

Fraser

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"THE ENTRANCE OF THY WORD
GIVETH LIGHT."

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May the Peace of Christ Bless the Coming Year

Remember this Promise

"PEACE I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

—The words of Jesus spoken to his disciples and recorded in John 14: 27.

Remember this Example

"SOONER shall these mountains crumble into dust than the people of Argentina and Chili break the peace which they have sworn to maintain at the feet of Christ the Redeemer."

This is the inscription on the statue of the Christ of the Andes.

1943

DURING the past year we have been enduring the anguish that accompanies war. Some have suffered bereavement; others have experienced the depression that comes with the feeling of loneliness; many have been praying for the end of hostilities so that millions in Europe and Asia may be set free from the cruel grip of alien hands. Man has been rebelling against God and is further disfiguring the divine image in the soul. He is beginning to realise now how needful it is to return to the way of the Lord if he is to learn how to beat his sword into a ploughshare.



The Christ of the Andes

1944

TURNING their eyes from the present and looking toward God's vision for the future, many have been cheered by the belief that sacrifices have not been in vain. Many are convinced that there is no glory in a war which pours death upon the innocent and destroys beauty in art and architecture. Thus out of chaos, yet not without travail, a new spirit of Christian brotherhood is being born. This encourages the hope that men will learn how to use wisely the discoveries of science. So, instead of spreading ruin, man's new knowledge will enable him to banish want and misery.



Sydney
Black.

It was in the year 1861 that Melbourne churches of Christ were stirred and helped by a visit from Sydney Black, of London, England. For four consecutive Lord's day evenings he preached, under the auspices of Swanston-st. church, in the Theatre Royal to crowded audiences; in fact, on the last of the four evenings many were turned away. This was remarkable as there was no choir, no instrument, no soloist. There were a few congregational hymns, prayer, the reading of God's word, and the sermon. The themes on which the preacher discoursed were—"Love's Wonderful Gift," "The Captive's Vision of God," "The Great Revolution of Life," and "The Triumph of Unselfish Love." The writer heard three of these four discourses. On two evenings the audience was so carried away by the preacher's eloquence and earnestness as to burst into applause.

It was also my privilege to hear Mr. Black in Swanston-st. chapel on several Tuesday evenings when he preached to large congregations, as well as in several of our suburban buildings. I revelled in the man, and in his messages, and his burning evangelistic spirit has had an influence on me during all the years of my evangelistic work.

But Who Was Sydney Black?

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Black, of the church at Chelsea, London, and a brother of Mr. J. Wycliffe Black, who visited the churches in this country just before the World Convention of 1935 at Leicester, England, of which he was president.

Mrs. Black was a daughter of James Wallis, pioneer of the Restoration Movement in Nottingham, England, and editor for a number of years of "The British Millennial Harbinger." Mr. Robert Black was won to the cause under the preaching of Alexander Campbell during the visit of that champion of New Testament Christianity to Great Britain in 1847. Both were untiring workers. Sydney was born on July 25, 1860. At 13 years of age, while at boarding school, he decided that his life must be surrendered to God, and he wrote to his mother to that effect, and stated that he desired to be baptised. On his return home he made public confession of his faith, and was baptised into Christ in College-st. chapel, Chelsea. He was a boy, and his days were like those of any ordinary lad; but he was determined to live the Christian life. He decided that as a follower of Christ he would never do anything mean; but would always play the man. He was a hero with his school mates on account of his skill in games, and he was respected by them because of his sense of honor and truth.

The Work of an Evangelist

At the age of 17 Sydney Black preached his first sermon, and this maiden effort at the public proclaiming of the gospel intensified

Sydney Black's Text

In his series, "Great Texts of the Restoration Movement," Thomas Hopper, of Gardiner, Vic., presents a brief account of the life of a great preacher and an outline of a message based on John 3: 16.

the ambition he already had to give himself wholly to the sacred task of an evangelist. When 22 years of age he laid before his parents his desire to spend the whole of his life preaching the glorious gospel. His father heartily approved, and his mother said, "Go, my son, and the Lord go with you."

Leominster, in the county of Hereford, was the scene of his first evangelistic effort. In that town of some 7000 people his preaching created considerable stir. The first converts were baptised in the River Pynaley on a Lord's day afternoon in March, 1883. His effort in that town resulted in the establishment of a church wearing only scriptural names, and set in every way for the restoration of New Testament Christianity.

After five years his thought turned towards London, his native city. The Town Hall, Chelsea, was taken for thirty-two consecutive Lord's day evenings, and he preached to crowded audiences, and during that effort over 100 believing penitents were baptised into Christ. Determining to make London the centre of his life's work, and desiring to fit himself thoroughly for it, he went to Oxford and took a course of private study under Professor W. H. Fairbrother, and attended the lectures of that good man and also those of Dr. A. M. Fairbairn.

In 1890 we find him engaged in a number of brief missions. One of these was in Nottingham, and it was conducted under the auspices of "The United Gospel Mission," "The Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Class" and "The Young Men's Christian Association." A copy of the report of that mission lies before me as I write. He dealt with such subjects as—"Paradise Lost, Regained, Retained," "Intoxicated! But What With?" "A Glorious Revival! Three Thousand Jews in the Kingdom of Grace," "Europe Set Ablaze with the Age-abiding Gospel." As many as 2200 people were present at a service. The president of the United Gospel Mission said, "We commend Mr. Black as being eminently adapted to tell out the story of the gospel, expound scripture truth, and to win Christian people to seek a further knowledge of God's word." During his evangelistic work in Herefordshire he delivered in many places a lecture on "Shall the Saviour's Prayer be Answered?" The lecture which was afterwards published was a powerful plea for the unity of God's people by a strict adherence to the teaching of the scriptures.

World Tour

At the annual conference of British churches of Christ in 1890, Sydney Black met Mr. P. Illingworth, of Melbourne, Victoria, and was urged by that good man to visit Australia. A tour of the world had been in Mr. Black's mind for some time, and the urging of Mr. Illingworth brought him to a decision. And so in February, 1891, he started.

In Melbourne he was interviewed by one of the daily papers, and in that interview gave a very striking outline of the faith and practice of the assemblies of believers with which he was associated. Among other things he said, "The churches of Christ are churches set for the unqualified restoration of primitive Christianity in all its pristine simplicity and purity." "In their contention for the organic union of all obedient believers in the Son of God, the churches hold the absolute essential-

ity of adopting the names, both as individuals and as churches, which are found in the New Testament scriptures." "They also emphatically plead for the organic union of all followers of the Lord Jesus upon the well-known sevenfold basis enunciated by the apostle to the Gentiles in Ephesians 4: 4-6: "In their proclamation of the saving evangel they feel morally compelled to lay special stress upon the conditions of salvation laid down by Jesus Christ in his parting behest, and invariably enunciated by his inspired apostles."

His Text

In the Nottingham united mission, in the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, and in many other places this mighty advocate of the New Testament gospel and the New Testament church preached from John 3: 16. Sometimes he did so under the title, "Love's Wonderful Gift," and sometimes under the title "The Extreme Resource of Divine Philanthropy." It was a theme he loved and a text he delighted to expound. He first used the text in Nottingham, after he had been preaching for seven years. In his introduction on that occasion he said, "We have to claim your kind indulgence as we express our limited thoughts upon a theme which might employ an angel's tongue." He went on to say: "Here we have the everlasting gospel in a nutshell. God help us to preach it with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven! In this multum in parvo discourse our divine Lord, in dispensing his midnight theology to the Jewish ruler, clearly intimates that love is the centre and circumference of the religion enforced by the world's final speaker." He proceeded to discuss the text under six headings, viz:

1. The Great Giver.
2. The Great Motive.
3. The Great Gift.
4. The Great Multitude.
5. The Great Result.
6. The Great Condition.

And the preacher's concluding words were, "Beloved hearers, my last message to you to-night is this—and as we may never meet together again on earth to remind each other of it, may God help you to remember it in life and in death—God loves you! God loves you! Good-night!"

With all his emphasis on the love of God, and with all his zeal for the plea to restore New Testament Christianity to the world today as the basis for Christian union; with all his hatred for strong drink and gambling, and his very strong aversion to clerical titles and such things, he was stirred by the needs of the masses, and the poor and neglected were always on his heart. He loved little children, and they loved him. One day he saw a little fellow in rags, miserable and hungry. He drew from the boy his story; he had had no dinner for three weeks, and his only bed for twelve nights had been the dark corner of some grim alley. He there and then determined to open a home for needy boys, and the lad from whom he had received the inspiration was one of the first inmates. He built up, with the aid of other devoted workers, a large Sunday school at Fulham Cross. And all the time he denounced fearlessly the wrongs of the community, and bravely rebuked those who stood for and sometimes defended the wrong, and that when they even occupied high places.

Last Days

Sydney Black was taken ill in November, 1902, and passed away on October 23, 1903, at the age of 43 years. One of his favorite sayings was, "Let us crowd into life's little day all the good we can." And he did. His body lies buried in Fulham Cemetery, and such is fitting, for that is the cemetery of the poor for whom he gave the last years of his life, and it is right in the midst of the district in which he spent his last ten years.

Christian Community Centres

Lionel E. Dudley, at present serving in the Forces as a Y.M.C.A. welfare officer, asks that Christian leaders give thought to the needs of young people in rural areas.

FOR some time now there have been some vigorous-minded people in our midst who have been working for the elimination of child delinquency and for the development of suppressed youth. While these people have a clear realization of the immediate needs, they also take a longer view, believing that, with the coming of peace and the further advance in the productive use of machinery, there will dawn an era of shorter working hours. This will lead to increased periods of leisure for employees. Doubtless there will



great in our larger rural communities, where there are fewer facilities for the employment of youth's leisure hours.

This development, whilst pregnant with opportunities, is by no means bereft of dangers. We recall that Nazism and Fascism have used youth clubs to instill into the minds of youth their principles and motives, with frightful results. We are conscious of the fact that such a centre may also unduly emphasise and provide for physical recreation.

But the key to success in this as in all club activities lies in the hands of those who lead. It is not suggested that this larger centre will abolish the need for church clubs. They will still meet a vital need, but the community centre will reach those yet untouched by the smaller church auxiliaries.

Our aim in this brief article is to stimulate the thought of Christians with the hope that these community centres will be motivated and guided by Christian men and women. It is for us to see to it that Christians are elected to the committees and responsible Christians appointed to positions of leadership. Whether we wish it or not, large clubs will develop in many centres. In fact the nucleus of some has already been formed in some towns in Victoria. Will these and others be merely community centres or will we make them Christian community centres?

A Prayer for Peace

ALMIGHTY God, who shaped the universe,
In this dark hour thy children
cry to thee;
A common sorrow doth our hearts
immerse
For souls oppressed who clamor
to be free.
No Pharaoh can enslave and thou
not know,
Thy heart is grieved by ruthless
deeds of men;
Thou stretchest out thy hand to
break the bow
Of tyrant, with his bloody hands
of sin.
Dear Lord, protect with thy strong
sword and shield
Our sons and daughters, scattered
far to-day,
That they may not to dire tempta-
tion yield
But be courageous always, Lord,
we pray.
God bless our homes and make
us wise and strong
To work and pray and give the
best we have
Until we see the right outmatch
the wrong;
We trust thy might, dear God,
this world to save.
Forgive us, Lord; thy mercy is so
great:
Blot out our sins, and purify
our hearts;
In patience and in love on thee
we wait
Until peace comes and cruel war
departs,
While love and joy replace vile
lust and hate.
We pray thy kingdom come, thy
reign increase,
That all mankind might serve
the Prince of Peace.

—Ward Russell,
in "Christian Evangelist."

ball; an extensive library; a quiet room or chapel, a social hall, a hobby section and a buffet. Adjacent to the main building it may be possible to provide croquet lawns, bowling and tennis greens. Other facilities would be added to meet arising needs.

This brief and rough outline of the amenities to be provided by the centre we visualise, may appear to some readers to be somewhat utopian, but we have little doubt of the possibility of the establishment of such centres, once a community comes to an intelligent realisation of the need and of the benefits that will accrue therefrom.

A word may be stated as to the locality in which these centres may be established. It may be thought that some will develop in and around our cities. We expect such a development, but the writer is of the opinion that the need for communal centres is equally as

Our Great Preachers

A. G. Saunders, B.A., of Taree, N.S.W., writes words of appreciation of the messages of visiting preachers.

A SOLDIER from one of our congregations was at home for a rest after several months in military camps. He expressed to his minister a gracious statement. He said, "I have been listening to smaller men in larger churches!" That soldier has died since then at Buna, in Papua. The minister treasures the memory of a noble Christian friend and his generous tribute of encouragement.

This Christian soldier's statement is reminiscent of Robert Burns:—

"My loved, my honored, much respected friend!
No mercenary bard his homage pays;
With honest pride I scorn each selfish end:
My dearest meed, a friend's esteem and
praise."

So sincere a tribute may well bring a worthy joy to the hearer's heart and prompt no sentiment of vainglory. Many a lowly man has been thrilled with happiness and stirred to new endeavor by some such kindly word.

The late P. A. Dickson had a delightful story of enthusiasm tempered with caution. He had spent some years in Kentucky. In those parts a preacher can be certain in advance of abundant and sincere appreciation. Many a young preacher has been sent home from church tingling with the assurance that God has anointed him to be another Daniel come to judgment! After some years of this P. A. Dickson used to tell how he went to a church in a certain city in Canada where the folk came originally from north of the Clyde. Night after night did the visiting evangelist preach his heart out. But not a soul ut-

tered a syllable to lighten the gloom of his discouragement. Then he got it. A brother beckoned him, leading him far from the church. There he delivered himself of this breathless pronouncement: "Aye, brother, that sairman this morn—it was nae sae bad!"

Now for the point. It has been my lot for some months to listen to other men preaching. Our preachers have come from Sydney and Newcastle, two of them business men who were regular ministers. One of these was from Melbourne. I have listened to a long series of sermons which have reached splendid heights of spiritual eloquence. Not one has failed. Some of our younger men gave us magnificent discourses. We have some grand preachers in this brotherhood—greater men than larger churches often have! Usually our preachers have much less pay than others, especially our well qualified men as compared with similar men elsewhere. Only a few men amongst us, with means of their own, or by much self-denial, have been able to secure anything approaching adequate libraries. Yet, as illustrated by my recent experience, we have many men amongst us who preach the gospel with winsomeness and power. They are men, some ripe in years, others early in their careers, of whom, as a brotherhood, we may well thank God and be proud.

It is fitting, now that my long recess seems by God's blessing to be ending, to express my appreciation, together with that of this grand Taree church, to the brethren who have helped us, and also to their home congregations.

be advantages, but for many young people leisure hours are dangerous.

A task of reconstruction will be that of educating young people to employ their leisure profitably. This points to the need for developing large clubs or communal centres.

The type of club to meet this demand will need to provide for the development of the spiritual, social, intellectual and physical life of the individual. It will include a gymnasium, swimming pool, such indoor games as table-tennis, billiards, badminton and basket

Notes on Current Topics

Christmas and New Year.

ANOTHER "austerity" Christmas is upon us. No sensible person will object to a sacrifice which is equitably distributed and helpful to our common cause. How much of what we endure is of that description need not now be discussed. The ban on Christmas advertising had two sides—one successfully annoying, and the other amusing. I note Miss Christmas has appeared this year, her father having been "man powered". The children's "old friend" will doubtless appear again. Christmas with its message of peace and goodwill seems incongruous with a world at war. But it is most important that we all endeavor to catch the Christmas spirit. God loved a world sunk in sin, and sent his Son to be its Saviour. Peace is promised to men of goodwill, those with whom God is well pleased. The implications of the Christmas message should not be forgotten.

We shall not lightly speak this season of a merry Christmas and a happy new year. But all of us may look forward to 1944 with hope. The changing situation during this last year warrants the hope that the war in Europe may be over before 1944 closes. Nobody, however, can prophesy, and the end of war in Europe need not ensure an early finish to the war in the Pacific. Yet we may wish for our friends a happy new year. It will be such for all those who go forward trusting in God, seeking faithfully to do their duty day by day. We are in our Father's hand, and he will safely lead us. "Naught can harm the Father's child."

Hidden Treasure

H. J. Patterson, M.A., relates the parable of the treasure hid in a field with great truths bound up with the nature of the kingdom of God.

MANY thrilling boys' adventure books are centred around hidden or buried treasure. All Australians know something of treasure hidden in the earth. I once knew an old man who was sure he would discover a nugget before he died. The "Welcome Stranger" worth about £10,000 was dug up in shallow ground within twenty miles of my boyhood home. The story is told that a selection of six hundred and forty acres was made in Queensland and sold again for as many pounds because it was reckoned of little value. To-day all know of the Mount Morgan goldfields which, it is said, were sold by the buyers of that same field for the equivalent of eight million pounds. Now Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field."

Kingdoms of Men

For some the kingdom of most importance is the national one. Hitler and the youth of Germany believed in the supremacy of the Germanic races. Tojo had a great idea of East Asia dominated by the Japanese super race. Many men have sought this first and counted it the supreme objective.

Some others believe in the great kingdom of finance and economics. International business may direct kingdoms of men. For some teachers of history, the economic is the fundamental basis of all history. Others again say, "Get your politics right and all else will be well." "If we have the right party in power we shall soon see the ideal state." Experience demonstrates the fallacy of this, for all parties tend to selfish and partisan legislation.

Jesus taught that, while Gentiles sought economic security and political power, the true child of God will seek first the kingdom of God.

Australia's Place in the Peace Plan.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) has sought and secured from the Interstate Conference of the Australian Labor Party an affirmation regarding Australia's part in a policy of international co-operation. All of us, I trust, will agree with this sentence in the statement which the conference was asked to affirm: "Australia should collaborate with other peace-loving nations, in accordance with the provisions of the Atlantic Charter, to establish a peace which will confer on all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all may live their lives in freedom from fear and want." However difficult the settlement of details may be, that principle is a noble one.

"Hunger for the Bible."

The British and Foreign Bible Society says: "The hunger for the Bible is urgent. It will be the more urgent still when the war has passed. We must be ready when the war is over to see that the famine for the Word of God is broken. Just as, when the armistice is signed, food ships will be rushed to the starving peoples, so must the Bible Society be ready to send them the Bread of Life." Man does not live by bread alone. In the quoted words there is a message to the church. It is our privilege and duty to take the Word of God to perishing men, to present them with the spoken and written message, for without that the hunger of the soul cannot be satisfied.

—A. R. MAIN.

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

OUR LIVES

OUR lives are songs; God writes the words,
And we set them to music at pleasure;
And the song grows glad, or sweet, or sad,
As we choose to fashion the measure.
We must write the music, whatever the song,
Whatever its rhyme or metre;
And if it is sad, we can make it glad,
Or if sweet, we can make it sweeter."

HELP WITH THE PENCIL

A PREACHER in the West of England noticed, though it was quietly done, that a gentleman was taking notes of the sermon, and was passing them, sheet by sheet, to an aged lady by his side. Her eye was not dim, though her ear was dull, and thus he passed on something of the sermon to her who, but for this considerate helpfulness, could have known nothing at all of it.

Might not the ready pen or pencil of Christian workers similarly in public worship befriend and inspire the aged who cannot, however willing, hear the preacher?

SAINTS

I GAZE in awe at the mystic saint
Who dwells in the light that the rainbow
paints;
But I love the saints that darn and scrub,
And the tired old saints at the washing-tub."

NEW JOB

"No," said the creamery manager, "we don't need a man to wash cans, but I hear that they want an experienced man over at the Eagle Laundry."

"Well, boss," replied the Negro applicant, "I'm afraid Ah won't do, 'cause Ah ain't had no experience' washing eagles."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—STRANGE HAPPENINGS AT A WEDDING

- Jan. 10—Rom. 8: 26-39.
- " 11—Col. 3: 12-17.
- " 12—Col. 3: 18-25.
- " 13—Col. 4: 1-6.
- " 14—1 Tim. 4: 6-16.
- " 15—John 2: 1-11.
- " 16—2 Sam. 22: 1-20; John 2: 13-25.

WHEN, upon Mary's giving the word to Jesus that the wine had run out, he said, "Woman, what have I to do with thee; mine hour is not yet come," it must have been to his mother a season of embarrassment, for he appeared to have turned his face from her, and to have rebuked her. No doubt she was perplexed to know why he should deal thus with her. Yet without the slightest hesitancy she ordered the servants to do whatsoever he commanded them. Now, most who have long been Christians have, at times, been similarly circumstanced. They have approached the Lord with fervent petitions, but he has seemed, if not to rebuke them, at any rate to turn his face from them. Yet at such times we cannot do better than did Mary, meekly resigning ourselves to his will, and trusting that, as was the case on this occasion, the final result will be for the best.

The Kingdom Like Treasure

Yes, it is like treasure hidden in a field. Some stumble upon it by accident, and these have been not a few. But others deliberately search for it and do not find the search easy. Nothing really well worth while can be secured without much labor. No text book containing valuable truth can be read as a novel. The word of God requires diligent study. Paul himself could say, "I have not yet already attained." There is always some further treasure. The kingdom of heaven is never fully explored and realisable. The tragedy is that so many know not its real value, and therefore pass it by as of no account. A man haggled about the price (twelve oxen) for a farm where the rich mines of Johannesburg are now, and passed it by. Jesus said, Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these other things shall be added unto you. Here is hidden treasure.



C.E. Interests and Activities

W. W. Saunders

FOR THE NEW YEAR

A motto: In everything I will be Christian.
A resolve: To make C.E. count ever in constructing Christian character, communities and continents.

HELP FOR THE SYLLABUS

FROM our Young People's Department, N.S.W., we have received a copy of "C.E. In Action," a booklet recently published by that department. The contents—"programmes that have worked"—were first issued in a duplicated form. These were so quickly exhausted that the department decided to print.

In a foreword Frank Hunting, director of youth work, N.S.W., says, "Every keen Endeavorer will be glad to use this little book. Its pages are full of most helpful suggestions and catching ideas. Even where the exact programme or suggestion is not wholly adopted, the suggestions made will be so stimulating as to provide many a valuable C.E. evening. One thing impressed me—here are programmes with a purpose. Often, in an attempt to make the programmes interesting, the syllabus committee merely makes them entertaining. Here we have interest value, plus teaching with purpose, plus inspiration to live out the suggestions made."

Having perused the booklet, we heartily endorse Mr. Hunting's foreword, and commend the booklet to all C.E. leaders and societies. It provides an answer to the question which so often racks the brains of the syllabus committee, "Isn't there something different we can plan?" It will help to prevent the C.E. meeting being simply a repetition of Sunday's ser-

VICES. Its chapter headings reveal the wealth of material provided: "Programme Points"; "The Importance of Atmosphere"; "Special Features on General Subjects"; "Special Features on Particular Subjects"; "Special Programmes for Special Themes"; "The Consecration Meeting"; "And Yet More Suggestions." The booklet may be obtained from Mr. Hunting, 69 Campbell-st., Surry Hills, Sydney. The price is 1/3, with reduced rates for large quantities.

HERE AND THERE

TO the surprise of the India C.E. office, Dr. Polling circled down out of a cloudy sky on October 9. In the succeeding days he undertook a strenuous schedule of meetings and conferences, and gave encouragement and a new vision to many C.E. leaders. As arrivals cannot be heralded these days, a similar surprise may soon befall Australian Endeavorers.

The statistical summary of the West Australian C.E. Union reveals that it is comprised of 89 junior societies, with 1745 members; 51 intermediate societies, with 697 members; 55 Y.P. societies, with 745 members; 1 senior society, with 15 members; making a grand total of 196 societies and 3202 Endeavorers.

Results of the fifth annual sports day, conducted by the West Australian C.E. Union on November 15, indicate that the Subiaco church of Christ I.C.E. was successful in winning the intermediate society championship.

We learn that the intermediate society at Northam church of Christ has recommenced after having lapsed for some time. counter action to the propaganda mentioned,

some of which is largely of an anti-God character, and to organise a Christian movement. Thousands of folk of an impressionable age are looking for a lead, and we are bound to give it to them. A big Christian youth rally has been mentioned.

The Degrading Effect of Liquor

The N.S.W. Temperance Alliance has called attention, through the press, to the increase of drinking amongst women in that State. Queues of women, young and old, some with babies in arms, others with perambulators and pushcarts, are found waiting for long periods at hotels for bottled beer. This practice is not peculiar to N.S.W. alone. At a hotel in a Melbourne suburb we saw a line of about 30 women awaiting their turn. If the people will not provide the remedy God surely will. The post-war period threatens to overthrow all moral restraints, not only in Australia, but all over the world, the effect of which will be more terrible than any produced by war. Are we helpless? Will prayer alone meet the situation? Surely, no! Now is the time for united action.

"Right is right, since God is God,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin."

Christmas at Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh

C.E. Societies again assumed responsibility for some entertainment for guests. Brighton society visited the home on Saturday, Dec. 18, and made a presentation of some useful article to every guest and to members of the staff. A most enjoyable programme of music and recitationary items was rendered. The guests combined to show their appreciation of the matron, Mrs. Ross, in the presentation of a small monetary gift. Miss Winnie Lee, the C.E. convener, had conducted a monthly service at the home for the past two years, which was appreciated by all.

Tributes to C.F.A.

"Words cannot express the surprise and the joy and relief your cheque (£20) brought to us. . . . We just knelt down and thanked our heavenly Father for his goodness and for the great brotherhood of his church . . . and for C.F.A. I have always felt that C.F.A. was worth while; now . . . I know it by what it has done for me."

"I do not know how to word this letter of thanks and gratitude for this further cheque. I hope that I shall be able to help C.F.A. as it has helped me."

Another Golden Opportunity

FIVE years ago there appeared in "The Christian" an article entitled "A Golden Opportunity." It told of commencement of work at Georgetown, Newcastle (N.S.W.). A canvass had been held throughout the district, and of 93 names gathered on the day, 65 came the following day for first session, which was held in home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Fraser. Throughout the years the work has grown steadily. It was indeed a "golden opportunity."

And now we face "another golden opportunity." Adjoining Georgetown is the suburb of East Lambton. In this district there are about 2500 people, but no church meeting or Bible school. Arrangements have been made for Georgetown folk to commence a Bible school. The district has been covered with folders announcing the new school, and on Dec. 18 a canvass of the district was arranged in which workers from Merewether, Hamilton and Mayfield joined in enlisting youth of the district.

The school was opened on Dec. 19, meetings being held in Progress Association Hall, in centre of district. It is hoped soon to commence gospel meetings. We earnestly ask for the prayers of God's people—B. V. Ames.

Social Service Notes and Comments

Will H. Clay

Christian Fellowship Association

THE eighth annual meeting of Victorian C.F.A. members was held in the board room of Bible House, 241 Flinders-lane, Melbourne, on Friday, Dec. 17. The annual report disclosed a small decrease in membership which now numbers 1925. This was, in a large measure, due to many of the members being on active service, and also the lack of representation in the churches. Apart from the secretary, who devoted his Sunday work largely to C.F.A. interests, very little other representation was made. The report was full of optimism with regard to the future. There had been fewer calls on the funds for assistance, although some very substantial help had been given to special cases. The real test of C.F.A. will follow the war, and the board advised the strengthening of reserves to meet the need. £114 had been loaned to 11 cases without interest, and £72 was given in relief to five cases. A sum of £180 had been transferred from the loan account to relief account. Outstanding loan accounts have been reduced from £638 to £399. C.F.A. bank credit has been a set-off against the Christian Guest Home debit; thus a substantial saving has been effected for the home. C.F.A. has also borne two-thirds of social service expenses. It has always been the practice of C.F.A., in cases where repayment of loans imposed a hardship on members, to cancel the indebtedness. While the average contribution of members is less than 3d. weekly, some members contribute most generously. An anonymous member has contributed 2/6 weekly for a period of five years. Another, an old-age pensioner, not a member of the churches of Christ, has contributed 1/- per week for seven

years. This case has brought remarkable results. Still another is contributing anonymously 10/- weekly. Many others are making very substantial payments. The members endorsed the recommendation of the board that, as far as possible, the reserves of the association should be built up against the possible post-war depression. The meeting approved the report and expressed its confidence in the board.

Young People's Movement Toward the New Order

Young people everywhere are making themselves articulate with regard to conditions under which they will be called upon to meet and endure. Young communists are to be found in great numbers in factories and munition plants. Roman Catholics and young "labor" sympathisers are also well organised. Parent bodies are spending money freely to educate and enthuse them along their respective lines. Newspapers, magazines and pamphlets are being distributed freely. Meetings are being held and speakers trained for the post-war period. Some young men and women of our churches are also meeting to study relevant matters, but these are very much out-numbered. The Protestant churches have been slow to realise the value of Christian propaganda with regard to the new world order among the young, and they are now asking whether any help can be given them. A deputation of young men waited upon the Social Service Committee in Melbourne, and stated a strong case which demanded immediate action. Arising from this a meeting will soon be called for young men and women to determine some

Here and There

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Brooks, wife of Chaplain-General Allen Brooks, is making very good progress after an operation on Dec. 24.

The annual offering of the Federal Aborigines Mission Board will be received on February 6 in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, but in Queensland on January 30.

Attendances at Dandenong, Vic., at both meetings, have been well maintained since close of mission, Mr. Marshall delivering fine addresses. On Dec. 19 two were baptised, one sister confessing her faith and being immersed the same hour. Midweek meetings have increased in attendance. Choir has gained new members. One confessed his faith at gospel meeting on Dec. 26.

After a long illness P. D. McCallum, of Epping, N.S.W., died in Sydney on Jan. 2. After training at the College of the Bible, Lexington, U.S.A., he served with churches in U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand and Australia. We express deepest sympathy with Mrs. McCallum and other members of the family and with the church at Epping. A suitable obituary notice will appear later.

H. J. Patterson, M.A., who will shortly be leaving Victoria for New South Wales to take up his duties in the Bible College, has been a regular contributor of the paper. His articles have been much appreciated and have stimulated the thought of readers. In view of the extra duties of his new tasks, it is necessary for him to relinquish the writing of a weekly article. He has promised to assist us whenever it is possible, and we shall look forward to that help.

At Rockhampton, Qld., an important step in a forward move has been taken by the church in sponsoring a Sunday morning session over 4RO to enable Mr. Vanham to present the gospel over the air. The first session will be on Feb. 6 between 9.30 and 10 a.m., and others will follow each Sunday. A fund for this purpose has been opened with encouraging response. Since last report a Serviceman has been received into fellowship, another has been baptised, and a third has made the good confession. Sgt. Pilot V. R. Johnson and L.A.C. Feltman have been home on leave.

Large congregations attended Christmas services at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic., on Dec. 19, when H. M. Clipstone addressed both meetings. Special anthems were rendered by choir, who on Dec. 22 combined with Hampton Methodist choir and presented cantata "Bethlehem" to a large audience under leadership of J. March. Endeavourers assisted district union in distribution of Christmas cake and cards in the Convalescent, Military and Alfred Hospitals. Church has sent 44 Christmas parcels to men and women of church now in the Forces. Fellowship has been enjoyed with Arthur Shannon, home on leave, and word has been received that George Vaffopoulos is a prisoner of war.

At Ponsonby-rd., Auckland, N.Z., there have been ten baptisms during recent weeks, and four more will follow shortly. Four registered their decision following an address by Chaplain Elliott (U.S.A.). All of the fourteen, with one exception, are members of the Bible class or Boys' Brigade, and have been instructed in a pre-membership class by the minister, W. S. Lowe, before registering their decisions. The baptismal services were incorporated in morning church service and preceded communion, at which the new members were welcomed. A young people's choir rendered Christmas carols at two recent Sunday evening services, and following evening service of Dec. 12 the Christian Girls' Club presented the pageant "Egerheart" to a packed house with much acceptance. Mr. Lowe was released by the church to con-

duct 75th anniversary services at Moorhouse-ave., Christchurch, and to act as a leader in Canterbury youth camp.

At Collonville, S.A., Christmas messages were given by Mr. Brooke on Dec. 19. Ron Munro was baptised in evening, before congregation of 122. Average attendance at gospel services for first three Sundays in December, 92. Average offerings for same period, £8/17/7. Christmas tree was a highlight, largely due to efforts of Ron and Eddie Brand in making many of the toys. A united service was held on Christmas Day at 8 a.m. in Westbourne Park Methodist Church. Y.P. Society held a Christmas carol night on Dec. 15, and Juniors and Intermediates had a combined Christmas meeting, with 50 present. Prayer meeting on Tuesday nights is still building up. On Dec. 14, 30 people met for prayer and study. Messrs. Glastonbury and Mossop assisted on Dec. 26 in absence of Mr. Brooke, who had gone with his family to Merbein for a few days. Bob Caldicott, jr., has been in hospital in New Guinea with malaria. Alf Bradshaw has been in hospital at Wayville.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 21, at Hornsby, N.S.W., Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Rofe celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding. Our brother and sister were married by the late Fred Hines, of Congregational church, Redfern, on Dec. 29, 1893. Under the ministry of Thomas Hagger they came into fellowship of churches of Christ in 1910. A. H. Hilder, brother of the bride, presided over the celebrations at which 120 were present. Dr. Halcombe paid high tribute to the humanitarian principles that actuated the life of the couple. Principal A. R. Main, of the Bible College, N.S.W., and E. C. Hinrichsen, director of evangelism, spoke in high esteem of their loyalty, consistency and active service which have characterised their association with the church, pointing out that Mr. Rofe had been Federal and State president, and Mrs. Rofe president of the W.C.T.U. (Hornsby-Wahroonga branch) for many years. Professor Lauers, on behalf of the Junior Choral Society, paid a tribute to Mr. Rofe for the splendid support given to the choristers during the past 10 years. Councillor Storey, M.L.A., and Councillor Vaughan, representing the government, spoke of Mr. Rofe's service in the Hornsby district, commending him for his many years of service as a councillor of the district. Among the many benefactions was the gift of £37,500 to N.S.W. hospitals. We join with a great company of friends in offering congratulations and good wishes to our brother and sister.

The annual business meeting of the church at Fremantle, W.A., held on Dec. 1, showed encouragement in most directions, with financial position very healthy. C. H. Hunt, S. G. Taylor and O. Fieldus were elected elders for next three years and H. Cole, J. Iversarity, B. Manning, C. Siggers, W. Robertson, F. Vanstan and H. Verco deacons for one year. Official board has since chosen S. G. Taylor secretary, R. Manning assistant, C. Siggers treasurer, H. Verco assistant. On Dec. 7, with much regret, the church said farewell to F. P. Whelan, who after four years' membership, and long service as officer and usher, has removed to West Murray. Tokens of appreciation were given by church. Opportunity was taken to express appreciation of the work of Miss Ruth Whelan (daughter of F. P. Whelan), who for many years has given valuable service in school, Endeavor and at organ. Tokens were given to her as well as to Mr. Whelan. She will be returning to the church later. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coventry and C. Thomas, en route to India, were present on morning of Nov. 28. North Fremantle Bible school held a Christmas service on afternoon of Dec. 12, and Fremantle Bible school had a Christmas evening on Dec. 17. Deacons and Church Aid have paid £8 each to

sisters' H.M. and F.M. funds, and £3 to aboriginal mission work. Much sewing has been done for Gnowangerup native mission. H.M. offering was £14. Don, Verco, Bordertown, S.A., has been a visitor.

ADDRESSES

R. Alkman Berry, F.C.A. (Aust.) (secretary Emerald church, Vic.)—Kings-rd., Emerald, Phone, Emerald 20.

H. Hargreaves (preacher Shepparton church, Vic.)—49 Edward-st., Shepparton.

L. E. Jones (preacher Hamilton church, N.S.W.)—42 Stanley-st., Hamilton.

C. Robinson (preacher Hartwell church, Vic.)—245 Highfield-rd., Burwood, E.13 (next door to chapel). Phone, WM3484.

W. J. Tregloan (secretary Whyalla church, S.A.)—84 Cudmore-ice, Whyalla, or Box 164, Whyalla.

IN MEMORIAM

BUCKINGHAM.—In loving memory of our beloved eldest son and brother, Edward Marcel (Ted), passed away, result of accident, Jan. 11, 1933, aged 22 years (late of St. Kilda).

Though for a time is borne away
The form we dearly love,
Yet through our grief there runs the thought,
"We'll meet again above."

—Sadly missed by his family, "Bangalore," 49 Emma-st., Caulfield, Vic.

McPHERSON.—In loving memory of our dear sister May, who passed away Dec. 24, 1942.

Not just to-day, but every day
In silence we remember.

—Inserted by her loving sister and brother-in-law, Isabella and Harold Mottram, Toorak.

PATERSON (nee Foster).—In constant, sweet remembrance of the one so dearly beloved, our darling daughter and sister Nessie, who was called "home" Jan. 5, 1941, to higher service for Christ. Taken from us for a season that she might be with us for ever.

But our sad hearts ache in the waiting time
For the days that used to be;
For her happy smile, and her face and form
That we long so much to see.

But there is no death, and there is no night
For the light is never dim
In the homeland where we shall meet ere long
Who on earth were one in him.

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

STEWART.—In loving memory of my loved husband Roy and my dear dad, who passed away Jan. 1, 1932. Treasured memories.

—Inserted by his wife and daughter Lois.

MARRIAGE

ANDERSON-SMITH.—On Dec. 16, 1943, at Littlejohn Memorial Chapel, Scotch College, Kooyong, Cora May, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. Thos. W. Smith, 53 Dent-st., Glen Iris, and Staff Sergt. Murray Rogers Anderson, A.I.F. (ret'd.), only son of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. G. W. S. Anderson, 3 Paxton-st., East Malvern. Chaplain C. T. F. Goy officiated.

DEATH

AURISCH.—On Dec. 26, at Narre Warren Nth. Ruby Ruth, the dearly beloved wife of Paul John, and loving mother of Leslie, Beryl, Frank and Violet. At rest.

BROADCAST SERVICE

JANUARY 16.—Swan Hill church, Vic. 11 a.m., station 35H. Devotional session every Saturday, 12 a.m.

PORT NOARLUNGA, S.A.

BREAKING OF BREAD AND WORSHIP.
EACH LORD'S DAY MORNING AT 11 O'CLOCK.
Place of Meeting, W. E. Grosvenor's Home,
Second house at side of Institute.
Visiting members cordially invited

News of the Churches

Tasmania

West Hobart.—Following another week of inspiring addresses, the Burn, Barton and Bertt mission concluded on evening of Dec. 19. One young lady from Bible school made her confession at Sunday evening service. The following night church members gathered to farewell mission team. Evening commenced with a devotional session at which another made the good confession. Then followed social time and supper. The three young men from the college made themselves much at home, and everyone was benefited by their visit. Those members on sick list continue to show improvement. On Dec. 19 B. J. Golder and party visited Huon district and conducted services at Geveston and Dover.

ENTERTAINING THE AGED

HAPPY CHRISTMAS PARTY

HOBART (Collins-st.)—Meetings continue to be well attended. H.M. and college offerings were best for many years. A vestry is being erected at rear of chapel by men of church, sisters finding substantial sum towards costs, and timber being gift of D. Pearsall. Dorcas Society closed year with afternoon effort resulting in £17. A lantern lecture was held in aid of Borneo Evangelical Mission. There were five decisions following Christmas messages on Dec. 19. Preceding mid-week service on Dec. 22, officers of church and wives entertained members over 45 years of age at a tea. Miss Nancy Keen and Miss Vivian Purvis gave musical and elocutionary items. Good wishes of church were conveyed to guests by C. P. Hughes and secretary. Testimonies were given by Mesdames James, Williams and Olsen. Average age of guests was 73. All were recipients of Christmas gifts. C. P. Hughes has written to all in Services, to whom, also, parcels from church have been forwarded. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes entertained members of C.E. at a checkers evening, proceeds in aid of sunshine work. Mr. Hughes was guest speaker at youth camp at Devonport. Excellent addresses were delivered by G. Foot and A. E. Heard on Dec. 26. During the Barton-Burn-Bartt mission at West Hobart, Collins-st. members assisted, meetings being closed down to encourage attendance.

South Australia

Lenswood.—A successful Christmas tree gift evening was held at Forest Range on Dec. 11 in aid of Morialta Protestant Children's Home by the Bible school. 25 gifts and £2/10/- in cash were received. An enjoyable evening was spent.

Whyalla.—All phases of church work are progressing. On Dec. 11 a Christmas party was held for Bible school and cradle roll. On Dec. 19 speakers were W. Tregloan and G. Cox. Help was also received from C. Hore, M. Smith and C. Brock during month. A start has been made on the manse.

Maylands.—Services on Dec. 12 were excellent. K. Jones giving fine addresses. Miss Amelia Searce, of Melbourne, rendered three beautiful solos at evening service to a crowded house. Christmas parties have been held for all departments of Bible school; gifts were brought by young people for Protestant Children's Home. Christmas parcels have been sent to 40 young people of church in Forces. At evening service on Dec. 19 Christmas music was rendered by choir. The chapel was crowded.

Semaphore.—On Dec. 16 an induction service was held. The charge to W. L. Ewers was delivered by A. Anderson (conference presi-

dent) and to the church by W. C. Brooker. Other speakers were G. Rootes and Mr. Hewitson (Anglican). Elder A. Samuels was chairman. Social fellowship followed. Good attendance marked opening of Mr. Ewers' ministry: 81 communed for day. Choir assisted at both services. Kindergarten held a Christmas party on Dec. 18. Parents of scholars were entertained and gifts distributed.

Filders Park.—On evening of Dec. 19, a married man made the good confession and gave a testimony. C.E. Societies held a combined social on Dec. 21, and on Christmas eve visited members of church and rendered carols. S. E. Matthews concluded his ministry with the church on Dec. 26, when he gave the gospel message. Phyllis Parker rendered a solo. Bible school attendance is well maintained, especially kindergarten and junior departments.

Prospect.—Christmas services were held on Dec. 19. Morning meeting was addressed by C. Schwab. In afternoon Bible school rendered special numbers, A. Roberts sang a solo, and Misses P. and C. Robson, B. Bradshaw and A. Fax a quartette. At evening service Cornish carols were sung, the choir rendered special numbers and C. Schwab gave the message. Among visitors during day was Mr. Peeney, of Brisbane. Ladies' Guild conducted midweek service and handed to officers £12 towards cost of deaf aids for church.

Moonta.—The church is prayerfully anticipating the coming of Theo. Edwards to commence a three years' ministry on Jan. 9. With exception of three months' ministry by A. E. Talbot, the work has been maintained by local brethren for past two years. Christmas tree and party were provided for Bible school scholars on Dec. 18. Awards were presented by A. Doley, superintendent. A. H. Russack, of Kadina, addressed church on Dec. 12. The church enjoys fellowship of members from Hindmarsh and Mile End who have come to reside in district.

Edwardstown West.—On Dec. 14 the J.C.E. gave a concert, assisted by Glenelg junior choir, to a large audience, proceeds being for charities. On Dec. 21 a Christmas tree for younger children was largely attended by parents and friends. A combined service on Christmas morning was attended by about 70, items rendered by combined choir of churches being a feature. Mr. Tulloch (Baptist) was speaker. Mr. Pike gave his last exhortation on morning of Dec. 19, and gospel message on 26th. He leaves with best wishes of church for his new work at Glenelg.

Delwich.—During November meetings were well attended. A young people's service with 24 S.S. scholars as a choir was a feature of one meeting when four boys and one girl made the good confession. The following Sunday a boy and a girl came forward. These with the lad who came out on anniversary evening made a total of eight scholars accepting Christ during month. Parcels have been sent to all the men who have enlisted for military duties. On Dec. 18 the kinders had a Christmas tree and treat, followed by a social for intermediate school. Sunday school is in recess till Jan. 9 and Y.P.S.C.E. till Jan. 16.

Pt. Pirie.—Services have been taken by visiting preachers in absence of Mr. Pigdon, who is convalescing after illness. Among those who have assisted have been Messrs. Odgers, McDonald, K. Clinton (R.A.A.F.), R. Evely. Endeavorers conducted a gospel service on Dec. 12. During 1943 10 young people confessed Christ, of whom six have been baptised and received into membership and others are awaiting baptism. All members united to support the work, and expenses were met without home mission subsidy. In addition, just over £50 has been given since new scheme for debt

reduction began in June. The debt has been reduced to approximately £225.

Murray Bridge.—Christmas circuit service at Burdett on Dec. 12 was conducted by N. G. Noble, Lin Fitzgerald and Miss Laurel Harper, who played and sang. C.E. Junior and Intermediate, with Young Worshipers' League, enjoyed social on Dec. 16. Christmas tree was held on Dec. 18. Bible school and Endeavor Societies presented gifts with appreciation to Miss Nath Grundy in view of approaching marriage. Good services were held on Dec. 19. A. E. Talbot was morning speaker, N. G. Noble evening. At 5 p.m. the Mayor (G. G. Cooke) delivered a message at Men's Fellowship tea on "Forgotten Lives—even Christ." R.A.A.F. greetings were received from Keith Mitchell (Canada) and Norman Page (England).

Nailsworth.—Women's Auxiliary had a successful afternoon on Dec. 7 to close year's work. A Christmas tree was held at which scholars were entertained at tea. Parents and friends met in evening and an enjoyable time was spent. Physical culture classes concluded year with a display in local hall on Dec. 14; £15/15/- was raised toward building fund and F.F.C.P. Christmas services were held on Dec. 19. Mr. Manning speaking. Evening service was mostly choral. C.E. held a social on Dec. 20 at which parents were invited and members of Cottonville church were guests. Endeavorers' also held a concert at Barton Vale Girls' Home on Dec. 10. Several boys have been home on leave. Letters are arriving from the boys thanking church for parcels.

Queenstown.—Many happy evenings were spent at chapel during and just prior to Christmas season. Girls' Wattle Club entertained older members of church with a social. Father Christmas visited kindergarten on Dec. 20 and distributed toys from tree to 62 kinders and 36 from cradle roll. The following night a concert was given by Bible school scholars. Christmas services on Dec. 19 were an inspiration. Mr. Brooker addressed both meetings. 152 communed for the day. At night the choir rendered carols and anthems, and Mrs. H. Partington gave a recitation. A further £22 was received toward building fund. Two girls from Bible school have been baptised, and on Dec. 26 a soldier made his confession, was then baptised, and received in at morning service. A large number of young people spent Christmas eve carol singing around the district.

Victoria

East Kew.—On evening of Dec. 19 there were two baptisms, and special Christmas lantern slides were shown. Allan Stribson is home from New Guinea on leave. Many visitors were present on morning of Dec. 26.

Yarrawonga.—Canteen orders (14) have been sent to men in Forces. Kindergarten and cradle roll had a successful Christmas tree on Dec. 22. Two of the ladies made all the toys. Talent social realised £57/16/-.

CHRISTIAN CHINESE MEETING

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION PRESENT

CARLTON (Queensberry-st.)—On Jan. 2 there was a fairly good gathering at Lord's table. K. L. Chau, director of information of Chinese Government, joined in the worship. Peter Gee Wah, of Sydney, spoke in morning. He and his brother John occupied the pulpit at night.

Croydon.—A successful tea and Christmas party took place on Dec. 18. Every child present received a gift. Bible school has gained 17 new scholars in past seven weeks. Mr. Page is encouraged, and is planning to maintain interest created by this growth of the school.

Parkdale.—The death of L. Anderson on Dec. 22 saddened church; sympathy was extended to Mrs. Anderson. On Jan. 1 Miss L. D. Fielder was married to Pte. J. Cocks. Many visitors have been present at services during holidays.

Oakleigh.—On Dec. 14 girls' clubs concluded year's work with a successful concert. Kindergarten teachers entertained sixty children at a Christmas party on Dec. 18. Choir rendered special music at Christmas service on Dec. 19, and a carol service was held on Dec. 26. On each occasion Mr. Neighbour gave appropriate addresses.



MEN'S BANQUET

SUCCESSFUL CIRCUIT GATHERING

BRIGHTON.—Brighton-Bentleigh-Gardenvale circuit held a pre-Christmas banquet for men and boys on Dec. 20. About 100 attended, including visitors from other churches. Guest speakers were F. W. Coaldrake and W. R. Hibbert. Musical items were contributed and H. Goldsworthy, who was chairman, was presented with several books as an expression of appreciation of his work in the circuit. Floral gifts accompanied thanks to ladies for splendid catering arrangements. Mrs. E. Baker is convalescing after return from hospital.

Newmarket.—On Dec. 18 a Christmas party for kindergarten was held. On Dec. 19 Mr. Graham addressed both services. At night a young man made the good confession. On Dec. 26 J. Burns, of Ascot Vale, addressed gospel service. On Jan. 2 G. Gardiner was speaker at gospel service. On Dec. 29 R. Graham was married to Miss Gwen Bills at Chatswood, N.S.W.

Boroona.—At combined meeting of churches of Boroona on Nov. 28, Principal Northey, of Congregational Union, was speaker. Contributions to Guest Home debt extinction fund amounted to £10/10/-. On Dec. 5 T. H. Scambler was speaker morning and evening. Home mission offering, £25/2/-. E. L. Williams preached morning and evening on Dec. 19 to fair meetings.

Warragul.—For several weeks E. J. Waters has been carrying on the work. The church is greatly indebted to him, not only for services during past weeks, but for assistance through the years. On Dec. 19 Children's Day services were held, W. Gale being speaker at all services. A tea for Sunday school children was held, and gifts were distributed. Mr. Gale's messages were greatly appreciated. Mr. Baker will commence his ministry on Jan. 9.

Preston.—Mr. Combridge delivered Christmas messages on Dec. 26. The address at night was interspersed with Christmas hymns. Several visitors were present in morning. In absence of Mr. Combridge at Surrey Hills, Mr. Roberts (Mont Albert) conducted gospel service on Dec. 12, and on 19th, at special Christmas service, the choir rendered two anthems and Mrs. Libbis a solo. The address was given by Fred Taplin (returned from Middle East). A solo by him was also enjoyed.

Shepparton.—The church has had fellowship with many visitors during holidays. Christmas Sunday a party of Air Force men were entertained at tea. Evening service was conducted by L. Dudley, A. C. Mudford and H. Hargreaves. The message was the story of Christmas in song, with F. Young conductor and a full orchestra, vocalists being Messrs. Hargreaves and Bowen and Mrs. Bowen, Misses Murray and V. Rudd. Attendances have shown improvement during past few weeks.

Berwick.—Mr. Burt's ministry with the church has concluded, and N. Byrne, of the college, has accepted a call to labor here. Meanwhile the church is carrying on without a preacher. Messrs. Meyer, Dawson, Hunter, Jones and Aurisch have conducted services. A Christmas tree was given to the children on afternoon of Dec. 18; later they were entertained at tea.

Emerald.—Christmas services were held on Dec. 19, when seasonal messages were delivered by Mr. Barnett. At morning service each member of congregation received a Christmas card from official board. On morning of Dec. 26 an exceptionally good attendance included a large number of visitors. G. W. Barnett was speaker. At night the largest congregation for the year listened to an illustrated lantern address by J. C. Lord, of North Carlton Baptist Church.

Brunswick.—S. Prentice and his mother, also Mrs. J. G. Shain, were received by letter on Dec. 5. Meetings are well attended, Mr. Prentice preaching. C.E. entertained members to an evening in which Stan Grey showed film pictures. Further reports of Os. Jenkin (a prisoner of Japan) show that he is well and engaged in medical work. Christmas services were held on Dec. 19. Choir and others assisted, and at close of evening service carols were continued in home of Mr. and Mrs. Prentice. Mrs. Edhouse is still very low. Home mission offering was £7/14/-.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—On Dec. 24, Endeavorers at candlelight service gave a presentation of the birth of Christ which was much appreciated. Miss Winnie and Mr. Horace Lee were soloists. Miss Pittman and Miss Lee were recipients of floral tributes for services rendered. Proceeds are to be given to College of Bible. During holiday season fellowship has been enjoyed with many visitors, and C. G. Taylor has spoken at all services. All retiring members have been re-elected to diocese along with J. Magilton to fill vacancy. Aged Mrs. Milligan passed away on Dec. 28. Mrs. Armstrong has been received into membership by letter.

Balwyn.—Services continue to be well attended in spite of inconvenience caused by fire which partly destroyed chapel. All meetings have been held in S.S. hall since rebuilding began. Progress is being made, and it is hoped to complete for coming of Mr. Hurren early in year. Since last report there have been six baptisms, baptismal services being held in Mount Albert chapel. S.S. hall was crowded when church gave farewell social to Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, all State departments being represented. S.S. attendances are good, 157 on Dec. 19. All departments of church have held enjoyable socials and have been in recess for Christmas. Church attendances were 119 communicants on Dec. 12 and 119 on Dec. 19.

Thorabury.—Meetings during December increased, and reached a climax with Christmas service on Dec. 19, when choir led in a carol service. Mr. Searle used slides to illustrate his message, and junior choir composed of boys and girls from school made first appearance. Teachers of senior classes were present with their scholars, and eight girls made their decision. H.M. offering closed at £19/14/2, which added to amount from duplex envelopes brought 1943 total to £29/18/8. An offering for Christian Guest Home reached £5/14/4. Plans for new year include a special session for children in morning service. Kinder Christmas tree was voted the best yet. As toys were not available commercially, young men of church made nearly 100 splendid models which were far superior to toys of other years.

Drummedra.—Since arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Methven the cause has been greatly helped. Attendances have improved, particularly at night meetings. Ladies' auxiliaries have gone into recess. Women's Mission Band welcomed

members of Melbourne executive on Dec. 7. Fellowship was enjoyed at lunch and meeting which followed. Ladies' Aid completed very successful year with function at home of Mrs. Methven. During the year Ladies' Aid gave £55 to reduce church debt, which now stands at £700. On Dec. 12 Bible school anniversary was a great success. Mr. Methven addressed the children, who sang under baton of R. Tattersall. On Monday tea and concert with distribution of prizes were enjoyed. Bible school attendance of 54 is best since April, 1940. On Dec. 19 young people sang at gospel service.

Maryborough.—Sixty young people conducted a concert in Town Hall for church building fund and local hospital, raising £66. Visiting speakers have been Mr. Wright, of Blackburn, and Mr. Banks, of Doncaster. Girls' choir gave session on local radio station for hospital drive, and also sang at hospital Christmas eve. Christmas services were conducted on Dec. 26 with large congregations, two choirs assisting. Breaking of bread for month was 123 average. Home mission offering passed aim set by officers. Mrs. Kirk, an aged member, was called home at the age of 93 years. On Nov. 14 the school reached an all-time record of 159 present. Mr. Hollard has conducted "Church of the Air" broadcast for month. Mission Band raised £5/5/- for Guest Home appeal. Mr. Hollard has resigned from the work to take up chaplaincy duties with A.I.F. He leaves as from Feb. 1. Church is in excellent heart and finances mounting higher.

New South Wales

Rockdale.—Mr. Carter spoke morning and evening to good congregations on Dec. 19. A. Hinrichsen has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted, and members pray that God will bless him in his future sphere of labor.

Ballina.—At Lord's table on Dec. 19 a Christmas message was given by A. Baker, who also preached on Dec. 26. Several members on holiday from Lismore have been attending. Miss D. Wotherspoon recently assisted with a message in song. Townspeople are becoming interested, and are making inquiries.

Canterbury-Earlwood.—"Talent" effort realised £97 to Dec. 19, £27 of which was raised by young people in a sale of Christmas gifts on Dec. 11. A. Hinrichsen, from Rockdale, is the



Canterbury-Earlwood Chapel.

new preacher. W. Thomson, Bible school superintendent, has faithfully served the school for nine years, being absent only four times (through sickness mostly). He was presented with a Bible on Dec. 18 from all members.

Chatswood.—At worship service on Dec. 18 a splendid Christmas message was delivered by F. A. Youens. An audience which crowded chapel at the evening service enjoyed an excellent rendition of the cantata "Bethlehem" by an augmented choir under baton of David Verco. Many friends gathered at chapel on Dec. 29 to witness the marriage of Gwen Bills to Ron. Graham, of Glen Iris College of the Bible and preacher at Newmarket. At a previously arranged kitchen tea eulogistic tributes were paid to Miss Bills by representatives of church board, Endeavor Society, Bible school, and Young People's Department.

Taree.—The church welcomed as visitors on Dec. 12 Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Meyers, of Newcastle. Speaking at Taree and Wingham services on that day, Mr. Meyers gave helpful messages. A. G. Saunders was speaker morning and evening on Dec. 19, and spoke at Wingham at worship service on that day. It was cause for thanksgiving that he was able to bring fitting and thoughtful messages after his long and serious illness.

Kurri Kurri.—Bible school attendance doubled during last three months. On Dec. 19 four senior Bible school scholars made the great confession. Later in meeting they were baptised. Church members made possible a Christmas tree, and party, for Bible school scholars, each child receiving a present. Each senior scholar received a New Testament from its teacher for Christmas. Glen Brown is exercising a splendid ministry, and is being used of God among the young.

North Sydney.—Bible school anniversary was a happy occasion, the address of Mr. Wotherpoon on Sunday afternoon being interesting and helpful. Recent visitors have included Mrs. and Miss Pollard, of Subiaco, W.A., and Mr. and Mrs. A. Rose, of Launceston, Tas. The C.E., with help of church members, sent a Christmas cake to men and women of the Services. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wilmott and family in the loss of husband and father, and to Mr. Madral and Dorothy in the death of Mrs. Madral.

Broken Hill.—During past month attendances were well maintained and interest was keen. Mr. Paddick addressed all meetings, including Railwaytown 10.15 a.m. One boy from Bible school decided for Christ. On Dec. 12 Christmas services were held at Wolfram-st., and carol singing was enjoyed from both choir and congregation. Bible school work is continuing well. Final meeting of Y.P.S.C.E. for year was a cottage meeting at home of an aged sister, Mrs. Hocking, celebrating her 94th birthday. J.C.E. plans progress for new year.

Hamilton.—All meetings have been well attended, evening services particularly increasing in numbers. There have been ten confessions of faith since last report. Lloyd Jones has been engaged full-time during college vacation. On Dec. 12 Bible school reached record level of 64, and Berean Bible class 23. In evening 90 were present, when Happy Hour was shown for parents and members. There was one decision. Women's Guild held final meeting for year on Dec. 15. P.B.P. club has been re-formed. A spirit of enthusiasm is evident, especially among the young people.

Belmore.—Good meetings have been maintained, enthusiasm is evident in all auxiliaries, and the gospel has been faithfully preached. On Dec. 12 two young people were baptised, and five others made the good confession. On Dec. 19 two more confessed Christ. New building fund has reached £600. Bible school had nine new scholars in two Sundays of last month, and attendance reached highest level for many years, 170 being present on first Sunday in December. K.S.P. and P.B.P. Clubs have been strengthened with many new members. C.E. Society held annual concert and prize distribution on Dec. 15, which was very successful.

Lidcombe.—Mr. Henderson's messages are appreciated. Mid-week prayer meetings have increased in attendance. At morning service on Dec. 19, Ron Wilson, of Manly, brought the message. In evening Mr. Henderson preached and Miss Joyce Le Cornu sang a solo. Work of school is progressing. On Dec. 18 a Christmas tree was held, when over 200 attended. 80 from kindergarten and cradle roll sat to tea after receiving presents. 50 scholars and teachers later enjoyed tea. 56 mothers and fathers attended, this number being independent of church members. At school on Dec. 19, 84 scholars and 7 teachers attended (a record).

Paddington.—On Dec. 19 there was a good morning attendance; visitors were welcomed; J. Dean gave the address. There was also a good attendance at gospel service, after which three Bible school girls were immersed. Girls' Club and Bible school had a social evening on Dec. 15. Women's Fellowship held Christmas break-up, when members brought toys they had made for cradle roll babies. An afternoon was spent on Dec. 18 with kinders and cradle roll, a Christmas tree adding to enjoyment. Bible Class young people held a successful tea after school on Dec. 19, about 60 being present. A returned soldier from Palestine gave an interesting address on travels in the Holy Land.

Grafton.—Bible school anniversary on Dec. 5 was enjoyable. In afternoon kindergarten gave the program, Mr. Reid (Baptist) giving an address. Prizes were distributed. In evening older scholars gave a programme, and at close of service two (a boy and girl) were baptised. Young people's demonstration on Monday was delightful. Len Walsh distributed prizes, and scholars successful in State examinations received certificates. Endeavourers had a break-up social. Young people donated £7 towards reducing debt on building. Max Allen (a scholar) has been in hospital for some weeks. Mrs. McCallum, sen., has left hospital after her accident. Athol Perering and Tom Giel, of A.I.F., have been home on leave.

Wagga.—The church held anniversary services combined with a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Jenner and family. Greetings were received from H.M. Committee, former residents, isolated members, and members of the Forces. Sunday school held anniversary Sunday, and prize distribution on Tuesday following. Singing by children and concert were enjoyed by all. Mr. Turnbull, who has been seriously ill in hospital, is improving. Hon. Glasser, Roy Jenkins, Merv. Willis and Isabel Maulsbury have been home on leave. Ladies' Aid held a social evening for Boys' Home, Pendle Hill. Opportunity was taken to present deacons with £100 towards building fund. Ladies' Aid activities for the year have helped the following:—Living Link, £2/16/-; Prisoners of War, £5/16/8; Boys' Home, £5; Building Fund, £100. Sale of work realised £65. There have been three confessions and baptisms since last report.

Western Australia

Perth.—On Dec. 19 Christmas services were held. In morning visitors included Mr. Penny (S.A.). An offering was taken for brotherhood centre. C. H. Hunt (conference president) gave an inspiring talk. At 7.30 p.m. a quartette was rendered by A. B. Povey, E. R. Berry, P. R. Bennett and Frank Ewers, and Mr. Robinson preached. On morning of Dec. 26 visitors included M. H. Daniel (Long Plain, S.A.) and H. R. Potter (Maylands, S.A.). J. K. Robinson gave an inspiring message. At 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cosh rendered a solo and Mr. Robinson preached.

Maylands.—For five weeks J. Wiltshire, State evangelist, has conducted meetings and visited members. During one week special meetings were held on six nights. Two meetings were held in Town Hall, one being very successful. Youth and elder scholars helped with vocal items. Open air meeting was conducted in a closely populated part of community. Members attended in good number, and interest was apparent. The church has been stirred. During period of six months the church has been without the services of a regular preacher, members have remained loyal. A. McRoberts was to commence his ministry on Jan. 2.

Subiaco.—For the year there were 25 decisions, about half of them from members of girls' and boys' clubs. Meetings are consistently good, and the church thanks God for the continued health, strength and inspiration of

B. Raymond, whose messages have done much to encourage and help. Home mission offering totalled £40. Messages have been enjoyed lately from J. K. Robinson and H. Gray in morning and Mr. Thickens in evening. On Dec. 4 Miss Joy McDiarmid was married to Mr. P. Thickens, Mr. Raymond officiating. On Thursday previous a social evening was held in honor of the bride, when opportunity was taken to make a presentation in the form of a cheque, and to wish the couple God's blessing in their work at North Perth.

Queensland

Boonah.—S.S. anniversary concert and distribution of books took place on Nov. 23, with J. Christensen chairman. Training of children was in hands of Mrs. Green and Mrs. McCormack and superintendent J. McCormack. The children had a further treat at a picnic on Dec. 4. Mr. Greenwood's visit and address in connection with home missions on Dec. 5 was appreciated. Home mission offering, £12. T. P. Stubbin has not been well.

Gympie-Monkland.—Good services were held at both churches over holidays, with several visitors. On Dec. 19, Gympie service was broadcast, and on Dec. 25 a Christmas morning united service was broadcast. Gympie C.E. concluded work for year with a social on Dec. 17. At night on Dec. 19 a carol service was enjoyed. N. Kingston, from Glen Iris, Vic., exhorted on Dec. 26. School and church sorrow at the death of Judith Crane in Brisbane Children's Hospital on Dec. 21. Some of the young people have attended the camp conference at Torquay.

Roma.—Bible school held a Christmas party and tree at home of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Pitman, every child and teacher receiving a gift, and teachers made a presentation to superintendent. Y.P.S.C.E. and J.C.E. each held a social. Ladies' Guild had a social afternoon at home of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Neil, proceeds for Prisoner of War Fund. On Christmas eve members of Y.P.S.C.E. combined with Salvation Army and sang carols around the town. On Christmas Day Mr. Wylie (as Santa Claus) visited local hospital and presented each patient with a box of sweets and biscuits made by Mrs. Wylie and fruit given by church members. A combined service with Salvation Army was held on Christmas morning when Mr. Wylie gave an address. During absence from town of Methodist and Presbyterian ministers, A. S. Cooke and L. R. Pitman have conducted evening services.

REPORTERS, NOTE

All news items reaching us on Jan. 3 have been inserted. Owing to holidays, delivery of mails has been restricted and some letters might have been delayed.

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Acts of the Holy Spirit

FOR many years there has been a group of friends among the younger men in the Free Colony here. Several have been Christians for years, but the others, although friendly, have held back. We have often spoken with them, but there was always some excuse. About two years ago we were able to get some of these men to attend an enquirers' class for several weeks. Some of them learned the Lord's Prayer and other portions of scripture by heart, but trouble arose among two of them and the others held off. We have steadily gone on with our weekly bhajan and other forms of witness among them. About the end of August one of them, Shivram Kaba, said to me, "I want you to come to my house to-night, as the bhajan is to be held there." It was the regular Wednesday night bhajan, and I agreed. While taking my meal the Spirit seemed to say to me, "Speak to the men definitely to-night. I selected a few verses from Acts 2 with care, and then after family prayers set out about 9.30. The bhajan was helpful, and all were entering heartily into the singing of the Christian hymns. About 10.30 Shivram said, "Please read and have prayer, Sahab." I read the selected verses and then said, "Now is the day of salvation come. Repent and be baptised for the remission of sin." I used the experience of the day of Pentecost and its result. After a short prayer, I asked others to pray, and our bhajan turned into a prayer meeting, and six or seven men prayed very earnestly. Afterwards Shivram began to defend himself. After urging him to trust in God and not in himself I came away about midnight. Viswanath said next day that they talked for another hour or so. Nothing happened!

Saturday evening Shivram and Dagadu came with one of the Christians, Behiru (a church deacon among them) and said, "Sahab, I have been resisting, but now I have yielded to Christ and want to be baptised at once, and Dagadu has come too." After prayer and questions we arranged for the baptism. That was the 28th; four were baptised. On Sept. 18 Narayan and Soma were baptised from this same group. Narayan belongs to one of the old families from Morgaon. He, too, had long been resisting Christ. We were away camping for nearly a week at Sannar, and had arranged that the lads from the home who had confessed Christ should be baptised on the 26th. I went over to the chapel at 11 for the baptisms and found a group of men standing outside, some of the new converts and some of the older ones, and in their midst Keroba Bahaji, the leading carpenter contractor, who takes big jobs in the town. He said, "Sahab, I want to work this morning as usual, but I could not do anything right; my hand lost its skill, and the tools seemed to refuse to work. I knew there was to be a baptismal service this morning, and something within me said, 'You must be baptised this morning. After struggling for a long time I threw down my tools, and here I am ready.'" There in the open, under the trees, I asked him, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and your Saviour?" There was no hesitation, and we bowed our heads for a moment in prayer. They had begun the service inside and were singing. Bro. Dongre was in charge. He borrowed a change of clothes from a Christian living near the chapel.

We all went in together, and when the call came for those who were ready to come forward, the assembled congregation were electrified to see Keroba standing with the eight lads in obedience to Christ's call, and then to see them one by one go down into the waters of baptism. It was heartening to see one of the new converts, Narayan, and a friend of Keroba's go to the baptistery and help him and the other candidates as they came up out

of the water. This man Keroba was one of the first batch of lads that I put on to learn carpentry when we began our first building in 1919. I used to gather these lads on Sunday mornings and have a special class for them. So for over twenty-four years he has been under instruction. He has never worshipped idols, but was busy making a living as a carpenter and rearing a nice little family. After his baptism his wife turned him out, and for a few days he had a bit of trouble. At last he said to her, "If you don't want me at home I will enlist, and then what will you do?" He is living at home again now. We are praying hard and trying to reach the wives of these new converts. Most of them are under weekly instruction. We thank God for this wonderful demonstration of the Spirit's power over the lives of men. Many others are near the kingdom. Now that a break has come after several years of no results, we can see that God had planned it all and we were impatient. Please pray for these converts and the others who are near the kingdom.—H. R. Coventry.

DHOND NEWS

HOSPITAL work goes on as ever, sometimes very busy and at other times not so busy, but with always plenty to do to make things go smoothly. At present our women's ward is crowded with children. We have seven in the five bed ward, so it is rather crowded. Two of the cases are rather pathetic. One boy of three has an open wound on his head the size of a tennis ball in circumference, the result of neglected skin disease. When he was brought to us the poor child was in agony, as the wound had been infected by flies. They had burrowed in under the scalp to the bone. We soon got rid of these unwanted guests, but it will take a long time for such a large wound to heal, and probably the parents will not be willing to keep him here so long. The other case is a girl of four years who is blind, not from neglect, but from improper treatment of sore eyes. Country remedies were used, and these proved too strong and destroyed the sight. Poor little Shanti (Peace) now has to go through life sightless. Not two of the children have the same complaint. Besides the two mentioned, we have two little children of Christian parents. One has pneumonia with heart complications, and the other rheumatic fever with heart complications. Then we have one case of typhoid fever, one cerebral malaria, and one fracture case."

Service For Troops

"One Sunday morning Dr. Oldfield took a service at the camp for overseas troops. There were about 800 present, and also their English officers. When the officer came to ask doctor to take the service, doctor asked about hymn-

books, and the officer said, "Sir, if you looked in the kit of any of the 1000 Christians in camp you would find a hymnbook and Bible, or scripture portion." These troops are of another country and not white. I wondered if the same could be said of all our Australian soldiers who are Christians. I believe more and more the reality of Christianity is being realised by the fighting forces.—L. M. Foreman.

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-st., Tranmere, S.A. Please make M.O.'s payable Adelaide.

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A VITAL FELLOWSHIP

THE Victorian Social Service Committee and the editor of "The Australian Christian" are to be commended for publishing a series of articles relating to social problems. All have been read with interest. May I be permitted to comment on one part of C. Williams' article, "To Fight Indifference," appearing on Dec. 27. This is a thoughtful paper, and should prove constructive. Mr. Williams says, "Nothing will do but the sacrifice and mutual understanding necessary to constitute within the framework of the church a vital fellowship which really means business." This certainly is what is wanted—a vital fellowship. Can we wonder at the apathy in our congregations to-day, when, in our morning service of worship, the collection having been received, the fellowship is thus supposed to be over. Let it be suggested, for earnest consideration, that in Acts 2: 42, when the disciples continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship, the fellowship, or communion, followed the doctrine. In other words, there must be the matter for consideration, then the consideration; fellowship of thought, the communion of ideas, the planning of action, the giving of means. This passage is not so much an order of service, but a way of life. Let minister, or lecturer, propound the principle, then let it be discussed. This will apply to spiritual, moral or personal principles, and must first be practised within the church, then in the social life of the community.—T. A. Fergusson, Windsor, Qld.

Obituary

Mrs. Jessie Theresa Morris

THERE passed from this life on Dec. 10 a most gracious Christian lady in the person of Jessie Theresa Morris. Her membership in churches of Christ goes back to the year 1903, when she was baptised by the late P. A. Dickson in City Temple, Sydney. About two years later her membership was transferred to Marrickville, where she became a most active worker, teaching in the Sunday school and serving as organist in the church services. While there she married Mr. H. F. Morris. Later they removed to Melbourne, when membership was taken with Gardiner church. On returning to Sydney, fellowship was enjoyed with Chatswood church. Later our brother's duties with the Commonwealth Government took them to Canberra, and while there they worshipped with the Baptists. Afterwards a return was made to Melbourne, and membership was resumed at Gardiner, where the memory of our sister is cherished, especially by the members of the Women's Mission Band. A husband and three sons, all of whom are in the church of our Lord Jesus, have been left, together with other relatives, among whom may be mentioned her brother—Mr. P. E. Thomas, the preacher with the church at Marrickville, N.S.W. But the separation is "only till he come," when a glad reunion will take place.—T.H.

Mrs. Sarah Wite

AT the age of 93 Mrs. Sarah Wite was called from this life at her home in Subiaco, W.A., on Dec. 11. Our late sister was baptised by H. J. Banks during a mission conducted at Subiaco by Thos. Hagger about forty years ago. She has been a most faithful member of the church all those years, and always,

though not able to attend, a regular contributor to its work. She was beloved by all. Her kindness of heart made for her many friends. She was able to maintain a keen interest in the church and her friends to the end. She was able to have fellowship with a number of friends in Christ at her last birthday celebration only three weeks before her home-call. Our sister lived to please her Lord, and we are sure hers is the reward of the faithful.—R.R.

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A Key Note for the New Year

(Isaiah 62: 10)

"RATHER impressive, isn't it?" remarked
Tom, "the way some phrase leaps upon
you and lingers with its challenge." "What
now?" inquired Harry. "Last Sunday," Tom
continued, "we had the hymn:

"Sound the battle-cry! see! the foe is nigh;
Raise the standard high for the Lord!"

That phrase, "Raise the standard high" has
come like a key-note for the new year. "After
all," suggested Harry, "according to scripture
it is our duty to have an ear for the counsel
of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, it is our
duty to raise standards in other ways than
hoisting flags."

"I would say there is need for Christians
to raise the standard high in private devotions.
Prayer, Bible reading and meditation can be
so purposeful, or so slipshod," said Tom.
"That goes for our public devotions too," re-
marked Harry, "what a difference it makes when
you know that all present are putting their
best into the worship of God! When readers,
for example, like those of Nehemiah eight, read
distinctly and give the sense, and cause the
hearers to understand." "It is a matter of
urgency," added Tom, "with many fees nigh
that the Lord's people should raise the stan-
dards of general Christian conduct and citizen-
ship."—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

The time of life is short;
To spend that shortness basely were
too long.

—Shakespeare.

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