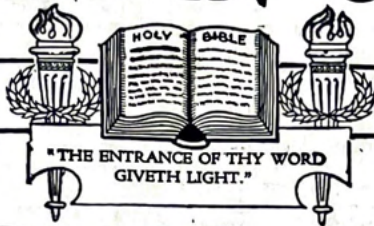


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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1944

Let Us Go to Church

**Start
a Good Week
in a
Good Way**



DOWN Everyman's Street you will find that most people have some interest in religion. Mr. and Mrs. Smith enjoy singing hymns around the piano.

The Browns reveal little outward piety, but some Sunday morning you will hear sacred music stealing quietly from their radio. Each Lord's day afternoon Mrs. Jones waves a fond good-bye to her little children, dressed in their best, as they go to Sunday school. Even Hardstuffs send for the minister when old grandmother Hardstaff is very ill. One or two families, whose names need not be mentioned, will raise a protest against the claims of religion; but it is difficult to find a man or a woman who will, when quietly talked to about God, deny any belief in him.

IN more recent days we find people are more willing to show an interest in religion. The war has revealed to the common man that religious principles do count for something in life. A writer in the "Inland Printer," a U.S.A. printers' journal, went out of his way to show that, in the present world-struggle, there is an undercurrent of religious feeling which is stronger than the religious undercurrent that stimulated the Crusaders to go to war in the Holy Land. Young men in advanced war stations have learned that there are no atheists in fox-holes. Shipwrecked people have testified to the encouragement they received from the prayers of devout companions. One of the ways in which this new appreciation for religion is being expressed is in the demand for stationery headed with appropriate texts of scripture. On this stationery mothers, wives and sweethearts are writing letters to the men and women in the Services.

There is evidence that religious journals and pamphlets are in greater demand now than for some time past. Claims made in religious periodicals published in the free countries of the world support the view that there is a revival of interest in the broader issues of religion.

THE attitude of the Russian Soviet towards religion has influenced the workers' opinion. Professor John MacMurray, writing in 1943 of the better relationship between the Orthodox church and the Russian State, could say, "Both this year and last, the Government waived the security regulations to allow the traditional all-night Easter services to be held in the Orthodox churches, and this year the acting Patriarch was allowed to broadcast by radio a message to all Orthodox churches of the world. These may be small signs, but they are significant; and it seems certain already that after the war the position of religion in Soviet Russia will be greatly improved."

It is evident that men, in general, are becoming aware of the need of giving the religious impulse a more important place in their life. They are perceiving the limitations of human might, even although it is reinforced by the natural powers released by scientific skill.

MEN are discovering again that the direction of life and history is determined by the universal principles that belong to God's nature. Unless these are respected disaster falls upon the foolish culprits.

It was Professor Charles Beard, the historian, who once said that there were four lessons of history: (1) Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad with power. (2) The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small. (3) The bee fertilises the flower it robs. (4) When it is dark enough you can see the stars. Therefore many agree now with J. Bishop, B.A., who wrote: "Our only hope is that the power behind things is set on righteousness; that the constitution of the world is opposed to evil; that this is no haphazard place where anything may happen, but that to sin is to fling ourselves against the powers that be. That is the settled basis on which we build our thinking. A great nation wrongs the world, and we appeal to God with confidence and live through dark days unafraid, because he is on the throne."

IF this renewed interest in religion is to become an effective force in the community, it must find a genuine expression in a personal resolution to co-operate with God. Christ made it possible for men to enter into a co-operative fellowship with the Father and to work out in history the way of life that proves to be most satisfying. Because Christianity enables men to co-operate with God and to apply divine principles to historic situations, it is not only a religion; it is the only religion. All systems and organisations that exploit the religious passion of man are but poor substitutes for the way of life Christ laid down through the might of the heavenly Father. It is clear that, if men would satisfy the inward urge of the spirit, they must become followers of Christ.

It is the aim of the scriptures to show to men how they may enter into this co-operative fellowship with God. Sin's barriers which interfere with such fellowship have been swept aside by Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Therefore Christian truths and principles, when accepted by men, create a community of saints who become co-workers with God. If men become genuine Christians, they also become members of the divinely created fellowship which Jesus called "my church."

Christianity is more than a code of conduct. It includes principles of living—yes! but it demands both the acceptance of these and their application to life. Christianity does not exist

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I GO TO CHURCH



Stanley High, in the American journal, "Saturday Evening Post," gives reasons why he attends a divine service on Sundays. With minor changes, we present to our readers this interesting statement.

I HAVE sat in my quota of hard pews, heard my share of "volunteer" choirs, and listened to enough uninspired and uninspiring sermons to last a lifetime. But I still go to church. I go to the church at the end of the street in the little town where I live. My wife belongs to the guild. We both like the preacher. It is convenient. But it has, and lays claim to, no special distinction. The Sunday morning audience seldom numbers more than 75—almost always the same 75. We have a paid soloist who is not so good as the Sunday morning musicians I could get on the radio. The preacher is better than average. But I do not believe that he is among those asked to contribute to the popular professional volume which contains "The Year's Best Sermons." I generally see two or three of my friends, although most of them take their children to Sunday school and call it a day.

My church, in short, is like ten thousand other struggling small-town churches, with no more to offer, and no less. But I enjoy it. I feel that I have missed something when I do not go.

I AM ready to grant that habit may have something to do with it. My parents laid great store by churchgoing, and so, as a boy, did I. It would be difficult to shake the influence of that early training, even if I tried. About half past ten on Sunday mornings, the old youth-bred inclination lays hold of me. If I stay at home, I do it in the face of an internal protest. I suppose if I stayed home often enough I would get over that feeling. But I generally go.

I go to church for the same reason that I go to other places—because I get something out of it. What I get is different. But it is something that I want and, up to the present, I have not found any other place where I can get it.

For one thing, at church I generally get some perspective—often not so much as I would like, but always a little. That little is more than I can be sure of getting anywhere else. And I am glad to have it. The rest of the week I am addicted to all those devices by which the average man is led to believe that a thing is important only if it is recent: that the biggest news is, ipso facto, the latest news.

I read several daily papers, morning and evening; I listen to the news flashes on the radio, and every week buy three news magazines on the day of publication.

THEN, on Sunday morning, I go to church. We sing the doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Some form of doxology has been sung by churchgoing men and women for twenty-one centuries. The hymns do not go back that far. But they go back far enough to be out of the running for the current radio contest to pick the song hits of the week. I sang them on Sunday mornings when I was a boy. My father and mother sang them, and their parents before them. I like them for more than their age, but I do like them for that.

The minister reads the Old Testament lesson. That goes back farther than either the hymns or the doxology. It may go back thirty centuries—a thousand years before Christ. He reads the New Testament lesson, preferably in the King James' version. There is nothing new enough in what he reads to make the headlines. I heard the same passages in my youth. Men and women not very different from those in our church have heard them, generation before generation into the past. My children and their children will hear them generations into the future. They are more to me than a bridge to the past or the future. But they are that.

And before—at about twenty minutes to twelve—the preacher begins his sermon, I find that I have become consciously aware of something which, the rest of the week, is no more than

a hunch. I realize that life did not begin at forty or at 8:40; that people like myself, with problems like mine, have been here a long time; that yesterday morning's newspapers did not say the first word and to-morrow morning's newspapers will not say the last word on anything. I know that to-morrow is another day. But I can say to myself, "Why so hurried, my little man?"

That is what I mean by perspective. I get that—a few minutes of it, at least—when I go to church. And that is more of it than I get anywhere else I go.

For another thing, I go to church because I like to be in a place, once in a while, where men take their hats off. I know all the places where, customarily, men's hats come off. What I mean is something more than custom. I suppose that "reverence" is the word for it. It may be just another survival from my youth, but I still find in my surroundings an atmosphere and in myself a sense of reverence when I go to church. I am glad that I do.

I think it is important to have something to revere—a banner, or a cause, or a person that is bigger than we are when we are at the top, and better than we are when we are at our best; some place where, now and again, we can climb down from our high horses, and are in proportion. Bumptiousness is no virtue, despite its prevalence among intelligent people.

A GOOD many of my friends have very strange ideas about God. I never argue with them about him. A few of my friends are intellectuals—ultra-ultras. They say that in an intelligent man's universe "there is no room for God." I never agree with them either. But when I ask them what their "intelligent man's universe" does have room for, I stand in awe before the things that they admit nobody knows.

On the next Sunday morning, therefore, I go to church. I go reverently, because I believe in God. But if I did not believe in him, I would go, anyway—out of reverence for the size of the mystery with which the little we know is surrounded. Then, too, I go to church because the big idea back of what goes on there is to encourage whatever, in me, is good. My preacher does not go in very much for politics and economics. He just keeps hammering away on right and wrong. Sometimes I think he hammers away at me. But he is almost always right, and I take it.

It is very much like having an unusual physical overhauling or seeing your dentist twice a year. Except that in the area where the church operates, I think I need to be overhauled oftener than that.

I GO to church because, after having sized things up all week by more or less selfish standards, I am ready for an hour in which they are sized up by moral standards. I can generally tell what I want to do without calling in any outside help. When it comes to deciding what is right to do, I can afford to have some counsel and advice. I do not think I lose anything, either, by having my conscience poked a bit.

I suppose that nearly everybody in my town agrees with all this. They say that they "wouldn't live in a community that didn't have a church." They talk about "subversive influences" that are out to destroy the church in this country. But next Sunday morning, when I go to church, only the same faithful seventy-five will be there. It seems to me that our absent and vicarious believers ought to fish or cut bait. The thing our church needs, more than their defence, is their patronage.

Some of them, of course, tell you that they do not go to church because they had to go so much in their youth. I doubt if they ever had to go that much. And I have never seen any very great outpouring on Sunday mornings of those who did not have to go to church in their youth.

I go to church to get the things that the church has to offer. In our little church at the end of the street, the trappings are not all that could be desired and the technique is sometimes poor. But I go anyway. I go because the things that I get there are not offered anywhere else. And I have been going long enough to be sure, in my own mind, that I get along better with those things than without them.

Conference in N.S.W.

Stuart Stevens, of Enmore, writes of the proceedings
of the 55th annual conference of churches in his State.

A SPIRIT of amity and happy fellowship characterised all sessions of conference held under the genial and efficient chairmanship of P. E. Thomas, B.A. (conference president). Though no unusual decisions were taken and no extraordinary crowds assembled, there was evidence of deep concern for progress in every phase of work.

Statistics.—Sixty-two churches were named in the year book, including Doonside, which was admitted to conference. 436 were added and 535 were lost. "Statesman," a Government publication, credits us with over 8000 members. Many churches had no baptisms for the year.

Youth Work.—105 Bible school pupils were added to the church. Present membership is 4496, showing a loss of 29 scholars, and a gain of 17 teachers. The State-wide scholar drive yielded 369 scholars, and 23 teachers. A new school at East Lambton (Newcastle district) was recorded. Wagga Wagga and Georgetown were "banner" winners. Hereafter "banners" are to be replaced by a "shield" system, thus seeking to reward all schools attaining a certain efficiency in examinations. In Federal field one prize was secured by 685 who sat. With F. Hunting as director, the Y.P. Department featured during the year: Day conventions for teachers; kindergarten training classes; a Bible school and C.E. exhibition; a youth-to-youth evangelistic campaign; "happy hour" sessions; youth camps; and the publication of special literature. Some schools are now using visual teaching aids. Mr. Hunting lectured at Woolwich college on religious education. Though happy in securing the services of R. Greenhalgh, the new director, there was ready acknowledgment that Mr. Hunting had done excellent work, and all regretted his release for service to Brisbane.

The youth and C.E. nights at conference were crowded, and in accepting Christ, more than a dozen commenced the plan to win 500 youth to Christ this year.

New Committee comprises S. Gole, R. Greenhalgh, G. E. Knight, P. H. Morton, K. A. Rae, D. Wakeley (Bible school section); Misses J. Button, J. Day, E. Hamister, D. Small, and Messrs. G. Maxwell, and J. C. Cunningham (C.E. section).

Conference Executive.—R. H. Wakeley was elected president; past-president, P. E. Thomas; vice-presidents, R. W. Perkins and E. Davis; secretary, S. C. Woolley; assistant secretary, W. J. Modral; treasurer, T. W. Dunne. These, together with the following brethren, constitute the executive: S. Stevens (Home Missions); E. C. Hinrichsen (College); G. E. Burns (Social Service); I. A. Paternoster (Overseas Missions); D. Wakeley (Y.P. Department).

The treasurer reported that all churches and committees had met their obligations to conference, and that after paying all debts, executive showed a credit.

Chaplaincy.—Chaplain G. Tease received a cordial welcome and spoke at general sessions. Lloyd Read (R.A.A.F.), W. J. Crossman, and F. E. Alcorn were on staff serving with United Churches Board under Chaplain-General Brooke. D. Wakeley and S. Stevens are members of N.S.W. Board.

Overseas Missions.—An extensive survey of this vital field was given by I. A. Paternoster,

who announced that Dr. C. A. Verco, for years chairman, was not seeking re-election; and that R. H. Wakeley, who had served eleven years as treasurer, was now State president. Growing interest in "the regions beyond" was also evidenced by the fact that in Australia last year £11,000 was contributed for all purposes. N.S.W. gave £700/5/1; and the Children's Day offering reached £113/7/10. Though there was regret that Miss Edna Vawser was not heard, messages by Pastor Lo (Chinese church) and the State secretary were truly inspiring.

Committee Appointed.—W. Caspersonn, A. Cust, A. C. Mackellar, I. A. Paternoster, Miss Rofe, J. Saville, P. C. Williams.

Home Missions.—A high light of conference was the challenging message of H. J. Patterson on Good Friday night, when Enmore



R. H. Wakeley,
Newly-appointed N.S.W. Conference President.

Tabernacle was crowded. The director, E. C. Hinrichsen (absent at Inverell, 300 miles away, where he is conducting a mission), in a report said that the committee "pays out nearly forty pounds per week." Successful missions had been held at Dandenong (Vic.), Fairfield, where a new church had commenced, and Auburn. At Canterbury 65 new people had been added in six months of ministry. P. J. Pond, as itinerant pastor, has served at two places. In collaboration with the college board, students are placed and supported. More than fifty souls have thus been won. Credit in general fund is £622/15/9, and in the Hinrichsen mission fund £475/9/1. Plans for extensive work are in hand. The new committee comprises A. E. Armstrong, G. E. Burns, A. L. Carter, B. G. Corlett, A. Hinrichsen, T. Jackson, J. R. Little, N. D. Morris, F. S. Steer, S. Stevens, F. A. Youens.

College Board.—After two years as principal, A. R. Main has retired, and by recommendation of the board was made principal-emeritus. He will maintain a vital relationship and serve as advisor. Lecturers include: H. J. Patterson, A. W. Ladbroke, F. Hunting, H. Allen, E. C. Hinrichsen and C. E. Hinrichsen. Sixteen students are now in training, and all have regular preaching appointments. Expressions of appreciation respecting late Mrs. Main, and Mr. Main were carried. Present debt, £1163/16/1. **The New Board Consists of:** J. H. Adams, W. R. Averall, E. A. Bardsley, B. G. Corlett, E. C. Hinrichsen, J. R. Little, A. C. Maclean, T. E. Rofe, J. L. Stimson, F. A. Youens. Dr.

Bardsley, T. E. Rofe, Hon. D. R. Hall and A. R. Main were elected life members.

Social Service activities covered benevolence, public questions, "Services" correspondence. The C.F.A. has a capital account of £1005/3/10, which includes £265/9/1 for a "rest home." The organising secretary, T. P. Dale, has been most active, and many will regret his retirement, though he remains a committee member. **Social Service Committee:** W. Armstrong G. E. Burns, T. P. Dale, H. T. Edwards, A. C. Maclean, Mrs. A. McArthur, G. Morris, G. Morton, C. Nutt, Mrs. E. M. Redman. Live interest in social reconstruction is seen in the appointment of a strong committee to consider "social reconstruction."

Incorporation Act.—It is confidently expected that the churches will soon enjoy the benefits of its provision.

Boys' Home at Pendle Hill continues to do splendid work under chairmanship of J. L. Stimson. Set in 16 acres of land, the property is valued at about £4000, and has a mortgage of £875, held by the trustees of Ashwood House.

Advisory Board has been given added service recently, and is growing in the confidence of the brethren. It now handles the names of men registered to conduct marriages. Its personnel now is E. Davis, A. C. Maclean, I. A. Paternoster, J. L. Stimson, P. E. Thomas, Dr. C. A. Verco, D. Wakeley.

Council of Churches.—Representatives are G. E. Burns, T. P. Dale, A. C. Maclean and S. Stevens, the latter being its secretary. An important phase of its work is its ministry through 2CH, which licence it holds. Statistically the council represents 24 per cent. of religious community.

Aborigines Mission Board.—E. Davis, H. C. Gowans, G. E. Knight, Mrs. R. W. McCallum, I. A. Paternoster, Miss H. V. Rofe, Miss D. Verco.

Building Advisory Board.—C. Grasham, J. R. Little, A. C. Morris.

"**Christian Messenger**" is controlled by four main committees of conference. Its financial position is sound, its ministry is developing, and it is a journal of which the brotherhood is justifiably proud.

Preachers' Provident Fund.—Report was received as information and discussed with zest. The years of work given by W. H. Hall were highly commended, and conference considered that Mr. Steer is a worthy successor. Someone asked why other States did not support more fully the fund through "the duplex envelopes."

Addresses given to conference were of a high order. Visiting speakers, W. L. Jarvis, minister of Central Baptist Church, whose message to preachers' session on "The Evangelistic Church" provoked vital discussion and concern. L. M. Thompson, pastor of Manly Baptist, in his address to the social service rally was warmly thanked by the president.

The conference sermon was preached on Easter Sunday afternoon by A. W. Ladbroke, M.A., at the City Temple. The subject was "The Church God Meant." Much favorable comment on the sermon was expressed.

Two New Preachers.—H. J. Patterson and H. Edwards—were cordially welcomed by conference.

Resolutions passed are as follow:—

That this conference urges upon the churches through their delegates the necessity of waiting upon God in prayer on behalf of our mission work in India, in view of the political position in that country.

This conference respectfully requests that, as a prelude to the new world order, Sunday be strictly observed as a day of rest and worship, and that all forms of organised sport be disallowed, and that this be forwarded to the Premier.

That this conference views with alarm the disastrous effects of the liquor traffic on the moral life of the community, and while ap-

(Continued on page 220.)

Queensland Women

Facts of an interesting conference are set out by Mrs. D. Harlen.

THE conference was held in Ann-st. chapel, Brisbane, on Thursday, April 7, commencing at 10.30 a.m. There were 100 sisters present during the day.

Devotions at morning session were led by Mrs. Alcorn (Albion), and opened with hymn and prayer. Scripture reading, Isaiah 35. Devotional talk was entitled, "Gardens." Mrs. Stow (Rosewood) sang "God's Garden." Devotions closed with hymn and prayer.

At general session Mrs. Wendorf (president) was in the chair and welcomed all present. Mrs. Stowe responded on behalf of the visitors. Secretary's report was read and received.

Home Mission, Obiuary, Social Service, Prayer Meeting, Temperance, W.F.M.E., Hostel and Soldiers' Help Society and Hospital reports were then read and showed that a fine work had been accomplished by the sisters. Amounts raised were: Home missions, £111/15/4; overseas missions, £158/11/9; aborigine mission living link appeal, £27/4/6; W.F.M.E., £108/18/10; Soldiers' Help, £82/13/5; prayer meeting, £12/3/-. 66 visits were paid to sick in military hospitals. At close of the obituary report Mrs. Munro sang, "The Homeland."

Mrs. Wendorf voiced her appreciation of the work done so faithfully by all the superintendents.

The resolutions were presented by Mrs. Alcorn. Miss Sinclair sang a solo, and the meeting closed with prayer. The sisters then enjoyed a basket lunch.

At afternoon session Mrs. Stowe led the devotions, which opened with hymn and prayer; scripture reading, Col. 3; after which she gave a devotional talk.

For general business Mrs. Wendorf was in the chair and welcomed visitors from other communions. Greetings were given by representatives of Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist and Salvation Army Women's Unions, W.C.T.U., and "Sunsetholme."

The secretary read greetings from Federal Women's Conference, College of the Bible, Federal Foreign Mission Board, W.A., S.A., Tas., Vic. and N.S.W. sisters; Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Burdeu, Mrs. Roberts (Norseman), and the guilds of all our country churches.

Mrs. Hardcastle called the roll; 20 churches were represented; 42 delegates responded.

Treasurer's statement was read and showed a balance of £347/15/-.

Overseas mission report was read, and then Mrs. Berlin launched the orphan appeal.

An uplifting address was given by Mr. Boettcher (Toowoomba), "Having a Perfect Trust in God" (Matt. 6: 25-34).

Election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. J. E. Harlen; past president, Mrs. Wendorf; vice-presidents, Mrs. Lade and Mrs. Machin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Hardcastle; recording secretary, Mrs. Kirkwood; treasurer, Mrs. Lade.

Superintendents of Committees.—Overseas Missions, Mrs. Berlin; Home Missions, Mrs. Bates; W.F.M.E., Mrs. Greenwood; Temperance, Mrs. Brown; Prayer Meeting, Mrs. Burnham; Obiuary, Mrs. Munro; Social Service, Mrs. Cutler; Isolated, Mrs. Enchelmaler; Hospital, Miss Price; Catering, Mrs. Hermann; S.H.S., Mrs. Machin. All were re-elected. Pianists, Mesdames Greenwood, Munro and Keeble. Representative to Home Missions, Mrs. Bates; to Executive, Mrs. Wendorf; to Overseas Mis-

sions, Mesdames Berlin, Hermann and Cutler; Aborigines Missions, Mrs. Alcorn.

Mrs. Wendorf introduced the new officers. Mrs. Hardcastle, correspondence secretary, was presented with a leather shopping bag in recognition of her faithful services.

Mrs. Lade moved a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the programme. Special thanks go to Mrs. Hermann and Mrs. Lade for convening conference meals.

Miss Hackett sang a solo and Mrs. Horn gave an elocutionary item during the afternoon, and the benediction brought to a close a very happy and inspiring conference. To God be the glory.

Mother Dear

O! mother dear, I love you so;
And as the brief years come
and go,
I realise the debt I owe
To one so dear;

To one who cared for me so long,
When things went right, when
things went wrong,
And so I send my thanks along
To one so dear.

You joyed with me when life seemed
good,
When sorrow came, you understood;
Your fine example to me stood,
And helped me, dear;

For all the things you did for me,
Through the long years, so patiently,
With all my heart, most lovingly,
I thank you, dear. —Selected.

Conference in N.S.W.

(Continued from page 219.)

prelating the attempt that has been made by the Government to enforce the liquor laws, respectfully requests that more drastic steps be taken to fully enforce the liquor laws and thereby remove the objectionable practices so prevalent in the liquor business. Also conference affirms that the only effective method of dealing with this deplorable business is prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating drinks.

That conference deprecates the continuance of the facilities granted to the public for gambling. The effect of this on the moral life of the community, and especially the younger generation, is not conducive to good citizenship. Thus the use of the State lottery for the support of hospitals is wrong in principle and harmful in practice, and much more undesirable when so little of the capital subscribed is used for hospital purposes. It is therefore asked that the lottery be discontinued and all gambling on horse and dog races and other sport be declared illegal.

This conference emphatically protests against the obscene literature, postcards and magazines offered for sale, and asks the Government to withdraw all such at present being exhibited, and to legislate to effectively control these matters.

That because of the disastrous effects on the minds of our young people and of the public generally of certain parts of some radio entertainment, conference requests Federal Government to remove such features.

"No East or West"

A HYMN FOR MAY (No. 362, MAY 21)

WHEN Dr. L. L. Wirt on April 30 broadcast from Wesley Church, Melbourne, a splendid message of world service, he closed with the words of the hymn chosen for this month: "In Christ there is no East or West." With the editor's recent article on its author, John Oxenham, there may seem to be left but a narrow space through which to steer my note, but the life of "J.O." provides much rich material.

One night in January, 1941, a very old man was finishing a book—his seventieth and one he had not wished to write. He had wished to fulfil his heart's desire. "My heart's desire!" he had written. "What is my heart's desire? This—

And with a grateful heart speed home to him
Who went before us to prepare a place.
O for the first deep breath of that new life,
Life at its fullest—life and still more life . . .
And there to meet again the friends I loved
long since
And find the work God wills for me to do—
This is my heart's desire."

But a devoted daughter's gentle guidance had led him through sickness and weakness and the book was finished—a strange sweet vision of the future world—a world ruled by the ideals of love and service, and purity he had always sought to live and teach. He said he was glad to finish; it seemed as if he had finished his life's work. Now he felt as he had often felt when he was setting out on a holiday—ahead of him, a long rest, new friends and new work to do. That night he fell seriously ill, lost consciousness and within three days the world learned that "J.O." was gone. A life of 88 years with its work measured out almost to the hour!

Read his poem "What can a little chap do?" and you have a lovely picture of a simple Christlike heart. Read "Greatheart" and you see his own soldier son typify every mother's son on knightly quest; but read of J.O. at nearer 70 than 60 years of age visiting France that every lonely Australian mother might have a photograph of the grave of her unreturning son, and who could better bear the title of "Greatheart" than J.O. himself? And it was from the depths of that great heart that this month's hymn comes.—F.J.F.

Let Us Go to Church

(Continued from front page.)

apart from this fellowship of saints which is known as the church of God. It is evident that if we follow our religious impulse, we shall go to church, and shall share in the blessings of the divine fellowship through which God is working in the world to-day.

"Why Didn't You Tell Me Sooner?"

A BRAVE woman was left a widow, with four young sons to bring up, on a very small income. She worked hard to add to it, and they were all clever boys and did well and won high positions. Year by year they sent their mother rich gifts and kept her in comfort. At last she lay dying, and they gathered round her. "You've been a good mother to us," said the eldest. "Yes," said the others, "there was never a better mother." "Why didn't you tell me sooner, laddies?" she asked. "You never said, and I often wondered if I had been a good mother to you. It would have made me so happy if you'd told me sooner. Now it is too late," and she passed away.

Notes on Current Topics

100 Missionaries Rescued

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S announcement of the rescue from the enemy in Hollandia of 100 missionaries has caused much joy. "These include," the general stated, "thirteen Americans, seven Dutch, three Poles, one Australian, and one Czecho-Slovak. The remainder are German. They were originally taken at mission stations along the northern coast of New Guinea. The rescue of these Christian workers seems an especially beneficent act of Providence." What hardships and suffering they endured has not yet been detailed. We thank God for all devoted missionaries, heroes of the cross, as daring and courageous as the most gallant soldiers of our country. There is a lesson for us all in the missionary assurance: "We did not lose faith. We prayed every day—all of us—for our deliverance. Our prayers were answered."

Short Services

At the half-yearly assembly of the N.S.W. Congregational Union pleas for brevity and more variety in services were made. One speaker urged that an hour's service is long enough. Another pleaded that the sermon should be of fifteen minutes' duration, and that there be no "omnibus prayers." Most readers will readily imagine the sad experiences leading to the expression of such views. We used to suffer more from "omnibus prayers" than now—there has been much improvement in this regard, though there are occasional lapses. Public prayers should be reasonably brief, and several short ones are better than one long prayer. As to duration of services and addresses, there will be differences of opinion. No general time limit can be applied. I do not think it altogether a good sign that, whereas other meetings can go on for hours,

church services must close within an hour, and I dislike undue haste as much as I do dawdling, padding and vain repetition. I doubt if our morning communion service in other than a very small meeting can well be compressed into an hour. It depends on the place and circumstances, however, as to what is best to be done. Transport difficulties may make early closing imperative. Punctuality, wise planning and absence of undue loquacity should permit of satisfactory adjustments. Reduction and abbreviation of items are preferable to the melting away of a congregation before the benediction is pronounced.

What of the Address?

As to length of addresses, there can be no hard and fast rule. There are differences in circumstances and in speaking ability which forbid an arbitrary decision. I confess to having very little sympathy with a demand for a fifteen-minute limit. Great themes require more time, and arresting addresses make time seem short. Again, it is not only long addresses which bore listeners. Some talkers of talk can make us woefully weary in ten minutes. The taking of the fraction of a text, and building round it an address with three headings, three long anecdotes, and some quotations from authors whose exalted style contrasts strangely with the speaker's own manner, will frustrate an attempt to interest a congregation for half an hour. So far as ordinary addresses are concerned, the strong preferences of modern audiences seem to make brevity desirable. May I suggest between twenty and twenty-five minutes as a reasonable time?

A. R. Main

Our Young People

W. R. Hibbert



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

EASTER young people's training camp, arranged by the Young People's Department, was held at Aldgate again this year, under leadership of Mr. Will Beller. The director was assisted by Mr. W. B. Wharton, and Misses O. White and E. Lambert were camp hostesses. Aldgate Oval, ideally situated in the midst of beautiful tree-clad hills, was the setting for the camp to which 108 young people from 23 centres came to think upon "The Easter Message," and to enjoy a time of happy fellowship. The study book, "The Easter Message" (kindly supplied by the Y.P. Department of New Zealand), was the basis of the group discussions led by Mr. D. H. Pike. Campers appreciated these discussions, which touched upon many vital matters. Campers were appreciative, too, of the excellent addresses brought by Dr. P. S. Messent and Messrs. G. T. Fitzgerald, J. E. Shipway, B. W. Manning and D. G. Hammer. On Saturday afternoon it was a joy for all to hike through the beautiful hills to one of the show gardens of the district, and in the evening to enjoy a

social hour together. Sunday services were the highlight of the camp. In the morning the communion service held at the camp was a sacred, devotional time, when campers were led to think of "The Power of the Resurrection" by Mr. Pike. In the afternoon campers had the opportunity of witnessing in the crowded Aldgate Valley chapel to Jesus as Master, Saviour, Lord and Friend, and in the evening assisted the director in Stirling East chapel to tell the gospel story. Camp was a time of happy, friendly fellowship; of awakened or renewed interest in "The Easter Message"; a time of deep spiritual blessing; and many, if not all, of the campers could join in saying "Thank God for the experiences of Aldgate camp, 1944."—Dulcie B. Wood.

VICTORIA

YOUTH Week in Victoria proved a season of purposeful activity. Many young men and women brought prestige on themselves in their part in the services on Sundays, April 30 and May 7. United gatherings were a feature of the week.

A special team (Messrs. B. F. Huntsman, R. P. Morris, V. N. Jame, Halbert Hobbs and David Hibbert) conducted gatherings of a unique character at Moreland, Thornbury, Hampton and Carnegie. On Saturday, April 29, a group of 120 young people, under direction of the Eastern Suburban Youth Fellowship, visited the Salvation Army Boys' Home at Bayswater and entertained the boys. The South-eastern Youth Fellowship shared in an afternoon sports fixture and an evening rally on Saturday, May 6.

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

"I AM not strong till thou hast clasped my hand,
I am not fit till by thy side I stand,
I am not brave till thou hast come to me;
Till thou hast bound me fast, I am not free."

THE DISCOVERIES OF MOSES

IT has been beautifully said that there are three periods in the life of Moses, each of them forty years long.

The first forty years were spent in discovering that he was somebody; the second forty in discovering that he was nobody; and the third in discovering that God is Everybody in one, and can make use of nobody if he pleases.

What is your greatest discovery? If you have found that God is your helper in all your difficulties, you have indeed discovered richest treasure and the source of all gladness.

"LIVE LIKE AUNT SARAH"

COLONEL INGERSOLL was notorious as an infidel. His attacks on the Bible were severe, but not serious, because the old Book stands. He had a godly aunt, of whom he was very fond. She was "a living epistle." The colonel wrote a book antagonistic to the Christian faith. He forwarded a copy to his aunt, and on the fly-leaf he wrote these words: "If all Christians had lived like Aunt Sarah, perhaps this book would never have been written." There would be fewer infidels if there were more true Christians living Christlike lives.

MOTHER

"MINDFUL of Mother.
Obedient to Mother.
Thankful for Mother.
Help Mother.
Encourage Mother."

"Well, it's something to have had twenty firemen at my wedding," said the A.F.S. man proudly.

"Yes," said the bachelor, "but no escape."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—CHRIST'S HANDCLASP

- May 15—John 14: 15-24.
- " 16—John 14: 25-31.
- " 17—John 15: 1-7.
- " 18—2 Tim. 1: 8-14.
- " 19—1 Pet. 4: 12-19.
- " 20—John 10: 22-30.
- " 21—Isalah 43: 1-12; John 10: 31-42.

VERSE 28 is frequently quoted in the attempt to prove that once saved, none can be lost. But such an interpretation conflicts with many parallel scriptures which show that salvation or condemnation depend upon men's permission or rejection of Christ's handclasp. If our Lord saves all in spite of their conduct, then clearly none can be lost. But such a theory cannot be sustained either by reason or revelation. Our New Testament lesson, the teaching of which harmonises with that of many other passages, is that if we are in Christ's handclasp, no power on earth or in hell can snatch us away; but we are also taught that if we "abide not" in Christ, no power even in heaven will keep us there, for there is no promise of preservation if we wrest ourselves from our Saviour's hand.

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Here and There

We were glad to receive the following encouraging news: "Hinrichsen-Morris mission, Inverell, N.S.W., stirring whole district; fifty welcomed yesterday; marquee crowded out; many standing; 65 confessions to date.—Goode."

A telegram reaching us on May 6 reported that Mrs. Glive R. Burdeu, of Maylands, W.A., formerly of Melbourne and Queensland, is critically ill in hospital. A later message tells of a slight improvement in Mrs. Burdeu's condition.

On May 7 K. A. Macnaughtan commenced his fourth year's ministry with church at Geelong, Vic. He spoke at both services. The newly-formed choir rendered two hymns. All departments of work are well maintained, and a special effort is being made to reduce debt on church property.

A. Anderson, secretary of the Federal F.M. Board, after a successful trip to Western Australia, is back in Adelaide making preparations for the annual appeal in July. Owing to pressure on space due to conference reports, we were not able to include in this issue the weekly overseas news items.

A successful youth tea and service took place at Mont Albert, Vic., on May 7. Chaplain C. Young commenced service with church on April 30, and has given inspiring messages. Mr. Mott, superintendent of S.S., gave a testimony on "What Christ means to me," and Bruce Rayment read Psalm 23, at youth service. Competition in S.S. is keen and successful.

We learn that Miss M. Clipstone will shortly return to missionary service in the New Hebrides. With her will go Mrs. W. Waterman, whose offer to serve in the islands has been accepted by the F.M. Board and the State F.M. Committees. It will be remembered that Mrs. Waterman and her late husband did splendid service in the mission at Hueilichow, Western China, in days gone by.

Dr. F. W. Boreham, who is a vice-president of the London committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, is to address the annual workers' inspirational gathering of the Bible Society in Scots Church hall, 101 Russell-st., Melbourne, on Tuesday, May 16, at 2.30 p.m. This is always a meeting full of encouragement and inspiration for every friend and helper of the Bible Society.

On Apr. 23, C. L. Lang gave good addresses at Ormond, Vic. After gospel service two young people were baptised. On April 30 Mr. Lang again brought helpful messages. In morning two young people were received by faith and baptism. On May 7 W. Gale gave the message in morning and C. L. Lang preached at night. Bible school teachers had tea at chapel and invited senior scholars; 30 sat down to tea. Good meetings for day. Youth offering, £4/12/-.

Successful Bible school anniversary services were held at Castlemaine, Vic., on April 30. W. Graham, of Moreland, was the speaker for the day. Prizes were distributed and scholars rendered special hymns. Several members have removed from district. On behalf of the church, C. E. Curtis made a presentation to Mrs. Hogarth, who is removing to Colac. A working bee of 12 men painted the building. Last Sunday C. E. Curtis spoke to young people, and a choir of young ladies sang, young men taking part in the evening service.

Sunday, May 21, which is the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday, will be the day this year observed as Red Cross Sunday. No appeal is made for funds on Red Cross Sunday, and no church collections will be taken for Red Cross. The day is observed with special services in the churches to remind people of the fundamental Christian ideal of service inherent in all Red Cross activity. Red Cross members will attend service in the churches where, in many cases, special pews will be reserved for them.

A London conference had an attendance of fifty representatives of Czech churches, with several members of the Cabinet present, including Mr. Jan Masaryk and General Vlast. Dr. F. M. Hnik described the heroic resistance of the persecuted churches in Czecho-slovakia and Professor Smetanka, who presided, paid tribute to church leaders who had died under the Nazi oppression.

Monthly Pleasant Sunday Afternoon service at North Fitzroy, Vic., was held on May 7, and a very fine audience listened with great interest to an address by Staff-Chaplain Walter Albiston, Wing Commander, on the subject, "Lessons from New Guinea," gained by his personal experiences in the Milne Bay area and other parts of New Guinea. A fine tribute was paid to the natives, the great majority of whom had been converted to Christianity through the mission stations. The enjoyment of the service was added to by fine solos and duets rendered by Miss Vera Higinbotham and Mr. William Laird.

Morning speaker at Maylands, W.A., on Apr. 23 was A. Anderson; 110 present. Evening service was also well attended. Mrs. Humphreys, late secretary Women's Guild, is now Women's Conference president. Mrs. Humphreys is also leader of Maylands Band of Hope. Morning speaker on April 30 was C. R. Burdeu. Bible school is growing; new scholars almost every week. House system is creating enthusiasm. Boys' Club has commenced. Gospel service on April 30 was conducted by youth; splendid meeting with good congregation. Mr. McRoberts was preacher.

Mrs. Arthur Grenfell, O.B.E., vice-president of the British Young Women's Christian Association, is at present in Melbourne as the guest of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Dugan. To Australian women Mrs. Grenfell brings a special message from Her Majesty the Queen. It should reach even the outback women, for as well as addressing meetings in the cities, Mrs. Grenfell will be heard frequently on the air, from both national and commercial stations. She is a woman of delightful personality, and a noted speaker, so her broadcasts should be welcomed by every listener.—Mary Grapt Bruce.

An appeal is made to all girls and women of churches to assist in staffing the Inter-church Women's Services Club, conducted by associated churches for the benefit of girls in uniform. The club is situated on the first floor of Kurrajong House, 177 Collins-st., Melbourne, opposite the Baptist church. Churches of Christ are responsible for staffing the club on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of each month. This month these dates fall on a Saturday. Help is needed at any time from 10 a.m. One or two hours' service would help. This affords an opportunity to do something for those who are doing so much for us. Those willing to assist ought to contact Mrs. M. Warne, 105 Belford-rd., North Kew, E.5.

James A. Strack, of Essendon, writing on behalf of five of his brethren in the Forces, says: "Would you make known that we would like each church to keep in touch officially with all who join, or have joined, the Services, and advise them of the nearest church of Christ to their camp. Also that, at least once a quarter, a remembrance service be held at the gospel meeting, for those absent on Service. The church could notify them that they are being remembered and prayed for on that evening. If the parents and relatives were told, we are sure there would be great meetings and much good would result. We are absent from our own churches on Service, and find great joy and fellowship with the church at Albury, N.S.W. We know the dangers and temptations which surround our young folk in camps, and know that the thoughts and prayers of home churches will help all concerned."

World of Books

THE VISION THAT MADE A PEOPLE

THE subject of Christian unity is attracting the interest it deserves. Almost every week references to the need of a united church are to be found in the daily papers. How unity can be secured is the greatest difficulty. The desire for unity is growing, but men have not yet been convinced of the way that unity can be achieved. Over 130 years ago Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander, laid down certain principles which, if followed, would lead the Christians in the world to the unity for which Christ prayed.

F. C. Hunting, a former youth director of churches of Christ in N.S.W., now preacher of the church at Ann-st., Brisbane, has set out the essential elements of the unity movement inspired by the Campbells. The book has been brought out by the Victorian Union Committee, and published by the Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. It is designed to meet the needs of Bible classes and young people's groups. I think it could be read with profit by all interested in the subject of Christian unity. It will serve as an introduction to the important literature of the Restoration Movement. If it stimulates an interest in such literature it will serve an important mission, and bring pleasure to the author and the union committee. The title of this helpful booklet is "The Vision that Made a People," by F. C. Hunting. Forty pages in a paper cover; price, 6d.; posted, 7½d.

QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE TEXT

From "The Expository Times" of March, 1944, we take the following extract appearing in "Retrospect of an Unimportant Life" by Dr. Herbert Hensley Henson: "On Saturday evening I received a message directing me to write for His Majesty the text on which I proposed to preach. I wondered what might be the origin of this practice. . . . On Sunday evening I asked the King why he had wanted my text beforehand, and he replied that the practice had been introduced by Queen Victoria, whose sight and hearing tended to fail in her later years, and she desired at least to know what the preacher was discoursing about. I reflected that Her Majesty, perhaps, had assumed too generously that the text would determine the character and content of the sermon!"

ADDRESSES

R. E. Burns (preacher Prahran church, Vic.).—29 Beatty-st., W.+Preston, N.19.

R. Deacon (secretary Fairfield church, N.S.W.).—37 Avesford-st., Fairfield.

A. W. Morris (preacher Fairfield church, N.S.W.).—57 The Point-rd., Woolwich.

E. C. Watson (secretary Moreland church, Vic.).—11 Caton-ave., East Coburg, N.13.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS!

Victorian Kindergarten Association invite you to their helpful training classes, Assembly Hall, Collins-st., 2nd floor, 7.45 p.m., third Wednesday of every month. Next meeting, May 17. Speaker, Mr. Russell Baker, British and Foreign Bible Society. Subject, "A Bible Character—Peter."

The Australian Christian

News of the Churches

Tasmania

Hobart (Collins-st.).—Attendances at all services are good. On evening of April 22 an enjoyable social was organised by Y.P.S.C.E. The deaconesses supplied supper. Opportunity was taken to wish C. P. Hughes many happy returns of his birthday.

Mole Creek.—The church thanks Mr. Harvey, of Caveside, for expressing appreciation to State conference, of the mission conducted at Mole Creek earlier in the year by Messrs. Burt, Burn and Barton, of Glen Iris college, whose messages were much enjoyed. Owing to speakers attending State conference, the sisters organised a service. Solos were rendered by Mrs. H. Martin and Mrs. W. Byard. A visit of F. T. Saunders, of Glen Iris college, was appreciated. He brought an encouraging report of the college.

Queensland

Townsville.—During absence of W. Giezen-danner at conference, speakers were J. Adermann and R. Chellingworth. At gospel service on April 23 R. Anderson, R.A.A.F., was speaker, and Gordon Medew, also of R.A.A.F., confessed Christ and was baptised.

Gympie-Monkland.—There have been good attendances recently. At Monkland the J.C.E. on Anzac Day was addressed by Pte. A. Webster, returned soldier, who told of experiences in Middle East. In Gympie a successful united service was held on Anzac morning in City Hall. Church and C.E. combined on April 21 to tender a complimentary social to E. J. Kingston and family, who are leaving Lagoon Pocket, and presentations were made.



CHURCH ENTERTAINS SOLDIERS

DISCUSSION ON PLANS OF NEW ORDER

BOONAH.—On Apr. 23, church entertained at tea members of Returned Soldiers' League and V.D.C. Over 60 men were present. Eric Hart was chairman. T. F. Stubbins welcomed the men on behalf of church. Dr. Fraser, R.S., and Capt. Lindsay, V.D.C., responded. A discussion took place on planning a new order. After tea the visitors attended gospel service, designed to commemorate Anzac Day. Mr. Hart preached. Lieut. Roscoe, V.D.C., read scripture lesson. On May 1 the church held annual picnic at Black Pinch. Church is planning for the jubilee celebrations. Silverdale is visited fortnightly, and work there shows great promise.

Annerley.—On March 26 the Bible school anniversary and prize distribution took place. T. G. Tavener conducted the singing, assisted by Miss E. Finger at piano and Mrs. Greenwood at organ. P. C. D. Alcorn gave an enjoyable address to the children. W. J. Campbell presided. Prizes were presented by Mr. Alcorn. On April 9 the church enjoyed fellowship with several members who were in Brisbane for conference. A. J. Fisher, from Gympie, exhorted at the church service and E. Berthelsen, from Ma Ma Creek, conducted gospel service.

Maryborough.—On April 23 Jack Wiltshire gave a helpful message at Urraween. In morning at Maryborough a welcome was extended to Eddie Witts (R.A.A.F.), who made the good confession the previous Sunday night and was baptised through the week; he has been transferred south. On April 30, at a service at Broweena, there were 52 present.

J. Ingham brought the message to Maryborough church in morning, Mr. Dallinger being at Broweena. Visitors for last two Sundays included Len Pearson (Bankstown, N.S.W.), Les. Wright, of Epping, N.S.W., presided over C.E. meeting on April 28, and Eddie Salisbury, of Box Hill, Vic., gave the talk. On May 1 the Sunday school had a successful picnic, approximately 100 children and adults being present.

Western Australia

Kalgoorlie.—Mr. Fitch being in hospital on April 23, Roy Beard exhorted the church, and gospel service was conducted by F. J. Stephenson. A. Anderson addressed a special meeting and Mrs. Dave Ewers rendered a solo. Mr. Fitch has returned home from hospital. Vin. Connigrave, A.I.F., has been posted to a north-west station.

North Perth.—Increased attendances with fine spiritual atmosphere are experienced. During month two by faith and baptism and two by letter of transfer were received into fellowship. Midweek prayer meetings are helpful. Sunday school work is encouraging. Mrs. Thickers was appointed president of Ladies' Aid at election of officers. Mr. Thickers is making his influence felt in district by conscientious visiting.

Harvey.—On April 26 Mr. Bamford gave a travel talk showing slides of New Zealand, to aid building fund. On April 30 a young couple were baptised. Mr. Marlow is meeting with the church again after being in hospital. Question box is being used, and Mr. Bamford answers the questions. Alex Johnston visited Collie and spoke at both services in absence of a preacher there. Jack Higgins and Mr. and Mrs. Otrey had fellowship with the church while the two brethren were on leave.

Perth.—On morning of April 23 the Bible school had additions of eight scholars and two teachers. Mrs. Floyd was welcomed into membership of church. Sympathy was extended to Mrs. Miller in the death of her husband. Visitors included E. J. Welsford, Norman Lockyer, of the Forces. J. K. Robinson gave a stimulating message. At 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Thrum rendered a solo and Mr. Robinson preached. On April 25 the C.E. Society spent a profitable evening, when a "radio" meeting was held at the manse. Recently Young Women's Fellowship opened a children's nursery, to care for young children while parents attend communion service. On morning of April 30 Youth Week commenced. E. R. Sherman gave a talk on behalf of young people. At 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Robinson rendered a solo and Mr. Robinson preached.

New South Wales

Fairfield.—The work is progressing, and meetings keep up. Members look forward to opening of new building in a month or two. Visiting speakers have been Mr. Retchford, from Gilgandra, and Mr. Thomas, from Canley Vale.

Paddington.—There was a good attendance at breaking of bread on April 30. A man and wife, recently immersed, were received into fellowship. Mr. Wilson gave a fine address. Bible school attended youth demonstration at City Temple. There was a fair attendance at gospel service, and Mr. Wilson preached.

North Sydney.—Meetings have been well up to average for weeks, with several confessions of faith. Bible school, under leadership of H. Pollard, is promising. On April 28 ladies entertained Mrs. Paternoster at a birthday dinner. It was a happy function. On Anzac Day a party of young people "hiked" to Bobbin Head and had an enjoyable day. After church social hour on last Sunday in month makes fellowship of members possible. A choir has been formed under leadership of C. Lawrence.

Canley Vale.—The flying squad spent Saturday afternoon, April 29, delivering tracts in the district and issuing invitations to attend services. Later they met for a fellowship tea and social evening. V. Parker spoke at both meetings on April 30. There were two decisions at gospel service. Junior and intermediate departments of Sunday school attended City Temple for broadcast service in connection with Youth Week.



WELL-ATTENDED MEETINGS

SEVERAL ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP

WOLLONGONG.—In response to Mr. Stirling's invitation on Apr. 24, a woman and her son accepted Christ; that same morning Mr. Mearning, who was baptised at Wagga, was received into fellowship. On May 1 Mr. Cunningham, of Kingsford, took the services, Christian Endeavorers assisting at both meetings. A. R. Main was received into membership by letter of transfer from Gardiner, Vic. Captain Hoepfer, of Y.M.C.A., spoke to a well-attended men's meeting on April 27, and with his wife to an excellent attendance of ladies on May 2.

Lismore.—At annual church business meeting reports showed good work being done by all auxiliaries. Ladies' Guild showed good work being done in sick visiting. Ladies' Missionary Society continues to support an orphan in India. Endeavorers attend to several duties at the church, and have written 605 letters to Servicemen and women in twelve months. Fellowship has been enjoyed with Pte. Marjorie Dunster, A.A.M.W.S., and Bruce Munro, R.A.A.F., both home on leave, also with R. Prideaux, R.A.A.F., from Northcote, Vic. A lady was baptised on April 30 following confession of faith. Endeavorers held a social evening at home of Mrs. Oakes.

South Australia

Ungarra.—Combined Good Friday meetings were held in afternoon and evening. H. Norris was speaker at both services. There were large congregations. Mr. Norris addressed Easter Sunday morning meeting and A. Pugsley led evening service. Fellowship has been enjoyed with visitors.

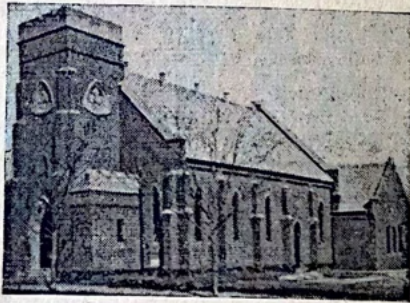
Prospect.—Youth services were held on April 30. Members of 2nd Degree K.S.P. conducted morning service; good attendance. Evening service was conducted by young people. Allan Fax presided; Glenda Fax and Allan Sander preached sermons; Mrs. Joseph rendered a solo, and Misses Y. and J. Mackenzie a duet. A young lad from Bible school, Eugene Molcher, confessed Christ. Fellowship was enjoyed with visitors and Lyall Wainwright (on leave).

Strathalbyn.—The church has been helped by Messrs. Filmer, Jackling, Grosvenor and Matthews as speakers. Mr. Baker spoke at both meetings on March 19. A duet from Mrs. Bartlett and Mr. Grosvenor was appreciated, as also were their solos at different night meetings. Mr. Collins was speaker for Apr. 2. Other visiting speakers were Mr. Magor on April 23 and Mr. Sherriff on April 30. On evening of May 4 a social was held in honor of two young members (Mrs. R. Manning, who has recently been married, and Miss L. Verner on her approaching marriage). A presentation was made to each.

Balaklava.—At Northern District Conference A. Hutson was elected president, and Mrs. A. Hutson president of Women's Conference. A bus load of young people went to Avon to home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Carslake, where Mr. and Mrs. D. Fitzgerald were farewelled before leaving for Two Wells. A. Hutson, accompanied by Wilkie Thomson, visited brethren at Nantawarra and Lochiel recently. Mr. Barr, of Long Plains, drove his car for this trip. On Good Friday morning a united service was held, when Mr. Hutson preached. John Roberts was received by faith and obedience. The

young people (30 in all) gave a concert at Watchman in aid of Red Cross in that district. A social evening was held on April 26 to honor three young men. Jack Bowden received a welcome home after discharge from A.I.F. Ken Roberts had attained his 21st birthday whilst in the Forces, and being on leave was presented with a gift from young people. Brian Hennig leaves to join police cadets, and was presented with a gift from Triangle Club. Mr. Patterson and Sister Whiting have returned home from hospital. Mrs. Pearl, sen., is sick at home of her daughter in Adelaide. Ken Lindner is home on leave. Services on April 30 were well attended, and A. Hutson preached.

Maylands.—Services during April were excellent, and the month culminated with Youth Sunday. On April 30, young people helped at



The Chapel at Maylands, S.A.

all services. In morning Allan Sands gave a fine address; in evening three young people gave inspiring messages. The chapel was full at both services; 217 communicants for day. At Bible school annual meeting on April 23, good reports were received. Owing to kindergarten room becoming too small, it has been decided to build a beginners' room, and work on this has commenced. A brotherhood and church welcome was extended to Miss Edna Vawser on May 31. It was a very fine meeting. Floral tributes were given her from church auxiliaries. After a very interesting talk from Miss Vawser, supper was served. The church was also pleased to have Miss Clipstone present and T. Hagger, of Victoria. Fellowship has been enjoyed with a number of young men and women of the Forces, home on leave. In "Forward Campaign" results are visible through house-to-house visitation. There were two decisions and two reconsecrations for the month.

Tumby Bay.—At church business meeting all officers were re-elected, and reports from auxiliaries proved all to be in good heart. On April 16 H. G. Norris visited Wudinna circuit, where meetings were well attended and fellowship was enjoyed. In absence of Mr. Norris, R. Nankivell delivered the message in afternoon and C. Manning (A.I.F.) addressed evening meeting. On April 11, at Ladies' Guild, Mrs. I. Durdin gave an interesting talk. £1/13/- has been collected by sisters for home mission living link. Anzac service was held on April 23 in Institute, when all churches combined and H. G. Norris gave a splendid message.

Victoria

Red Hill.—Pte. Keith Salmon is home on leave. His wife, in W.A.A.A.F., was also here. Miss A. Downing has recovered from illness. C.E. had a visit from Cheltenham folk on April 22; 40 were at a social evening. Junior C.E. had anniversary on April 30. Prizes were distributed. Good exercises were given by them in the programme. Mr. Kingston addressed the meeting.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—There were good meetings on May 7, Chaplain-General Allen Brooke being the preacher. During morning service L.A.C. A. Barnes, of Inverell, N.S.W., and Graeme Brooke (son of the preacher) were baptised.

Portland.—Speakers for April have been Mr. Forbes and T. Robb, of Hamilton, and A. Crofts, F. Warburton and T. Davey. The church welcomes return of A. Rivett, who has been in the Services for the past three years. Ladies' Aid Society has resumed activities.

Moreland.—Reports given at annual meeting showed that interest and numbers are maintained. The fine effort of W. G. Graham is being felt by people in surrounding districts and the church, Bible school and all auxiliaries are making every endeavor to spread the gospel.

Malvern-Caulfield.—On May 7 F. E. Buckingham spoke morning and evening. The choir rendered an anthem. Sister H. Herkes after long illness passed away. She will be long remembered for her great service to the church, and sympathy goes out to those who mourn.

Boronia.—Two interesting addresses by E. L. Williams on youth and the church attracted very good attendances on April 30. A senior boy from Bible school confessed Christ. A record number broke bread at evening meeting. Young Worshippers' League enjoyed a hike to Fern Tree Gully Lookout on April 29.

Chelsea.—A well-attended united evening service was held in chapel on April 30, at which the Congregational minister spoke. David Collings, a Bible school scholar, made the good confession at conclusion of a special youth service on May 7. J. C. F. Pittman is still hard at work, and his messages continue to impress.

Cheltenham.—Gordon Stevensen made the good confession on April 23. During Mr. Stafford's absence at Bendigo, visiting speakers have been J. E. Allan, A. W. Wallington, W. H. Clay and Captain Robinson, who gave appreciated addresses. Bible school reports progress in use of posters as teaching aids. 19 scholars have entered for examination to date.

Frankston.—On May 7 G. Barnett concluded his short ministry, which was much appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hagger will commence their ministry on May 14. Women's Mission Band had a good meeting, when delegates gave interesting reports of Women's Conference. Included in visitors have been A. Chesson and H. Ewers, S.A., and D. Edwards, N.S.W.

Burnley.—April 23 was "every-member-present Sunday," with a temple day appeal which resulted in £95. At evening service Sunday school teachers rendered a thanksgiving message in song. A social evening in church hall was enjoyed on April 28. Mr. Page gave morning message on April 29, and Mr. Crisp spoke in evening. Mrs. Bound is home after operation in hospital.

Camberwell.—R. L. Williams, back from holidays, conducted both services on May 7. Communion service was exceptionally well attended. 110 broke bread during day. Youth services were held and young people helped throughout the meetings. Corporal Gaunt, U.S.A. Forces, spoke to Bible school at tea, prior to gospel meeting. A record response was received to Youth Department's annual appeal. Offering amounted to £50, previous highest being £35.

Drumcondra.—Attendances have improved. Three young ladies and one young man were baptised on April 23 and received into fellowship on April 30. Transfer of Ken Booth was received from Warrnambool. Series of night addresses by Mr. Methven are very helpful. Sunday school has over 70 on roll; average attendance exceeds 60. All auxiliaries are functioning well. Young People's Fellowship commenced on April 24 with 15 members. Young Worshippers' League started April 16 with about 12 children. Fellowship of visitors, and members on leave from Services, has been enjoyed. On May 3 Mrs. McKay addressed Women's Mission Band on conference echoes.

Hamilton.—A. E. Forbes is giving splendid addresses. On evening of April 20 the W.M.B. conducted a social evening and sale of gifts which realised approximately £20 for building fund. Fellowship has been enjoyed with visitors, including Ron Avent, Jack Warburton, Len Adams, and Doug. Holloway of the Forces. Mrs. McIntyre was present at worship service after illness. S.C. Endeavor members were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes on April 25.

North Fitzroy.—Mr. Doug. Nicholls was received by letter from Northcote church on April 30. At close of evening service three young men were baptised. They were received into membership at morning service on May 7, and at evening meeting another young man decided for Christ. R. Enniss continues to deliver fine addresses. Attendances are well maintained despite much sickness among membership. Offering for Youth Department work, £7/0/1.

North Essendon.—Meetings on April 30 and May 7 were well attended. Mr. Bond giving helpful addresses. During Mr. Bond's absence on mission work, Mr. Swain will help church. Christian sympathy is extended to Mrs. Mason who lost her father and to Mrs. Barratt in loss of her husband. A successful youth night was conducted on May 7, young people conducting the service. Sunday school reports that teachers have been added to staff and work is progressing.

Dunolly.—Morning meetings have been presided over by Messrs. Beasy and Scott since circuit has been formed with Bet Bet. Mr. Hindman conducts gospel service and Bible school. The help of Jack Sewell as a teacher in school is appreciated. Mr. Hindman delivered Easter message, a number of friends being present. At Dunolly Park on Easter Monday, a combined school picnic proved enjoyable, and a happy time of fellowship was spent with parents of Bet Bet school.

Hampton.—While the church has been without a regular preacher, local and visiting speakers have given appreciated assistance. On May 3 a tea and rally in connection with Youth Week took place. Offering for department on May 7 was £18/14/-. Mr. Nance-Kivell spoke in morning, and at night the S.S. superintendent (D. Allen), assisted by three young men, conducted gospel service. Mrs. Chapman and Miss Lang sang a duet. Pat Darling, a member of the Bible class, made the good confession.

A PICTORIAL SERVICE

GOSPEL PRESENTED IN PICTURES

DAYSWATER.—A good congregation attended a pictorial service, when pictures of our Saviour from babyhood to resurrection were screened. Mrs. F. Finger and Miss Kathleen Sanders were soloists. A. G. McCullough commenced scripture lessons at S.S., commencing with the creation to Abraham last Sunday, and in evening had a pictorial service on the parables of our Lord.

Emerald.—The church on April 23 and 30 celebrated 29th anniversary of erection of chapel. The first Sunday G. L. Murray assisted Mr. Alcorn at both services, and on 30th W. Gale took the two services. On each Sunday the congregation included members who had assisted in erection of the building, and happy reminiscences were exchanged. On April 27 a musical evening was enjoyed; visiting artists included Miss Frances Cowper, Miss Phyllis Daff and others. Proceeds were used to augment resident minister's residence fund.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—At morning service on May 7, C. G. Taylor gave a fine exhortation. There was a good attendance, including several visitors. In afternoon, New Century Bible Class celebrated seventh anniversary, when past and present members gathered. S. R. Baker was guest speaker. At night Ken Barton gave the gospel message. Assisting in service were

several youth workers. Offering for Youth Department was £23. Best wishes are expressed to Marcella Bell on the occasion of her marriage. Sympathy of church is extended to Mrs. Piper in the loss of her sister.

Colac.—Attendances have improved. Sister Louie Hyatt is making good recovery from a recent operation. Mr. Page, of Malvern-Caulfield, has been welcomed. J. Spokes has been appointed to a school a few miles out of town. Young people conducted evening service on May 7, in a very capable manner, M. Selwood being speaker.

West Preston.—Splendid services and good attendances continue. On May 7 Youth Sunday was celebrated, when H. Turnham addressed morning service, and at gospel service A. B. Withers was speaker. Several young people assisted. A young people's tea was held in afternoon, when about 35 young people attended. A. Wood, Y.M.C.A. welfare officer, gave an interesting address. The church has welcomed A. Wood, Jack Berry and C. Watson on leave. Youth offering has doubled last year's figures.

Essendon.—Inspiring services were held afternoon and evening on May 7 for first Sunday of Bible school anniversary. Excellent addresses were given by W. J. Northey and W. E. Jackel to congregations which packed the chapel. On April 26 the second special monthly meeting was well attended. A Bible study class and tea, conducted by W. E. Jackel, took place on April 30. Mr. Graham was speaker on morning of April 23. Sympathy of church is extended to Sister G. A. Dunn on the death of her mother. A large party of young people attended a devotional rally at Ascot Vale chapel on May 6 conducted by Messrs. White and Roberts, missionaries.

Prahran.—April 16 terminated the work of Chaplain and Mrs. Young, a work that will have far-reaching results. Officers and members desire to make public their appreciation of the ministry. On April 23 Mr. and Mrs. R. Burns commenced a part-time ministry with the church. Rodney Blackmore, son of a deacon, and Donald Lane have been welcomed by faith and baptism. Flight Sergeant Don Abbey is reported missing over enemy territory. He is son-in-law to Chaplain Young. On May 3 about 40 members gathered to bid farewell to Chaplain and Mrs. Young. An enjoyable evening was held, and a cheque was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Young. The evening came to a close with supper.

Gardiner.—C.E. anniversary services were held on Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, 23rd. Mr. Jackel was guest speaker for rally on 22nd, when items were also given by members of Junior and Y.P. Societies. T. H. Scambler was speaker at both services on April 23. Members of C.E. took part throughout the day, formed choir for gospel service, and assisted at community song service after church. The chapel was full on April 30. Morning service with Mr. Scambler as speaker was broadcast. Emmanuel Quartette Party assisted during service. Mr. Scambler was also speaker for gospel meeting. Several young men home on leave, including Bob White, Ray Collins, Jock McDonald and Doug. Kinnear, have been welcomed at church services. Mrs. Fergeus has recovered from her accident and was present at gospel service.

Preston.—An evangelistic campaign conducted by Trevor Morris and F. Levett, of Mildmay Movement for World Evangelisation, was held from April 16 to 30. Splendid attendances were the rule, especially on Sundays, and there were good congregations on week nights, particularly in second week. Pictures taken on world travels explained by Mr. Morris were intensely interesting, as were his gospel messages. A youth rally and a message to Sunday school were included. Singing led by Mr. Levett, and his messages in song, were inspiring. Several decisions for Christ were made during the effort. At morning service on April 30 Mr. Cambridge expressed appreciation of the efforts of Mr. Morris and Mr. Levett, and handed to the former a substantial cheque towards work of Mildmay Movement as a thank-

offering. Baptismal services have been held on each of past three Sundays, and several have been welcomed into church fellowship by faith and obedience.

DEATH

CANDY.—On April 28, suddenly, at her residence at Camberwell, beloved wife of the late Albert William; much loved mother of Claude, Maisie (Mrs. A. O. S. Baker) and Norma, and dear nanna of Lauris and Dael (Candy) and Reginald, Carol and Barry (Baker).

One more gem for his crown.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

COOK.—The sons and daughters of the late Wilhelmina May Cook sincerely thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, in their recent sad bereavement. Will all please accept this as personal thanks?

IN MEMORIAM

FISHER.—A tribute of memory to Florence Eccles Fisher, called home on May 22, 1938. Her gracious influence continues through the years, in the lives of her loved ones in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

WANTED

Lady, over 45, to house-keep for four adults and child three years, Chelsea district; live in or come daily, as desired.—"Chelsea," c/o Austral Co.

FIFTEEN GIRLS WANTED

Malvern Girls' Choir want 15 additional members. There is a very busy time ahead with concerts at Dandenong, Blackburn, Carnegie, Malvern, Kew and other places. A knowledge of music or a solo voice is not necessary, but a willingness to attend Friday night rehearsals at 8 p.m. at Malvern church is essential.—Claude Gadge, 27 Northcote-rd., Armadale. Phone, U3029.

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4 First Violins, 4 Second Violins, 2 'Cellos,
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to assist in concerts in various churches.
—C. Gadge, 27 Northcote-rd., Armadale.
Phone, U3029.

COMING EVENTS

MAY 17 (Wednesday).—Victorian General Dorcas will meet in Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. All sisters interested in Dorcas work are invited to attend.

LYGON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST. NEW CENTURY BIBLE CLASS.

Every Sunday at 3 p.m.
May 14—A Tribute to Motherhood.
Special Service, Assisting Artists.
May 21—The Church in Japan.

NORTH RICHMOND BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

MAY 14:
11 a.m., J. E. Allan.
3 p.m., B. Huntsman.
7 p.m., E. Mellhagger.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17:

ANNIVERSARY CONCERT.
Programme by scholars and friends.
Tickets, 1/- Children half price.

OAKLEIGH CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Visitors will be cordially welcome at an
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C. B. Cartmel, H. M. Long
(students of the College of the Bible)
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MAY 14 to 28.
Meetings each night except Saturday.

FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST. PUBLIC WELCOME TO

MR. AND MRS. THOS. HAGGER,

will be held on
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17,
at 8 p.m.

Mr. E. L. Williams, M.A., Conference President, will preside.

Greetings from visiting churches. All cordially invited.

WESTERN SUBURBAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST SEVENTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1944, at NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN.

3 p.m., Afternoon Session: Panel Discussion led by Mr. W. R. Hibbert and representatives of Y.P. Department.
7.30, Evening Session: Speakers, Mr. A. E. Hurren, Mr. Wallace E. Jackel.
Musical items. A welcome awaits you.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, EAST KEW.

Valerie Street.

TWENTY-FIRST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY.

Special Services.
SATURDAY, MAY 20.
7.45 p.m., Preparatory Intercession Meeting.
SUNDAY, MAY 21.
11 a.m., Every-member-present and Roll Call.
Preacher, J. E. Thomas.
3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.
Speaker: V. Margetts.
7 p.m., Gospel Service.
Preacher, S. R. Baker.
Soloist, Miss Amelia Scarce.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24.
6.15 p.m., Fellowship Tea.

Past members and friends invited. Hospitality arranged for Sunday services if you will please advise the secretary.

35TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES MORELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST HOMECOMING DAY, MAY 21.

10 a.m., Endeavor Reunion.
11 a.m., Mr. H. B. Robbins.
2.45 p.m., Back to the Bible School.
7 p.m., Mr. W. Gale.

Come for the day. Hospitality arranged for all.

NEWMARKET CHURCH OF CHRIST BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

will be held in the church on
MAY 28.

Speakers:
3 p.m., Mr. A. W. Candy. 7 p.m., Mr. A. E. White.
Hospitality provided.

SOUTH MELBOURNE CHURCH OF CHRIST. ANNIVERSARY HOME-COMING DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1944.

Special Services—
11 a.m., Worship. 3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday
Afternoon. 7 p.m., Gospel Service.
Special speakers and singing.
All past members and friends invited to
return home for day.
For hospitality at chapel notify D. F. Morgan,
19 Mountain-st., South Melbourne, SC5.

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The Australian Christian

May 10, 1944

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Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

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

CHURCH AND STATE

MY difficulty with your statement on Christianity and the State is not that you made room for loyalty to the latter, but that you seemed to make room for almost unconditional loyalty. And in this you seem to persist in so far as you suggest that there are two distinct realms—a spiritual realm and a realm of the State—and that in the "things that are Caesar's," the State is sovereign. In this field Christians must obey so long as the State acts in accordance with its constitution. It is only when the State interferes in the spiritual realm—in "the things that are God's"—that Christians can resist its decrees.

But can life be departmentalised in this dualistic fashion? The State, like every sphere of life, is subject to the moral law of God, and can only claim Christian allegiance as it maintains law and order in accordance with the will of God—as it is moral. In the name of Christ, the Christian cannot cooperate in what is immoral, even if it is in the realm of the State. Shall we retire into that quietism that says we shall only resist the State if it interferes in the "internal affairs" of the spiritual realm? Is the spiritual realm confined to "internal affairs" or a special department? Is it not one with the whole moral field which pervades the whole of life—personal, social, economic, political? Surely the State has no exclusive province which is not subject to the universal, moral province.

To say that if the Government compelled all to brew beer it "would be acting contrary to the constitution of the Commonwealth," is to miss the point. The question is, if it were in accordance with its constitution and the State compelled Christians to brew beer or commit any other immoral act, would we obey and sin against conscience in obedience to a government acting in its proper realm of State? Are we to submit to a governmental decree because it is constitutional? Or shall we adhere only to what is moral and in accordance with the kingdom of God be it "internal" or "external"? Surely the law of God lifts all matters, involving moral issues, beyond departmental sovereignties.—E. Lyall Williams.

It is evident that we are now in agreement on the main issue, namely, that there is room in our Christian life for loyalty to the State. I have tried to imply that only in certain things, such as payment of taxes, etc., is there to be almost unconditional loyalty to the State. A great part of my life is not given over to the authority of the State. I think Mr. Williams is aiming to make clear the same thing.

Yes, the dualism—the affairs of State and the affairs of God—based on Christ's words, is more apparent than real. However, Christ is the One who urges me to be loyal to the State and to pay tribute to Caesar. My loyalty to the State rests, therefore, upon Christ's command. He is Lord of all life. If I am disloyal to the State, in the things of the State, I am also disloyal to him.

That some of the behaviour of the State is not all that we desire is a fact. The Commonwealth constitution allows us to persuade men to demand changes for the better. It is our

duty to work to that end. Nevertheless we must work along constitutional lines.

Why try crossing bridges before we come to them? It is almost as relevant to ask what we shall do if it rains actual cats and dogs as to ask what we shall do if we are commanded to brew beer. I am concerned about real facts, not with the point of a hypothetical question. Neither of the things referred to could take place in Australia, under present conditions.

Since we must make room for another subject and Mr. Williams asked for "a second and last say" (for the time being, I trust), this discussion must close now.—Ed.]

THE AUSTRALIAN NURSES' CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

WHAT AND WHY

THE Australian Nurses' Christian Movement came into being during the Great War 1914-18. Then, as now, nurses were moving forward in silent heroism to tend to the sick and wounded in camps and hospitals all over the Empire. To quicken spiritual impulses and increase the means of spiritual grace, this movement was launched.

The hospital nurse is denied very largely the ordinary means of grace. She is on duty when others can gather to worship. By means of hospital Bible study circles, fellowship in prayer, contact with the movement's rest rooms, periodical special services, and other agencies, the movement aims to link up Christian nurses throughout the State, and to bring other nurses in to the same circle of fellowship.

The movement has been entirely inter-denominational from the outset; it is a Christian movement, the influence of which has extended over a very wide field. Many member nurses are serving to-day in the mission fields at home and abroad.

There are branches in every capital city of the Commonwealth, and sub-branches in many country centres. The Melbourne centre is at 174 Collins-st., where comfortable rest rooms are open to all nurses.

The work is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. But, not being spectacular in character, it is liable to be overshadowed in these times by the more clamant appeals of patriotic and other funds. For this reason the movement would welcome any financial aid that the readers of this statement may be disposed to render. Contributions which may be addressed to the Hon. Organising Secretary, Central House, 174 Collins-st., will be gratefully acknowledged, and further information supplied if requested.—A. L. Gibson, president.

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Britain's Secret Weapon, Newman Watts, 2/6.
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The Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther, 6d.
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Obituary

Mrs. Elsie Gertrude Allan

ON April 5 Mrs. Elsie Gertrude Allan, the beloved wife of J. Ernest Allan, minister of the church at Hawthorn, Vic., was called home. She had been a patient sufferer for 14 years, during which time she had given a wonderful witness of heroic patience in face of all she went through. Our sister was 57 years of age. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wright, and spent her younger days at North Melbourne and Newmarket. She confessed Christ 44 years ago during a mission conducted by Thos. Hagger. She was baptised by R. G. Cameron, who was then preacher at North Melbourne, and received into the church by J. A. Palmer at the same time as Mr. Allan. She was married at Emerald East church in 1910 by Theo. B. Fisher. For many years she acted as church organist and assisted her husband in missions by singing the gospel. She had a beautiful voice that she loved to use for her Lord. She has served faithfully with her husband in the churches at Footscray, Doncaster, North Richmond, Box Hill, Cheltenham and Hawthorn in Victoria, and at Moonta and Maylands in South Australia. She played the organ at the first service of the Balwyn church, where her parents were foundation members. When her health permitted she served on the Women's Executive, and was the beloved leader of sisters' missionary and guild activities in the churches mentioned. She leaves three children—Elsie (Mrs. S. Deane) of Elwood; Sergeant Ern, of 7th Division, A.I.F.; and Sergeant Keith, 22nd Batt., A.I.F., on service in New Guinea. She leaves behind a very precious memory of a life lived lovingly and faithfully for her Lord whom she delighted to serve. The funeral on April 6 was conducted by Jas. E. Thomas, assisted at the house by Chap.-Gen. Allen Brooke and Principal T. H. Scambler, B.A., and at the Box Hill cemetery by A. A. Hughes, M.L.A., and W. Graham. Many other preachers were present. All will feel much sympathy for the beloved husband. He has nobly cared for his wife through long years of illness. To him and all the dear ones of the family circle we extend loving sympathy. Their loved one is with Christ which is far better, and the hope of a glorious reunion is their comfort.—J.E.T.

J. Hardidge

J. HARDIDGE, of the Doncaster church, Vic., after an illness extending over several months was called home on Friday, April 7. He was an old resident of the district and a member of the church for 50 years. Sixty-three years ago he became a member of the first Bible school, when the late J. Tully was the superintendent. He was always of a retiring nature, but deeply respected by all who knew him. He was a true brother, ever ready to help others and to do the kind action. At the service in the home, tribute was paid to a Christian gentleman, a devoted husband and loving father. Christian sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hardidge and the two daughters, Mrs. R. Ellis and Mrs. G. Pump.—R. A. Banks.

H. M. Lacy

THE sudden call home of H. M. Lacy on Feb. 17 leaves in the church at Boort, Vic., a vacancy which reminds us of the faithful attention and devotion to the service of God of one who has gone "to be with him, which is far better." Our late brother according to information received linked up with the work at Horsham about the year 1912. He met with the church at Gordon whilst he was in business at Ballan in the year 1915-16. The country's call for volunteers for the great war was heeded by him, and he enlisted from Ballan in January, 1916. With three years of service to his credit he returned to Boort in the year 1919. Linking up with the church here, in his quiet way he endeavored and lived the life of one contented in the army of God.

Years of sincere fellowship ripened his life to the rank of church deacon and secretary. As the latter he faithfully fulfilled his duty for a term of the last eight years. Such term commenced on the retirement of his brother, T. G. Lacy, to Castlemaine. He was of a quiet and reserved nature, of whom it could be said, "His delight was in the law of the Lord." His Bible, his home, his business, his church, were his field of service and pleasure, in which was found ample room to prove himself a godly character in high esteem by all who knew him. We miss the touch of his hand and the sound of his voice, and yet believe, as he did, "They labor not in vain that labor for the Lord." In God's own time another of his faithful workmen has gone to his reward, leaving us to a season of earthly sorrow, yet we can rejoice in Christian hope, commending his loved ones to the oversight and keeping of the God he loved and served so well.—E.S.

Mrs. Ellen Ryland

IN her 85th year, Mrs. Ellen Ryland, formerly of Dunmunkle and Kyneton churches, Vic., fell asleep in Christ on March 28. After coming from South Australia to the Wimmera district, she was baptised by W. D. Little, and continued faithful till death. By the consistency of her life, Mrs. Ryland adorned the doctrine of God her Saviour. The church of God found in her a regular attendant, a choice-spirited soul, and a cheerful giver. During her residence in Kyneton, student-preachers always enjoyed in her home a Christian welcome and abounding hospitality. Her daughter, Mrs. Coad, predeceased her, but she is survived by her sister, Mrs. A. R. Benn, of Kaniva, and her daughter, Mrs. Earl, of Box Hill. A. E. Hurren, of Balwyn, conducted her funeral service in Box Hill cemetery.—J.I.M.

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The Australian Christian

May 10, 1944

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(Jer. 31: 33)

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Recalling the story of Moses at Mount Sinai, we remember that when God writes, it is in declaration of righteous laws pervading the universe (Deut. 9: 10; Exod. 20: 1-17). Thinking on the record of Belshazzar's fateful night in ancient Babylon, we recognise that when God writes, it is in proclamation of just judgment (Dan. 5: 1-5, 25-28). But, best of all, as we ponder Jeremiah's prophecy, we rejoice that when God becomes penman with creative grace and love, he writes salvation into human hearts. Paul gloried in God's choice of manuscripts, and that Christ's immortal writings are not in sand, but in the hearts of men (John 8: 6, 8; 2 Cor. 3: 3, 18).

David Hume twitted an employee who quoted the text: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The man answered from Hume's own "History of England" which commends, as her redeeming feature, the words of "Bloody Mary": "When I die, take out my heart, and you will find 'Calais' written on it." Said the taunted Christian: "Take out my heart, and you will find Christ written on it."—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

"No love like mother-love ever existed except in the bosom of the great Giver of life who planted the mother-love in the heart of every good woman."

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

Established by the Federal Conference of the Churches of Christ in Australia.

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May 10, 1944

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