lumsden was speaker and Mrs. W. Bruce, A. Haskell and H. Lee assisted with musical items.

Among the contributors to the College of the Bible offering at Brisbane this year were a sailor from a U.S.A. ship then in port and an Indian student in one of our American colleges, John L. Hoyopatubbi, who is serving with U.S.A. forces in Australia. This fellowship is much appreciated by the college board, as strengthening the ties that bind the brethren. Reports to date indicate that a substantial advance has been made by the churches, especially by those in South Australia, on the previous year. It is too early to publish details or comparative figures. The college board is encouraged by the offering so far to hand.

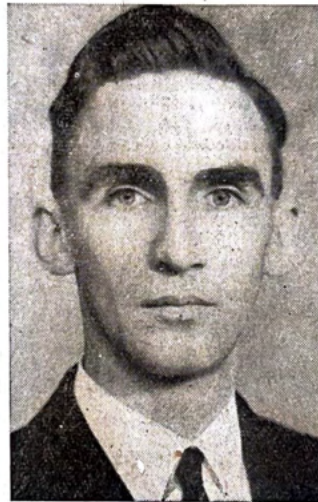
How much would you suppose is spent on drink and tobacco in this country? asks Mr. W. Manning Dacey, financial editor of the London "Observer" (18/4/1943). About half as much as on rent, perhaps? The answer is: Nearly twice as much. Since 1938 our collective drink and tobacco bill has more than doubled, from £452,000,000 to £912,000,000. Most of the increase, of course, represents nothing more than the payment of higher taxes. But the total is nevertheless rather striking in comparison with a rent bill of only £520,000,000,

and expenditure on food of no more than £1,320,000,000. Of every pound spent by the public in 1942, in fact, about 6/- went on food, 4/2 on drink and tobacco, and less than half-a-crown on "rent, rates, and water charges."

The family of A. J. Webb, of Balaklava, S.A., honored their father by a reunion on his 70th birthday, Oct. 16. The function was held in the church hall, and about 150 had tea at 6 p.m. J. E. Webb, from Mile End, was chairman of a social evening held later. During the evening A. Hutson, preacher of Balaklava church, introduced H. E. Bowden, M.P., who voiced the congratulation and good wishes of guests to Mr. A. J. Webb. He was ably supported by Hy. Roberts, J.P., chairman of district council, who made a presentation. Mr. Webb replied. On Sunday morning, Oct. 16, the service was conducted by members of Webb family, except for Mr. Hutson, who presided. J. E. Webb gave the address, about 160 members being present. The preacher expressed appreciation of Webb family for the help of Balaklava church.

From Week to Week

THE appointment of K. A. Macnaughtan, of Geelong, as visiting evangelist of Victoria will be welcomed as a necessary move to meet difficult situations, especially in country districts. It is the intention of the Home Mission Committee that Mr. Macnaughtan undertake the task of helping needy causes by visiting members, inspiring church officers and



K. A. Macnaughtan.

preachers in isolated areas, and also by conducting special series of meetings to build up faith of members and gain converts. Mr. Macnaughtan has had considerable experience in mission work, and has a great desire to serve in this special type of work. We trust he will be so used by the Lord that he will be the means of helping many churches and of winning souls for Christ.

VISITING the church at Balwyn, Vic., last week, I noticed a photograph of G. Chandler, who was the first preacher of the church in that area. I recalled that I had seen our brother's photo. in the vestry of the little chapel at Colac, Vic. It was interesting to hear from residents of Colac what an impres-

sion he made on the people of that town. Townspeople would speak with enthusiasm of the work Mr. Chandler did. Considering it was Mr. Chandler's earliest ministry in the State, and so many years ago, it is a great tribute to him that he should be remembered so favorably now. I did not have the pleasure of hearing him. So many have spoken of his evangelistic powers that I regret not having had such an opportunity. Churches of Christ have been helped and blessed by a succession of great evangelists who have been able to catch the ear of the people. I trust God will raise up many more who, in various ways and by different gifts, will win many into the kingdom of God. It is the mission of the church to keep evangelism alive. There is no set way designed by which we must reach out for men. Let us use all who are able to help, and encourage them to try every just method of approach, so that men and women from all classes may be won for Christ.

A correspondent points out that two articles in last week's issue were contributed by young men who had been associated with Box Hill church (Vic.), H. E. R. Steele and Sgt. H. Williams. Mr. Steele is a preacher in W.A., while Sgt. H. Williams is on active service in New Guinea.

Attendances at morning services at Sth. Richmond, Vic., are increasing, and evening meetings continue to be helpful. R. Hindman and K. Barton, of College of Bible, were recent speakers at morning services, Mr. Cremin preaching gospel. Bible school, regraded after anniversary, now shows increase in membership. At Prahran Town Hall on Oct. 26, young people presented a concert to an appreciative audience. A. E. Cremin, preacher, congratulated young people on their effort. F. D. Trainor, director of Red Cross appeals, in receiving proceeds amounting to £15, for Lord Mayor's Red Cross Fund, expressed appreciation of Lord Mayor's Committee.

ADDRESS

J. E. Webb (preacher Mile End church, S.A.)—"The Manse," 2 Danby-st., Torrensvile. 'Phone, LA687.

WE are being told that Australia will play a greater part in the Pacific zone when the war ends. It will not be possible for us to ignore the presence of the people of India and China in the vital regions surrounding our continent. With the growing of industrial power in those regions and the awakening of the common people to the possibilities of modern civilisation, the future of Australia is being determined, in a degree, by events that are now being shaped in the lands washed by the Pacific and Indian Oceans. If we are wise we shall do all in our power to understand the life and history of the people of India and China. I have been interested in a little book written by Winifred Galbraith, entitled "The Chinese." The book is in the "Pelican" series, and may be on sale in city book shops. The chapter that presents the type of poetry popular in China, reveals the heart of the people. It is clear that, although the skin of Chinese may differ in color from ours, the feelings of the heart are similar. There is love of beauty in nature; grief over partings and loss of loved ones; appreciation for the vigorous action of horses that "swallow up the miles." Ignorance breeds intolerance and foolish hatreds. Therefore let us be wise and cultivate, through knowledge, the friendship of our Eastern neighbors, so that we may co-operate in building better conditions in this Pacific zone.

News of the Churches

South Australia

Edwardstown West.—On Oct. 17 J. E. Shipway gave fine messages at both meetings. Mrs. Tabbe was present after a long illness. Y.W.L. held social gathering on 27th. Mr. Wood has left for duty with R.A.A.F.

Port Noarlunga.—Meetings are held regularly. Members are glad of visitors' help and fellowship. Y.W. League continues; average attendance, 8. On Oct. 24 Mr. Walkley, of Forestville, presided, and other visitors were present. Offering for college, £1/10/6.

Goolwa.—Sunday school anniversary services and picnic were a success. The messages of Ross Graham were enjoyed. Mrs. Reed is still in South Coast Hospital, but making progress toward recovery. George Wilson paid his first visit to Goolwa church on Oct. 17 and was greatly appreciated.

Victor Harbour Circuit.—Many visitors attend services at Port Elliot, breaking of bread service in Court House and at Victor Harbour. Sunday school anniversary services were a joy and blessing. Singing was good and attendances encouraging. Mr. Manning took the confession of a young lady at Mt. Compass service on Oct. 24. Mrs. G. J. Fullston, a foundation member and very faithful, passed away suddenly on Sept. 27.

Prospect.—K.S.P. chapter held father-and-son banquet on Oct. 19. 56 sat to supper. Mr. Coombe, S.M., addressed the gathering on problem of youth. Fellowship with fathers of boys on service was enjoyed. C. Schwab led the church in service on Oct. 24. W. Glover (R.A.N.) was home on leave. Miss P. Robson rendered a solo at evening service. Members of 2nd Degree K.S.P. held bi-monthly meeting with good attendance and spiritual fellowship.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

AUXILIARIES ORGANISED: THREE CONFESSIONS

MILE END.—At a well-attended meeting of ladies of church, it was decided to form a Women's Mission Band with Mrs. Jas. E. Webb president, Mrs. A. Brice vice-president, Mrs. S. Norman secretary, and Miss Hooper treasurer. In addition a monthly social afternoon will be held in interests of worthy causes. The first was held on Oct. 20, and 40 ladies enjoyed the afternoon. Boys' Club and Tennis Club of church have been recommenced. Services on Oct. 24 were well attended. In morning a series of addresses was commenced. At night Jas. E. Webb preached and three lads of I.C.E. decided for Christ. Lieut. Gordon Smith, home on leave, was received into fellowship by letter of transfer from Hartwell, Vic. Prospects are very bright.

Queenstown.—Appreciated exhortations have been given by W. C. Brooker, G. A. Foote, jun., and W. Adair, and Mr. Brooker has preached at gospel services during recent weeks. Attendances continue to be very satisfactory. A. Martin, R.A.N., W. Turner, R.A.A.F., and M. Hinde, A.M.F., have enjoyed fellowship with the church while home on leave. Bible school had a special programme on Oct. 17, when prizes were given to scholars for attendance and picnic events. On Oct. 23 the kindergarten teachers gave the kinders an afternoon and tea at the chapel. Ladies' Guild and Bright Hour have held meetings. Miss

Spurr was present to give a message at Bright Hour. I.C.E. Society had a social evening for A. Martin (on final leave); a presentation was made. The passing of Mrs. Litchfield, a member for over 30 years, is regretted.

York.—There was one confession on Oct. 17, G. Rootes preaching. At a special business meeting of church on Oct. 20, it was decided to re-engage Mr. Rootes for a further term of two years. Annual meeting of women's guild held on 20th was well attended. Many societies were represented. Mrs. Simpson, at one time a missionary in New Guinea, spoke. Annual meeting and social of Int. C.E. Society held on October 21 was successful. H. Watts Grimmett, Congregational minister, gave a splendid address. A young man was baptised on Oct. 24.

Murray Bridge.—On Oct. 17 there was an address by N. G. Noble, and a solo by A. C. Page. The preacher has been offered an extension of engagement to January, 1945. Attendances at anniversary services, Oct. 24, were a record, A. Anderson, president of conference, being speaker. Singing of children led by L. Fitzgerald, superintendent, was appreciated. Miss L. Harper, organist, Mrs. Keith Davis, pianist, and Mrs. Arthur Coote, with Miss Lorna Brake, violinists, assisted. The annual thanksgiving offering amounted to £27/10/9. On Oct. 25 the presentation of prizes and certificates was made and report of secretary, Miss Brenda Orchard read, and N. G. Noble spoke. Over £10 has been received towards prizes and China Relief Fund.

Maylands.—Bible school picnic was held on Oct. 11, at "Brookside." Bible school anniversary services were held on Oct. 17 and 24. Attendances were excellent. Speakers at services were: mornings, W. L. Ewers and W. F. Nankivell; afternoons, A. Anderson and Rees Thomas; evenings, Keith Jones. Annual concerts were held on Oct. 25 and 27. Items were given by kindergarten, primary and junior departments, while intermediates and seniors presented a drama entitled, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jim Luff, Ross Rodda and Jack Matthews are home on leave from New Guinea. On Oct. 17 Mr. Lawrie, sen., was called to his reward. A Men's Christian Brotherhood has been formed. Temple day has been arranged for Nov. 13. All auxiliaries are working well, and a happy spirit prevails.

Queensland

Townsville.—Chaplain Norris conducted Bible study at midweek service on Oct. 31. After service W. Giezendanner baptised Robert Green, of Brilliant, Alabama. Chaplain Hanson addressed a large gospel meeting on Oct. 24. Visitors included A. Berlin, vice-president of conference.

New South Wales

Albury.—Attendances for October have been splendid, average at Lord's Table being 54 and at Bible school 52. J. H. Coome, Australian Nepalese missionary, spoke on Oct. 10, and Mrs. Waterman addressed church on Oct. 17. Neville Aitken, Ian Grahame and Colin Moore were baptised, and have been received into fellowship. Annual birthday offering has increased to £50/10/6. Mrs. Thurling and Mrs. Joynson are recovering after illness. Mrs. Cross is very sick. Mr. Prosser, after an illness, has received the home-call. Church expressed sympathy to sorrowing ones. Good Companies' and Young Explorers' Clubs are growing. The prayers of the church are with Mrs. Cross in her severe illness.

Sydney.—Services held weekly in City Temple on Saturday nights and Monday afternoons are well maintained. On Oct. 23 a message for men was given by H. B. Robbins, of Melbourne. Average attendance is 31 men and about 8 helpers. A Christian brother from U.S. Forces also gave a fine message during month. Average attendance for women's meeting, which is accomplishing much good, is about 20. Many men and women are being helped, and a number of decisions have been made.



INDUCTION SERVICE

PREACHER WELCOMED BY REPRESENTATIVES

BROKEN HILL.—J. E. Shipway, of Adelaide, gave appreciated messages at both services on Oct. 24. Mr. Shipway stayed for H. E. Paddick's induction service on Oct. 28, when representatives of ministers' fraternal, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, Salvation Army and C.E. Union spoke. J. D. Cremer welcomed Mr. Paddick on behalf of churches and Mr. A. Clark for Bible schools and C.E. Societies. Mr. Paddick responded to welcome, giving a fine message to church.

Western Australia

Ferth.—On Oct. 22 a group of young people held an enjoyable social gathering. During evening there was an impressive period of worship. On morning of Oct. 24 J. K. Robinson gave an uplifting talk. At 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Thrum rendered a solo and Mr. Robinson preached.

Harvey.—Crowded audiences enjoyed children's anniversary services on Oct. 17, under leadership of M. Livingstone. Mr. Bamford gave interesting talks to children. Kinders, led by Mrs. Rowley, V. Livingstone and B. Robinson, gave special items. Mrs. Rowley presented cradle roll cards to mothers. On Aug. 19 children's tea was held and later, in R.S.L. hall, a fine programme was enjoyed. A tableau, "The Lord's Prayer," was given by choir, trained by A. Johnston.

Kalgoorlie.—Bible school anniversary was held on Oct. 24. On Sunday afternoon kindergarten children, under supervision of Sister Park, gave demonstration, and received prizes. F. Stephenson gave a very interesting object talk. In evening, senior scholars sang, Mr. Fitch being speaker. On evening of Oct. 26 Bible school demonstration was held when prizes were distributed. On Wednesday evening scholars enjoyed a tea meeting. L. Park, superintendent, was congratulated on a very satisfactory anniversary.

Subiaco.—Sunday school anniversary, conducted on Oct. 10 and 17, proved an outstanding success. At both afternoon and evening services the chapel was packed, and the singing of the school under leadership of E. Black was much enjoyed. The anniversary ended with a demonstration on Oct. 20. At each Sunday night a young lady from the school made her decision to follow Christ. The church has had fellowship with Mr. Milne, of Bordertown, S.A., and Mr. Amos, of Victoria. John Pallot, who was a prisoner of war in Italy, has escaped and is now interned in Switzerland.

Victoria

Castlemaine.—During absence on holidays of C. E. Curtis, local brethren have assisted. Last Sunday R. Goudie, of Kyneton, brought a stirring message to morning service and Mr. Symes, of Harcourt, spoke at night. The annual picnic in the gardens was largely attended. Regret is expressed at passing of Mrs. S. G. Lacy.

Malvern-Caulfield.—On Oct. 31 preachers were Mr. Gadge, morning, and F. E. Buckingham, evening. Two scholars were baptised, and during day 136 broke bread. Mr. and Mrs. Stell were received into membership by letter from Ballarat. Mrs. Dean, of Bunbury, W.A., was amongst visitors.

Ormond.—At midweek prayer meeting A. Knee gave a good message. On Oct. 31 C. L. Lang, back from holidays, delivered helpful messages. Mr., Mrs. and Miss Johnson, of Shepparton, were received into fellowship. A Girls' Club has been started under the leadership of Miss Edna Henry.

Collingwood.—At morning services, Oct. 24 and 31, fine messages have been delivered by T. Fitzgerald, and gospel addresses by H. Watson and K. Roberts were also appreciated. A solo was rendered by Mrs. Muir on Oct. 31. Three teachers and 16 scholars have been added to Bible school in recent weeks.

Fairfield Park.—During October church has experienced a time of blessing; special meetings addressed by various preachers of brotherhood, have proved a help. On Oct. 31 meetings were well attended. Mr. Cartmell exhorted church and Mr. Wilson preached at night. Hospital Sunday collection amounted to £6.

Red Hill.—On Oct. 3 Geof. Whiting gave helpful messages. Parcels have been sent to some church men on active service. Certificates and seals won in Bible school work were presented to scholars. A. Greaves' son, from north, was at worship service on Oct. 17. Miss D. Holmes was greeted by C.E. members and friends for her birthday on Oct. 23.

Burnley.—Members visited mission at Dandenong on Oct. 12. On Oct. 13 Burnley, Nth. Richmond and Sth. Richmond churches met in a combined prayer meeting. Members of "flying squad" paid us a visit, and conducted evening service on Oct. 17. Ministry of Mr. Crisp is appreciated; offerings for College of the Bible, £3; hospital appeal, £3/4/9.

OPEN-AIR SERVICES

GROWING INTEREST: GOOD SCHOOL

RESERVOIR.—Meetings continue to be well attended, a gratifying feature being the number of visitors at gospel services. Open-air meetings, held at various locations in district prior to gospel services each Sunday, are very well attended. J. W. Fisher (preacher Regent Baptist church) was morning speaker on Oct. 31, exchanging with Mr. Grainger. Bible school attendances are increasing, a record being reached on Oct. 31. Interest is well maintained in all auxiliaries, and the work generally is progressing favorably.

St. Arnaud.—Visitors recently included Mrs. Williams, of Sydney. On Oct. 12 a farewell evening was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. W. Vernon, who were leaving the district. Sunday school picnic was held enjoyably on Oct. 20 at the Bend; there were 50 present. Women's Mission Band meetings are well attended. Ladies are doing fine work for church.

Brighton.—On Oct. 31 home-coming and Bible school anniversary services were held; about 70 visitors were present. Singing by choir and scholars and messages of W. Gale, L. Brooker and C. B. Nance-Kivell were appreciated. Two young men confessed Christ at gospel service. An offering to meet cost of renovations to school buildings amounted to over £65. Greetings from absent members were read at fellowship tea. Sympathy was expressed for Mr. and Mrs. F. Sanguinetti in the loss of their son Francis, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Forbes.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—On Oct. 31 T. H. Scambler spoke at both services; two were baptised at close of evening service. Mr. Scambler's interim ministry and fellowship have been much enjoyed. Stuart Rae gave message to Bible class. The class held a social evening on Oct. 30, when Mrs. Scambler and Miss Pittman were presented with floral tributes, and Mr. Scambler also received a memento from class.

Bendigo.—A good spiritual tone exists in all departments. Ladies' auxiliaries, under leadership of Mrs. Methven, are working well with excellent results. Y.P.C.E. Society helps Saturday evenings amongst aged and shut-in people; this work is much appreciated. Bible school has launched an efficiency campaign with aim to increase enrolment by 25 per cent. Mrs. Mathieson, who is still in Base Hospital, is making steady progress.

Stawell.—Twenty-seventh anniversary of the church was celebrated on Oct. 17. C. Jackel, of Horsham, was speaker. On Oct. 24 W. L. Wright, of Melbourne, spoke at morning service and Mr. Randall at gospel meeting. A get-together social was held on Oct. 18. Baptist Y.P.C.E. society visited Endeavorers. Mrs. Jackson is in hospital. Mrs. Darling is home. Miss Bates is still very sick. Sunday school is practising for anniversary.

North Richmond.—Anniversary services were enjoyed. R. L. Williams conducted three special services, leading to anniversary day, Oct. 24, and addressed morning meeting. Wednesday evening, Oct. 27, T. H. Scambler spoke at public meeting. Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Gove, Miss Saddler and Mr. McCann assisted with singing and Mr. A. McDonald gave elocutionary item. Hospital offering amounted to £11/7/6 and temple day appeal reached £17.

Balwyn.—The church has enjoyed the special series of meetings in connection with its 21st anniversary. Russel Baker gave a splendid message on morning of Oct. 24. One was received into fellowship. In evening Emmanuel Male Quartette Party helped wonderfully. The church appreciated a message from R. L. Williams on Oct. 31, and in evening of the chapel was well filled to hear the singing of Malvern-Caulfield girls' choir under leadership of Mr. C. Gadge.

Oakleigh.—At gospel service, Oct. 17, a Bible school lad made good confession. A delegation attended Hinrichsen-Morris mission at Dandenong, on Oct. 19. United intercessory service was held in chapel on Oct. 20, L. G. Phillips, of Murrumbidgee Methodist church, giving an address. At monthly meeting of Society for Christian Action, A. A. Hughes, M.L.A., was speaker. Hospital Sunday offering was £14. Ladies are aiming to raise £20 for Christian Guest Home.

Footscray.—S.S. anniversary offerings and proceeds of concert amounted to £28. Mission Band visited Baptist society on Oct. 21, Mrs. Ritchie presenting the message. Ladies' Aid visited Mrs. McNab, isolated member at South Yarra, on Oct. 28. Offering for Hospital Sunday Appeal amounted to £6/15/-. J.C.E. continues to grow; despite sickness 51 were present on Oct. 31; a record of 10 new juniors for one day was established. At well-attended gospel service Miss Ethel Clark made the good confession.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Morning speakers have been, Oct. 3, W. W. Saunders; Oct. 10, H. Edwards, of York-st.; Oct. 17, W. Clack, Y.M.C.A. representative with R.A.A.F., home on leave before going to New Guinea; Oct. 24, Mr. Kramer, of B. and F. Bible Society. An offering received for the society amounted to £9. On Oct. 24 one young woman responded to invitation, W. W. Saunders speaking. At Doveton-st. speakers have been, morning, W. H. Benson, J. A. Wilkie, W. Batch, W. W. Saunders; evening, J. A. Wilkie, H. Edwards, W. J. Reid. Mt. Clear has been served by W. G.

Feary, of York-st., and J. A. Wilkie. Midweek prayer meeting continues to prove helpful, average attendance being well over 30. Children's F.M. day offering totalled over £7. Mission Band is sending Christmas parcels to members in Services. Dorcas is preparing parcel for aborigines' Christmas box. Young people continue to sing fortnightly in Base Hospital and to take gaol service monthly. Geoff Reed and Theo Waterman were welcomed home on leave on Oct. 24. Church has enjoyed fellowship with Mrs. Ewers, of Lake-st., Perth.

CHILDREN'S DAY

NEEDS OF MISSION WORK EMPHASISED

CAULFIELD (Bambra-rd.).—K. Gerrard addressed church on Oct. 24; H. M. Clipstone preached at night, when young people assisted in service. B.S. observed Children's Day in afternoon, an address by Miss Mary Clipstone being much appreciated; the offering for overseas work exceeded £5. At tea Miss M. Cantlay, trained for mission work in New Guinea, gave her testimony. H. M. Clipstone spoke at both services on Oct. 31. At night Miss F. Cowper was soloist. Girls' Club held a social for Services hampers on Oct. 26, and Endeavorers raised £2/2/- for troop Testaments in a novelty night, Oct. 15.

Gardiner.—T. Hagger was speaker at services on Oct. 24 and after gospel address Ron Elliott confessed Christ. J. W. Ehms has resigned as superintendent of Sunday school after 20 years' service, and the secretary, J. McCann has been appointed as superintendent, with Ray Brough as secretary. Alan Thomas and Mrs. Fullerton have been placed in charge of Youth's Bright Hour. Members of P.B.P. club entertained men of church on Oct. 25. Annual business meeting was held on Oct. 27, and all retiring deacons, secretary, assistant secretary and treasurer were re-elected. On 28th the K.S.P. club entertained mothers and friends. Over 80 parcels have been sent to members of Forces by Mission Band; over two-thirds of the money has been raised by the P.B.P. and K.S.P. clubs. In the absence of Mr. Hagger at Northcote on Oct. 31, Mr. Halkyard, Baptist church, was speaker at morning service. Ron Elliott was baptised during evening service and another K.S.P. member, Brian Spratling, responded to invitation.

Tasmania

West Hobart.—The church has enjoyed and been enriched by fellowship with F. T. Morgan (State evangelist), who has taken all services over past fortnight. Midweek meetings are now being conducted in the homes of members with a fine spirit of fellowship. Bible school held anniversary services on Oct. 17 and 20. All meetings were well attended, and the anniversary was outstanding.

Invermay.—After being affected by sickness attendances have improved. Local brethren have filled pulpit with help of E. C. Stevens, F. Daniels, T. Orr, G. H. Newell and F. T. Morgan. Mutual Improvement Class provides instruction and help. Bible school is conducting a campaign for new scholars, and has commenced practice for anniversary under conductorship of E. A. Stevens. The church recently met to bid farewell to G. Colbeck, on final leave from R.A.A.F. Several have been laid aside, including Mrs. Benefield, Mrs. E. A. Stevens, Mrs. M. Alderton. Mr. Newell's health has caused concern; he is now on vacation. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lynex in the loss of her mother. Mrs. Lynex is now in

hospital, seriously ill. Ralph Comer, transferred from Devonport, was welcomed recently.

Launceston (Margaret-st.)—S. H. Wilson had recovered sufficiently to preach at services on Oct. 17. Dudley Bakes, a baptised believer, was received into fellowship. Splendid meetings on Oct. 24, 123 breaking bread. 128 attended gospel service. Mr. Wilson gave excellent addresses. Bible school had attendance of 101; four new scholars. The school choir, under T. Wilmot, has been featured in Sunday afternoon sessions over 7EX, conducted by Tasmanian Bible School and Young People's Department. Recent visitors have been E. Patterson, of Balwyn, and Mr. Russell, of Bet Bet, Vic. Under direction of Sisters' Auxiliary a "Temple Day" was held on Oct. 27. In evening a thanksgiving service was held. Mr. Wilson presided, and delivered a short address. The choir rendered a programme of music. Amount received at close of day totalled £120. A social gathering in the hall concluded the day.

Books About Heaven

"What About Heaven?" by Dr. W. Graham Scroggie. Study of the life of the believer after death. A true book of comfort. 6/6 (6/8½).

"Heaven, the Home of the Redeemed," by Geo. Goodman, Robt. Lee, Capt. Wallis and others. 2/6 (2/9½).

"Man's Future Destiny," by Oswald J. Smith. 2/- (2/2½).

"Heaven," by Wm. P. Nicholson, 3d. (4½d.).

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BIRTHS

BAKER (nee Jean Anderson).—On Oct. 24, at "Airlie" private hospital, Ivanhoe, to Mrs. and Sgt. Douglas Baker (A.I.F., N.G.)—a son.

HARRISON.—On Oct. 28, at Queen Alexander Hospital, Hobart, to Warrant Officer and Mrs. J. Harrison, of Moonah—a son (James Gordon).

DEATHS

LACY.—October 29, 1943, at Strathearn hospital, Castlemaine, Sarah Grace, beloved wife of Samuel George Lacy, 32 Hunter-st., Castlemaine, devoted mother of Nesta Grace (dec.) and Rosa Mary.

MELDRUM.—On Oct. 20, at Mosman, N.S.W., Andrew McKenzie Meldrum, M.A., D.D., loved husband of Louisa. "A good soldier of Jesus Christ."

IN MEMORIAM

COSH.—In memory of one so loving, on Sept. 28, 1942, whom God called home; one so dearly loved, our dear brother Stephen. His kindly ways, his loving, kindly deeds, his thoughts always for others. Himself he always forgot. Our deep grief and loss could not be expressed in words.

There is someone who misses you sadly,

And thinks of you day by day;
But we'll meet again in God's garden
At the dawn of a beautiful day.

—Inserted by loving sister, Annie.

TURNER.—Loving memories of our dear one, Margaret Ann, who fell asleep in Jesus on Nov. 8, 1940.

"Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."
—Inserted by her loving husband and daughter Elsie.

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EACH LORD'S DAY MORNING AT 11 O'CLOCK.
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Visiting members cordially invited

CHURCH OF CHRIST, BURNLEY.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.
NOVEMBER 14—
2.45 p.m., B. F. Huntsman. 7 p.m., R. P. Morris.
All past members and friends cordially invited.

LYGON STREET CHURCH.

HOME-COMING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7.
Special Services Morning, Afternoon and Evening.
Speaker, Mr. C. G. Taylor, B.A.,
who will commence his ministry with the church.
Former members are very cordially invited.
Spend a happy and memorable day
with the church.
Luncheon and tea provided.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, ST. GEORGES RD., NORTH FITZROY.

PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON,
NOVEMBER 7, 3 o'clock.
Mr. R. D. Elliott will speak on
"England During the Blitz."
Bright Musical Programme.
Soloists: Mr. William Laird; Miss Mary Miller.

NORTHCOTE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

40th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7—
HOME-COMING DAY.
11 a.m., Mr. Reg. Ennis.
7 p.m., Mr. T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed.
To assist in arrangements for hospitality will
past members returning for the day please advise
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PRAHRAN BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 7 and 14.
A very warm welcome is extended to past
members and friends to come to our special
meetings and hear the children sing.

SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.

HOME-COMING DAY.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14.
11 a.m., Chaplain General Allen Brooke.
3 p.m., Mr. H. R. Grove, President of Baptist
Union. Subject, "The Need of Personal
Evangelism."
7 p.m., Chaplain General Allen Brooke.
Choral Service.
All past members and friends cordially invited.
Luncheon and Tea Provided.

BLACKBURN CHURCH OF CHRIST.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY AND TEMPLE DAY.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14—
11.15 a.m., "Every Member Present" Service.
Mr. Russell Banks.
3 p.m., P.S.A.; Brigadier Bassett.
7.15 p.m., Mr. C. H. J. Wright.
An invitation extended to all former mem-
bers and friends to meet with us. Hospitality
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Healing Ministry in Indian Villages

An American woman doctor who was for several years attached to a mission hospital has for the past ten years devoted herself to village work. She lives in what was described as part tent and part South Sea Islander's hut. It is a combined hut and tent on a concrete floor, and with a thatched roof on pillars. She lives there alone on the church compound, and has not yet found a permanent Indian trained nurse or doctor as associate. Telling of her experiences she says:—

"When I first started medical work among villages, it was my desire to do preventive work rather than the treatment of disease which is everywhere so prevalent that one can never hope to cope with it adequately. I had visions of making a village a more sanitary and healthful place for the people to live in and for children to grow up in. There were many things that could be done to reconstruct an Indian village that would, from our point of view, add to the happiness of the people and give the children a better chance of a healthy body and mind. If it meant only dealing with things, much could be done. But one must first of all deal with people who live in the village. They are the real problem. It means changing customs established through many generations, habits of living which do not trouble the villagers, no matter how obnoxious and unhealthy. It means changing of characters whose standards have often been low. It means changing the centre of attention from the individual and his family to the broader vision of the good of all—the general welfare of the whole village. It means changing the mind from a bondage of fear and fatalism to the freedom of the mind that comes with faith and trust in the love of God in Christ."

MEDICAL DISPENSARY, DIKSAL

This report of the dispensary work is for the period of eight months, owing to illness and two months on hot season vacation. This year there has been an increase of patients attending the dispensary, a number coming from a considerable distance outside our district. People of all castes from near and distant villages come to hear the message as well as for healing for their bodies. It has been a very happy experience attending to the patients at the dispensary, and some very deep and real friendships have been formed of an enduring nature. When we returned from vacation, quite a number would tell how often they came, but were disappointed to find us absent. One woman expressed herself by saying that when we were away the village had no eyes. The more one lives amongst these simple farming folk the more one admires much of the traits of their character. Their gratitude is often expressed in gifts, which in their poverty they can ill afford to bring. Recently a man and his wife had returned for treatment, coming a distance of ten miles, and brought as a gift one sheer of grain, one fowl, and a little butter. It was hard to take it from them, and yet how delighted they were to give it! This morning one woman brought one egg, and that one egg was as lovely to me as if she had brought a dozen—it was the old story repeated—"she did what she could." It is sometimes amusing to hear them talk, as they are being attended to, for I encourage them to let their thoughts freely flow in expression. Some tell me if I only cure them they will bring me a gift of the largest fish that can be caught in the river, or it may be a fowl, or some other gift. Many of these expressions, I believe, are at the time most sincere, but unfortunately human

nature is often too weak to carry them into effect. The increased prices of drugs has presented a difficulty, thereby increasing the running cost of the dispensary. The number of patients treated is: New patients, 2451; return patients, 764; making a total of 3215. Dispensary receipts amounted to Rs. 988.10.6 (approximately £100 Australian).—T. Escott.

FAMINE RELIEF

THERE is a widespread feeling that much more should be done for the suffering people of India, China and Africa, though it is difficult to formulate plans as to methods of procedure. In the various States several meetings have been held between representative bodies, and it is likely that something more tangible will result. It is good to learn that food ships have reached India, but what they have brought will only be a fraction of what will be needed. It is clear that many in India have not obeyed the scriptural injunction, "Rob not the poor because he is poor." From reports it would appear that extra suffering is caused because of unscrupulous men. Nevertheless it remains a fact that had there been no shortages of grain in Bengal there would have been no black market. We have been represented in united schemes to send relief to the sufferers, especially through the National Missionary Council. It is to be hoped that more can be done in the near future. Some monies have already been sent to our people in China and India, and any amounts sent for the purpose will be sent on. We are glad to report that while conditions are far from normal in "Our India," they are infinitely better than in the eastern parts. Even grain has been procurable at a price, and other lines have been available. Some lines have been unobtainable, and in this respect and to this degree our missionaries have had to go without. This is very different from saying that our missionaries and others who have money to purchase goods are likely to really suffer because of shortages. Writing at the end of September H. R. Coventry says, "We have been having abundant rain all through these areas lately. All the late crops are sown, and we now look forward to a good harvest. The grain situation is still acute here, and of course over in Bengal it is appalling."

NEW BOARD MEMBER

To fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. W. Cosh, Mr. R. T. Richardson, of the Hindmarsh church, S.A., was invited to fill the vacancy. After consideration Mr. Richardson consented, and his name was endorsed by the executive officers of the Federal Conference. Our new member brings a wide busi-

ness experience, being secretary and assistant manager of one of the biggest business concerns in South Australia. Being a member of the church that sent and supported Mr. H. H. Strutton for some years in India, it was inevitable that the new Board member should be keenly missionary. For more than ten years Mr. Richardson has been a member of the State F.M. Committee, a past chairman of this committee, and for a long period has acted as the brotherhood auditor. We are sure the Australian brotherhood will welcome this brother to represent them in this Federal capacity.

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

Australian Churches of Christ Foreign Mission Board Inc. and State Foreign Mission Committees

seek the co-operation of the whole Brotherhood in helping maintain work in the fields.

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CURRENT THOUGHT

WITH our accustomed manner of living rudely disturbed, we must not allow the pressure of our daily activities to displace the method and means of constructive service to the Nation.

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Social Service

Notes and Comments

WILL. H. CLAY

OWING to abnormal conditions due to the war, the character of social service has changed considerably. The poor who are always with us are not found in such numbers as in pre-war days. There is employment for everybody, and hundreds of old-age pensioners have found it profitable to forego their pensions and take up some remunerative work. Instances are known to us of men and women over 70 years old receiving more than £5 per week. A position for a woman, unskilled, over 45 years of age, was offering at over £5 weekly for some weeks, and was filled after much searching. In one case in Melbourne, where a little more than a year ago a hue and cry was made through the press because a married couple with ten children (it was said nine were dependent) were unable to find a house to live in and were almost destitute, to-day, it is reported, a new house has been found for them by the Housing Commission, and wages exceeding £20 per week are going into the home. Of this family more could be said. When politicians get busy on cases of this kind the wisdom which comes of experience is often lacking. In spite of appeals which appear from time to time in the press, those dealing with the problems of the poor are agreed that it is now very rarely found. The need to-day is not so much food and clothing; it calls for expert knowledge of social legislation and institutions, and for the time and sympathy of the trained worker. Social service has been lifted from the place it once occupied, where most people experimented and thought it unnecessary to seek advice, until the mistake had happened, to a higher level, where the worker is expected to have training and experience, and to possess special qualifications fitting him or her to the peculiarity of the task. Our Victorian department is well to the fore among social service bodies in Melbourne, and is filling a real need amongst our own people particularly, but also increasingly amongst others. It is the privilege of every member of the church to seek our aid, and it is a compliment to us that these are recommending their friends to us. The churches, in turn, must meet the corresponding obligation.

Drink, Gambling and Immorality

This trinity of evils is always before the Social Service Committee in all the States. Each State committee is alert to the problems as they arise in their own State, and the Federal committee, which for the time being is the Victorian State committee, attends to Federal matters. Letters were recently sent to the Ministers for Supply and Labor respectively with regard to the avowed intention of Mr. Keane to apply for the release of manpower for the growing of malt to meet the threatened beer famine. A letter was also sent to the press. Our letters have been acknowledged, and we are encouraged to know that our protest, with that of others, has met with a measure of success.

The Royal Commission on Licensing Laws

Reports to hand indicate that the terms of reference which determine the scope of the enquiry are likely to restrict the commission to the discovery of ways of implementing existing laws. This, however, has not prevented the police from disclosing "that 80 per cent. of brawls were caused by drunkenness." We think this is a conservative estimate. 149 arrests on drink and disorderly charges had been made at Young & Jackson's corner this year; 23 others were arrested for offensive behaviour and 10 for using insulting

words. 199 calls for police assistance were made in trading hours and 397 after hours. Licensees had asked for police aid to close their bars on 183 occasions.

Police will admit that not one-half of drunks, and often offensive drunks, are arrested. A police van and several military waggons are now seen every evening in the busy centres to pick up the drunks.

The Racing Season

The Prime Minister has intimated that some slight concessions will be made to racing interests during the racing carnivals in Melbourne and Sydney. Racing clubs were being trusted to conduct their meetings with the utmost economy, etc. This is surely an open order which will be interpreted by the clubs concerned without concern for the government or the times.

Christian Guest Home

The recent concert by the Malvern Girls' Choir for the Debt Extinction Fund has realised over £15. Seeing that tickets were only 1/-, we regard this as an excellent return. The Women's Auxiliary offer their warmest thanks to all concerned. A cook is still urgently required for the home. Good wages and conditions.

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S.Aust.—Mrs. W. Green, 12 Shipster-st., Torrensville.

Vic.—Mr. C. L. Lang, 9 Arnot-st., Ormond.
Or to J. Wiltshire, Fed. Hon. Sec.,
140 Barrack-st., Perth, W.A.

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Three Kings

(Matthew 7: 7)

WHEN father was leaving for the far North
he gave this message to Ruth and Ray-
mond: "Remember, according to a very faith-
ful promise, three kings are ready to help
you. Talk about it after reading Matthew
seven and verse seven."

On the way home Ruth said, "I wonder if
the kings are those who were led by the star
of Bethlehem and who gave presents to the
Christ Child?" "How could they help us?"
demanded Raymond, "besides, you read of
them in the second of Matthew, not the
seventh." "Well, we had better wait until we
have read the verse, as father told us," sug-
gested Ruth.

Immediately Raymond had entered the front
door he got his New Testament and began to
read aloud to his sister: "Ask, and it shall be
given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and
it shall be opened unto you." "There's noth-
ing about kings there," said Ruth, "I wonder
if mother knows what father was meaning?"
They at once agreed to form a deputation of
two.

"Why?" exclaimed mother, "the first of the
three kings is helping you already, for I
fancy that your ASKING is going to put you
wise." Oh, sure!" shouted Ruth, "the
three kings are ASKING—SEEKING—and
KNOCKING!"—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

*You can keep a faith only as you
keep a plant, by rooting it into your
life and making it grow there.*

—Phillips Brooks.

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