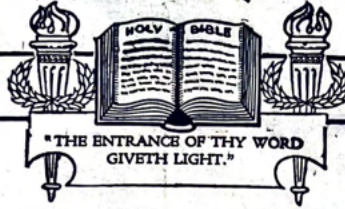


The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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TWO men, we are told, looked out from prison bars; and as they gazed out of their window, one saw mud, the other stars.

We gather that he who saw mud climbed back into his cell depressed; but he who saw stars raised a voice of thankfulness to God, because he knew that "God's in his heaven, and all's right with the world."

One man would sink with a groan of despair, to the ground, and lament his tragic fate; but the other would stand upright and help to build a better world on earth by writing a book about some pilgrim's journey from the City of Destruction to Zion.

We are in the prison house of to-day, and we are peeping out of its window to perceive what kind of world there is to be found in the distant scenes of to-morrow. Ride in a railway carriage and you will hear men and women describing what they see from their window in to-day's prison. As you walk from church you hear someone outlining his view of the future. Read the papers with open eyes and you will discover glimpses of what statesmen and politicians see.

There are some who are pessimistic: they see the world without form, and overshadowed with a great darkness; from their window they see mud. Others perceive that the Spirit of God will brood over the future, and will help men build a better world.

Reformers who are after God's own heart catch a vision of the star that leads to the Christ of Bethlehem. They recognise that the future is not built in advance and made ready for those who would step leisurely into it; but it is like a city that is to be constructed out of the material that is lying at hand in the world of to-day. Therefore the vision that many see from to-day's window will become a reality only if men become co-workers with God, for "except the Lord build . . . they labor in vain that build."

TO build we must have good material. You cannot, as the Children of Israel discovered, make a success of brickmaking in Egypt unless you have straw. It was straw that bound the mud, and gave it strength. Given good bricks, what a fine city men could build!

*P175 Hamilton
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Make Bricks With Straw*

THE world of to-morrow will be made out of those who are young to-day. Thus it will be the lives of young people that

will make up the bricks of to-morrow's new city. In the days of old, good Egyptian bricks consisted of a combination of straw and mud, and the good bricks for to-morrow's building must combine spirit and body.

Those young Communists who consider that, to build a new order, you only need to apply physical labor to the material produce of earth, will find it is as futile to try to create order in this world without the Spirit, as it is to attempt to make good Egyptian bricks without straw. Only God's Spirit in young people will enable them to marshal the physical and material resources of the universe into to-morrow's new order of world brotherhood.

To those who despair of the future of man in this world (and some do so, not without a reason) we make the plea that, in this one thing at least, they unite with those who are optimistic about the shape of things to come: namely to strive to build up the spiritual life of young people in these days of distress; for in a degree to-morrow's destiny is being determined to-day.

IF one group remains idle while telling us that the world is being consumed by sin, thus being like Nero who fiddled while Rome burned, and then the other group, by reason of a strong lust for material benefits, continues to be blind to the higher needs of man, then the essential spiritual training of this generation will suffer.

As Jesus pointed out, the sweeping and the garnishing of a house does not make it proof against an invasion of evil: it must be occupied by what is good if it is to remain pure and clean. To-morrow's world will be threatened with disaster so long as young people are allowed to grow up to-day without a knowledge of God, and void of his Spirit. It is not enough that they be educated. All need the steady influence of the Spirit. Unless they bring themselves under control, how can they hope to bring order into to-morrow's world?

We are brought, then, to the following conclusion, and it is this which makes the youth department's motto—

(Continued on page 174)



TOMORROW

W. R. Hibbert, Victorian youth leader, reasons that in to-day there is a destiny-determining opportunity.

ALREADY the skies are pink with the dawn. The day will bring new problems, fresh solutions and opportunities to adapt to advantage the changes that are inevitable.

In To-day Walks To-morrow

The London County Council has already decided on a 50 years' plan to rebuild London. A whole world needs rebuilding, and the church is under obligation to have its plan for to-morrow and under way to-day. "Build to-morrow out of to-day" is the 1944 clarion call of the State youth departments. It commits the church to a total and purposeful youth programme, and promises a triumphant to-morrow if youth are won to Christian discipleship. The British Labor Party has declared itself for youth and new blood. Against the day when the House of Commons must render an account of its wartime stewardship to electors, the party has already selected 45 candidates under the age of 35 years. The recognition of young blood, however, is not the exclusive virtue of a political party; it is the prerogative of the people who know no other leader than the One who, when he placed a child in the midst, demonstrated that to-morrow's kingdoms commence with the boys and girls of to-day.

Light To-morrow With To-day

Obedience to this dictum of Elizabeth Barrett Browning will save us from whining over to-day's follies and enable us to convert to-day's failures into to-morrow's triumphs. The collapse of the pagan ways of life, and the recognition on the part of people of the utter futility of trying to go on such a philosophy, brings a willingness to be taught another way. This offers the opportunity to the Christian forces to teach Christ and his way as never before. This is, indeed, a destiny-determining opportunity. If the church falls here, it falls; if it succeeds here, it succeeds.

What we want to see in the nation of to-morrow must be put into the hearts of the young to-day. Those who long for our community to be characterised by high ideals of honesty, justice, unselfish service, by love for God and neighbor, by determined effort to build the world-wide kingdom of Christ, must bind their only hope in the work of those who are storing these imperishable treasures in the waiting lives of our youth.

So Live To-day That To-morrow May Be Better

For the sake of to-morrow's world let the church gird itself for the stupendous task of teaching the oncoming generation the way of Christ. The youth programme of the church is faced with meagre budgets and ill-prepared leaders. In most congregations youth work has not been dignified with a worthy place in the church budget. It has to go its own way; it has to die or live on the pennies of the children. Is it surprising that the church school is feeble and youth work lacks virile leaders? When the annual offering is mentioned, the spirit of giving does not rise high in the average church member. He has not been led to see that it undergirds everything the church does in the way of evangelism, Christian citizenship and overseas missions and world order.

The total youth programme is more than a Sunday afternoon programme; it includes the total interests and personality of the boy and girl, and calls for the best years of the best men and women of the church. The total youth programme will finally succeed or fail in proportion to the way church people support the cause of youth evangelisation.

World conditions warrant the greatest youth offering known in the history of our brotherhood should come this year. There is need for money to operate a total programme. As goes youth work, so goes the church.

He who helps a child helps humanity with an immediateness not possible at any other stage of life.—Phillips Brooks.

Youth's To = morrow

T. R. Morris

CHRISTIAN statesmanship applied to the post-world is of greater moment than any other statesmanship.

The world of to-morrow will be a concentrate of the world of yesterday. People of Melbourne will talk to Manchester, and business will be transacted in moments, not months; men and mails will fly the globe in hours, not weeks; chemistry and mechanics will bring to those who use them abundant wealth and amenities of life; but will these things make to-morrow's man a better man? Will it bring him peace or safety or happiness? The man of yesterday mixed the materials for the foundations that have crumbled under the weight of a great building that to-day is a heap of debris.

What vital thing did he leave out of the underground conglomerate that consolidated, but failed? That is the question for the man of to-day to answer before he lays down a foundation for youth—"The Man of To-morrow."

The men of to-day will prepare the foundation upon which the youth of to-day who are the men of to-morrow will build a new world superstructure.

Included in this superstructure are the walls. There are political walls, educational walls, moral walls, religious walls, and walls of economics.

The pre-determined ingredients will determine the character and permanency of the building.

The invisible conception hidden in the soul of the builder will inevitably find expression in his building.



Youth, the Makers of To-morrow

Finger-pointing Factors by State Youth Leaders



Queensland

EVERY nerve is being strained to advance youth work. Responsibilities are delegated to each member of the committee. Youth are being linked up with service tasks. Rocklea Bible school has been reopened with a staff of five teachers. The committee is playing an important part in the Queensland Council of Religious Education.—H. E. Greenwood.

New South Wales

In all spheres the attempt is being made to forge ahead in the realms of youth. Bible school work has received special attention, and many schools have grown and introduced new teaching aids. A youth movement is being formed through young people's camps, hikes and outings. Believing that a spirit of evangelism must be revived, churches and youth groups are being challenged to win five hundred for Christ from the ranks of youth. Shortly it is hoped that a permanent camp site will be procured. The Sisters' Conference are making it their Jubilee aim to equip an outdoor sanctuary on the camp site.—F. C. Hunting.

Victoria

383 young people deciding for Christ in the past year is sufficient encouragement to go forward. With a view to building a greater to-morrow out of to-day the Victorian department has committed itself to seven inevitables. (1) A greater Bible school work. (2) A boy and girl club movement, each with 100 leaders and 1000 members. (3) A young adult movement. (4) District-wide fellowships. (5) Evangelising the whole of life. (6) Purposeful leadership. (7) Permanent camp sites.—W. R. Hibburt.

Tasmania

Avenues to secure youth for the church of to-morrow: (1) Increase campaign for scholars. Half-hourly broadcast by "Crusader" and children's choir each Sunday for seven weeks proved most successful, causing widespread interest in all schools throughout the State, yielding an increase of 71 new scholars. (2) Annual scripture examination results indicated careful preparation on the part of both scholars and teachers. (3) Correspondence Sunday school—plans to contact country chil-

dren who have no opportunity to attend Bible schools. (4) Reference library—a comprehensive library is available for teachers, young people and all interested in youth work. (5) Christmas Christian service camp—young people gathered for a time of fellowship and training for service.—Edith Greaves.

South Australia

The programme includes: (1) First year of co-ordination—Bible schools, Christian Endeavor societies and clubs. (2) Workers' library is available—new books. (3) 1944 teacher training programme in full swing. (4) 100 registered for young people's training camp. (5) Happy hours for young people. (6) April—month for broadcasting. (7) Kindergarten class held monthly. (8) Mail bag correspondence school now numbers 41. (9) C.E. societies working for home mission living link, aborigines and overseas missions. (10) "Explorer" clubs being formed. (11) Scripture examination, July 9. (12) Young people's social fellowships—Saturday nights. (13) Offerings last year, £206; cot fund, £110; overseas, £200. (14) Proposals for youth evangelism. (15) Increase and betterment, educational exhibition, permanent camp site, etc: £350 is needed this year.—W. Beller.

Western Australia

Youth are the makers of to-morrow. They are building characters which will determine the policy of to-morrow's world. The way they build depends upon the influences of heredity and environment. Heredity is fixed, environment can be moulded. Our part is to provide a Christian environment. Young people themselves realise this and set the example. At a recent Western Australian camp, 80 young people gave over £40 to extend camp property. Why? Because camp provides an environment for studying, playing and living in Christ-centred fellowship. Invest in youth to-day and find the dividends in the church to-morrow.—Harold E. R. Steele.



To-day We Sow, To-morrow We Reap

THE owner of these boots is resting after a busy day, but he'll soon be in action creating a bright to-morrow. Before long he'll be a boy—then a man and the head of his family.

Christian education is concerned about these to-morrows. Jesus' pattern for living alone guarantees a brighter to-morrow. Christian teaching, like boots, should fit the years and make youth sure footed.

The church owes it to youth to provide understanding and purposeful leadership. To make this possible State departments anticipate a worthy offering on Youth Sunday, May 7.

States	The Sowers (Teachers)	The Field (Scholars)	The Harvest*
Queensland	185	1392	38
New South Wales ..	708	4525	106
Victoria	1522	9602	383
Tasmania	106	646	18
South Australia ..	776	4682	135
Western Australia .	315	2184	46
Total	3612	23,031	726

*Additions to church—past school year.

Victorian Churches Advance

Report of seventy-ninth annual conference reveals several encouraging features in the work of the southern State.

DURING the year, according to the statistical table, 632 have been added by faith and obedience, 291 by letter, 56 formerly immersed and 64 by restoration—a total of 1043.

The following losses have been recorded: 214 by letter, 94 by death, 520 by revision of roll—a total of 828. Nett increase for the year, 215. Church membership now stands at 12,189.

The Bible schools have 9602 scholars and 1522 teachers. There has been a nett gain of 255 scholars and 64 teachers. During the year 383 scholars have been added to the church.

The financial statements of the various committees show that record offerings have been received for work in home and foreign fields. Individual churches have reported that during the year the financial position has so improved that it has been possible for debts to be reduced and for reserves to be built up for progressive work as soon as conditions permit. Thus the encouraging increase in membership of churches and Bible schools, together with the improved financial position, gives ground for hope that in the coming year greater progress will be made.

Chaplains and Soldiers

With many of our young men and women in the Forces, it has been necessary for the churches to pay greater attention to the needs of these young people. The work of the chaplains, under Chaplain-General



Chaplain-General Allen Brooke.

Allen Brooke, has been much appreciated. It has been recognised that these men need all the support that can be given. Those on the active list are: H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D.; E. P. C. Hollard; J. K. Martin; W. W. McDowell; M. J. Turner, B.A.; W. A. Wigney and C. Young; also W. G. Graham on part-time.

To arouse interest in work amongst the Australian aborigines, a State committee was appointed by the conference executive. From various sources £578/5/2 has been collected. £530 of this has been forwarded to the Federal Aborigines Board.

During the year the Committee on Circuits held a meeting, when about 200 church offi-

cers attended. After an interesting discussion resolutions were carried endorsing the general proposals, including a suggestion that the conference should set up a commission with authority to plot groups with a view to the establishment of circuits. Successful group meetings have been held and more are planned.

Christian Unity

Encouraging practical co-operation with Baptist and Congregational churches and Salvation Army, in the interests of men in the Services, has been maintained in the United Churches' Hostel. Although there has been no major progress in talks with the Baptist brethren, united meetings have been held in various local centres, and a united communion service was held in Lygon-st. chapel.

Evangelism

Home mission work has been more difficult this year because of the shortage of suitable preachers. The men trained in home mission work cannot be readily replaced if they leave to serve self-supporting churches. During the year the committee, was called upon to solve many problems because home missionaries had been appointed to serve in other fields. Although efforts were made to secure a suitable preacher for State work, and an announcement was made that a brother had consented to serve in that capacity, nothing has yet been finalised. The committee is still seeking the services of a suitable man to meet a vital need. It must be noted that the secretary, W. Gale, has been undertaking more country work in recent years, to meet this need of giving oversight to home mission churches. J. Holloway, the chairman, rendered praiseworthy service, and has gained the appreciation of those associated with him.

The financial position of the committee is excellent. Receipts for the year amounted to £5352/3/10. A sum of £550 was set aside for special evangelistic work in the near future, making a sum of £1000 in the Special Evangelistic Fund.

Progressive Youth Work

The Young People's Department has been active under the guidance of W. R. Hibburt. The enrolment of scholars stands at 9602, an increase over last year of 255. There are 64 more teachers, bringing the total to 1522. During the year 383 were added to the churches from the schools.

Receipts have amounted to £1392/9/6 and payments £1476/11/7. A sum of £627/13/9 was paid for camp property at Monbulk.

To increase the efficiency of camp life, where young people are trained for service, camp sites have been secured at Hall's Gap for £150, and at Monbulk for £600. The latter property is valued at £1450, and the balance of £850 is a gift of the parents of William Waterman, the missionary who died in China. Thus the gift will help to perpetuate the noble sacrifice of one of Australia's unselfish sons.

In addition to the successful camps during the Christmas season, an Easter programme was arranged to encourage youth to co-operate to build God's new world. Over 500 young people attended the convention.

Attention has been given to Bible instruction and successful examinations were held, 1203 entering, five Federal prizes being gained. A "gallery of ideas" for teachers was held, and

religious instruction in State schools has been encouraged. Efforts have also been made to federalise youth work.

The Christian Endeavor constituency comprises 52 Y.P., 23 I.C.E., and 53 J.C.E. Societies. Prayer and Bible Study; daily prayer and Bible reading have been fostered. The Book of Acts is being studied. Missionary: Enterprises accounted for the allocation of £92/6/- to home and overseas projects. Sunshine: Gifts and cash have been made to the Social Service Department and Christmas treats sponsored at the Guest Home and Cumerooonga.

Love Your Neighbor

Considerable activity is reported by the Social Service Committee. W. H. Clay and committee members have exercised an influence on social problems of the State, and have endeavored to meet some of these by practical actions.

A weekly average of 25 cases of persons in need have been referred to the department for consideration. Most of these are due to conditions associated with the war. The moral looseness due to the times is creating problems that are presenting many social difficulties.

The Christian Guest Home, at Oakleigh, is now free of debt. There are 22 guests in the home, who are happy under the care of the matron, Mrs. Ross.

Receipts for the Christian Fellowship Association are shown as £1801/16/9, and expenditure £676/4/4. The cash at bank now totals £2704/10/8.

The committee is represented on various movements aiming to improve social conditions. Much work has been done to combat difficulties arising through excessive drinking of alcoholic liquor. The report urges great action on the part of the churches to get representation in Parliament, and points to the election of A. A. Hughes to the Victorian Assembly as an example of what could be achieved in other centres. The financial report of the committee reveals that receipts were £1033/3/2, including £357/6/5 from C.F.A., and £178/13/2 from the Christian Guest Home. Churches only contributed £171/17/7. There is a bank overdraft of £782/9/11.

Property

The Properties Corporation suffered by the death of Robert Lyall. For more than thirty years he carried through most of the work. At the August meeting, J. E. Austin was appointed chairman, and R. Ennis became treasurer as well as secretary. A. W. Cleland now acts as associate-secretary.

Loans to the corporation amount to £24,836/8/7, and the amounts due to it by churches total £25,194/10/1.

Lift Up Your Eyes!

Christian work has been maintained in overseas mission fields; new workers have been sent out to India and New Hebrides. The Victorian committee lost the services of its secretary, H. A. G. Clark, who went into chaplaincy work. His services were very valuable. Good wishes are extended to him in his new work.

The Chinese mission in Melbourne is maintained. Funds have been increased by various appeals. To help missionaries overcome the famine conditions in India, a consignment of food, valued at £150, has been sent as a gift from the Australian churches. Publications, "Goodly Pearls," "Sharing Our Fellowship" and "Missionary Fields of the World" are helping to create greater interest in the needs of people living in other lands.

(Continued on page 174)

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President, Mrs. E. Jeffery; past president, Mrs. G. Waterman; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. W. Cleland, Mrs. G. Washfold; secretary, Mrs. E. L. Williams; treasurer, Mrs. Cartmel; assistant and financial secretary, Mrs. W. Bower. Missionary Department.—Mrs. A. W. Cleland, convener.

Home Missions.—Mrs. A. Withers, superintendent; Mesdames A. W. C. Candy, F. Hodges, J. Mann, R. J. Sandells, J. Turner.

Overseas Missions.—Mrs. W. A. Kemp, superintendent; Mesdames D. E. Pittman, H. Watson, R. P. Clark.

Mission Band.—Mrs. W. Wickham, secretary; Mesdames Barnden, L. Fisher, Fullerton, J. Hancock, M. Morrison, Raisbeck, W. Smith.

Prayer Meetings.—Mrs. F. Ploog, superintendent; Mesdames Box, Croxford, Marshall, J. McIvor, Nicholson, C. Hill.

General Dorcas.—Mrs. E. M. Wilson, superintendent; Mesdames Anderson, Barrett, Carr, Daws, Johnston, Ledger, C. T. Oliver, Ploog, F. T. Saunders, E. Smedley, and Misses Enniss and Morris.

Social Service.—Mrs. C. Gill, superintendent; Mesdames Hannaford, Holloway, Knight, Lewis, L. Lowrey, Moncur, Newbold, Priddle, Ward and Miss Davies.

Hospital Visitation.—Mrs. Pettigrove, superintendent; Mesdames Bath, Bennetts, Cartmel, Finger, B. J. Kemp, Kerrison, Lever, McFarlane, Plymin, Salisbury, J. Trezise, G. Washfold, Widdicombe, and Misses Davis and Thompson.

Temperance.—Mrs. Nance-Kivell, superintendent; Mesdames Barnden, Coe, Gerrand, Morrall, Morris, Squires; secretary, Mrs. B. Huntsman.

Isolated Sisters.—Miss L. Rometch, superintendent; Mesdames Bailey, H. Bell, Clewett, W. Easton, Ferris, C. T. Oliver, Palmer, Thomas, Piper, and Miss Gill.

Catering.—Mrs. L. Lowrey, superintendent; Mesdames Featherston, Jackson, R. McColl, Newbold, Rusden, Russell, R. J. Sandells, R. Scott, and Misses Allen, A. Craigie, Morris.

Nominating.—Mrs. J. Turner, superintendent; Mesdames C. Brough, G. Washfold, W. Wickham, E. L. Williams.

Guest Home Visitation.—Mrs. C. L. McGregor, convener.

Victorian Women's Conference

In bright sunshine, the opening sessions of the Victorian Conference were held. The Women's Conference, presided over by Mrs. G. Waterman, was attended by crowded congregations. Mrs. E. L. Williams, by making a special effort, kindly supplied for this issue the following account of the meetings.



THE fifty-eighth annual conference of the women of the Victorian churches was held at Lygon-st. chapel on Wednesday, April 5. The president, Mrs. Grace Waterman, was in the chair, and the devotional session was led by Mrs. McGregor, who gave a helpful and inspiring message.

Mrs. Waterman welcomed all, including delegates and interstate visitors.

The executive reports, presented by the secretary and superintendents of committees, outlined the work accomplished during the year.

The obituary report was received standing, reference being made to the passing of two of our past leaders, Mrs. A. R. Main and Mrs. G. Way. Also two delegates, Mrs. L. Smith and Mrs. C. L. Lang, who are remembered for their consistent, loving service.

During the year two resignations were received: Mrs. A. Lee, superintendent of Overseas Missions Committee, and Mrs. Evans, superintendent of Prayer Meetings Committee.

Two resolutions were passed and forwarded to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education, urging them to educate the youth of our country against the taking of alcohol as a beverage.

The Prayer Meeting Committee visited 24 churches, where happy times of inspiration and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

The Chaplaincy Committee have received a varied amount of goods which were forwarded to our chaplains, and the approximate sum of £43/19/- was forwarded to the secretary of the committee.

The Isolated Sisters' Committee have written 893 letters and received 88 replies. This total does not include answers to replies.

General Dorcas continues to supply committees concerned with numerous gifts in cash and kind, meeting a very real need. This committee also attends to the dormitories of the college during vacations, giving necessary attention there.

Women from twelve churches had visited the Christian Guest Home, the matron, staff and guests appreciating the fellowship.

The Social Service Committee had sent out 53 parcels, 32 families being assisted. The appeal to clear the debt on the Christian Guest Home was reached and passed, the sum of £779/15/9 being raised.

During the eleven months 943 visits were paid and 4936 patients visited by the Hospital Visitation Committee.

Temperance education in Sunday schools and youth organisations has been continued. Literature has been distributed and speakers provided for meetings every month by the Temperance Committee.

The morning session closed with prayer. Attendance 280.

The afternoon resumed at 2.30, and the devotional session was taken by Mrs. Brough.

Miss Dorothy Canberra brought two delightful messages in song.

Overseas and interstate greetings were received from Miss Linda Foreman, Mrs. Cosh, Women's Conferences in Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia; Mrs. C. C. Dawson, Mr. Wigney, Mr. and Mrs. Bischoff,

N.Z.; Board of Management, faculty and students of the College of the Bible; the Foreign Mission Board; the Conference Executive Committee and Mrs. K. Roberts. All joined in the singing of "Blest be the tie."

Mrs. C. B. Chambers, secretary Inter-church Council, brought a challenging message to all Christian women to make "A Christian Front in a Pagan World."

The treasurer, Mrs. Cartmel, presented the financial statement. General fund, £260/18/8; catering, £84/16/10; Women's Mission Band, £565/9/7; Federal Florin Fund, £17/13/11; Women's Conference Welfare Fund, £167/8/-; Sarah Meyer Memorial Hospital Fund, £70/3/3; Temperance Committee, £52/5/8; total, £1218/15/11.

Miss Vawser and Miss Clipstone spoke concerning their respective mission fields.

Mrs. Oliver thanked all who continued to contribute to the Bible-women's fund.

Mrs. Scambler reported on aborigine work at Norseman and the Federal Missionary Education Department.

Suggested amendments to the constitution were adopted.

Notices were forwarded to The Youth Council for Physical Fitness and The Council for Educational Research requesting each to include in their programmes for youth the harmful effects of alcohol.

A resolution was passed that a letter be sent to the Victory Loan Council asking that the advertisement, "This was my son," be withdrawn from circulation.

Results of ballot were read by the returning officer, Mrs. Brough, and adjournment was made for tea. Attendance, 420.

The evening meeting, with an attendance of 326, opened with the singing of a hymn followed by prayer by Mrs. Lee.

An organ recital by Miss Pittman and three numbers by the Ladies' Choir, under leadership of Miss Pittman, were enjoyed by all.

The sixth annual report of the Eastern Hills District Women's Conference was presented by Mrs. E. Gill. £213/17/9 had been raised by the women of the seven churches concerned for all purposes. Reports were read from the Women's Services Club and the United Church Board Hostel. Mrs. Turner reported on the work of the Assistance to Chaplains Committee. Miss A. Thompson reported on and announced objectives of the Girls' Fellowship.

Mrs. Waterman introduced Mrs. Jeffery as president for the ensuing year. Mrs. Jeffery suitably responded, then presented Mrs. Waterman with a copy of God's Word as a memento of the year's service, and with a beautiful bouquet. Mrs. Waterman then introduced the remaining officers.

The president's address, "Power from the Sanctuary," gave us the assurance that Christ is our Sanctuary, our sin offering. We need his cleansing, and from him we receive power and guidance.

Conference was indebted to Mesdames Washfold and Hall for the decorations, to the Catering Committee for providing lunch requirements and tea, and to all who contributed in any way to the success of the day.—L. Williams.

New Housing Estates

F. Oswald Barnett, deputy chairman, Housing Commission, discussed recently the part churches could take in new housing estates. In the interests of the community and of the universal church, he advocated the use of one building in which the various church services might be conducted. It appears four large denominations objected to this, and demanded separate blocks for the erection of church buildings, suggesting that the smaller groups could unite in one building. We commend the following reply that Mr. Barnett gave: "Supposing that, as well as the big four already named, there were six active smaller denominations. It seems strange to me that the big four should expect the little six to work in co-operation, if, at the same time, they themselves refuse to co-operate either with them or with each other. In fact, how could a public authority make land available for the big four, and then ask the little six to accommodate themselves on one block? Now was the time for churches to organise their forces on a united front. They were not asked to unite in doctrine, but in all reverence, for the love of God and the sake of humanity. Would the churches, realising the need of the people, probably 80 per cent. of whom were not regular church-goers, co-operate to complete the integration the commission had begun?"

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

"WAGES OF LOVE"

THE wages of love are small, so small
You scarce might know they were paid
at all.

A glance, a smile, or a clasp of the hand,
The coin of a heart that understands;
A name soft whispered; a lingered kiss—
The wages of love are paid in this."

"GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS"

THE old Temple clock in London bears a curious inscription, the origin of which is ascribed to a chance remark.

Some two hundred years ago a master workman was employed to repair and put in a new face upon the clock. When his work was nearly done he asked the benchers for an appropriate motto to carve upon the base. They promised to think of one. Week after week he came for their decision, but was put off. One day he found them at dinner in commons.

"What motto shall I put on the clock, your Lordship?" he asked of a learned judge.

"Oh, go about your business!" his honor cried, angrily.

"And very suitable for a lazy, dawdling gang!" the clockmaker is said to have muttered, as he retreated. It is certain that he carved "Go about your business" on the base.

The lawyers decided that no better warning could be given them at any hour of the day, and there the inscription still remains.—"Harper's Weekly."

A SURE SIGN

WHEN people do not love the house of prayer it is a certain sign of declining spiritual life. I saw the story of a preacher who found nobody at his prayer meeting and began to toll the bell. A dozen people came

running in, and one said, "Who is dead?" "The church," replied the preacher, as he pulled away at the rope.

THE REVERSE

Lady.—"I want to get a divorce from my husband." Lawyer.—"On what ground?" Lady.—"Insanity." Lawyer.—"Was he crazy at the time of your marriage?" Lady.—"Oh, dear no; I was!"

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—TRUE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

- Apr. 17—Rom. 9: 1-18.
- " 18—Rom. 9: 19-33.
- " 19—Rom. 11: 1-10.
- " 20—Rom. 11: 11-26.
- " 21—Eph. 2: 11-22.
- " 22—John 8: 31-43.
- " 23—Gen. 15: 1-18; John 8: 44-50.

"WE," claimed the Jews, "are Abraham's children." Jesus said, "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham," showing that it is not enough to be of the lineal descent from Abraham. Well might John the Baptist assert that God was "able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." It is still useless, as then, to endeavor to prove that we are of Abraham's offspring, or of a nation specially favored above all other peoples. The primary need is to possess faith like that of Abraham, by which we unite ourselves with him and all God's children. Abraham looked forward to and rejoiced to see Christ's day. We look backward to the same Saviour, and also rejoice. Believing in the same Redeemer, we are of the true Israel of God.

Display of Literature

At recent Victorian conferences greater interest has been shown in the literature of the Restoration Movement. This has been due largely to the display of books and pamphlets arranged by the Literature Committee, on a table in the porch of Lygon-st. chapel, where most of the conference meetings were held.

This year Mr. and Mrs. C. H. J. Wright, of Blackburn, took charge, and advised delegates and visitors concerning the literature on display. During conference sales were made and orders taken.

Let Us Advance!

The reports of conference are more encouraging this year than for some time past. We trust that this will encourage members to work with even greater zeal in the coming conference year.

Details of conference gatherings will be presented in our next issue.

Evolution and the Restoration Movement

J. A. Wilkie, of Ballarat, urged greater interest in Restoration Plea.

THE preachers' session of the Victorian Conference was held in Lygon-st. chapel on April 6 at 3 p.m. L. E. Snow, the president, was chairman, and introduced S. Neighbour, the incoming president.

J. A. Wilkie, of Ballarat, spoke on the evolution of the Restoration Movement through three generations. In the first generation emphasis was placed upon the work of the evangelist; in the second, the preacher; while now, in the third, the minister.

He said he had a feeling that this evolution was inevitable and common to the movement in all countries. There were, of course, considerable credits, but also some debits arising because of it.

Because of the warmer relationships existing now with the Christian ministers of other communions, there was a tendency to avoid undertaking a programme that might cause friction. This was particularly so with regard to progressive evangelism.

He also perceived that this good relationship was allowed to interfere with the application of the plan, or mechanics, of the plea, to present situation.

Mr. Wilkie urged the need of emphasizing to-day what he called the "inward" aspect of the plea which requires the restoration of the New Testament quality of life that centres in Christ Jesus. When this was secured, correct doctrinal practices would follow.

After a general discussion the preachers were entertained at tea, through the generous action of a brother.

Make Bricks With Straw

(Continued from front page.)

"Build To-morrow Out of To-day"—a practical, and not just an idealistic, watchword. If we are to have a better world to-morrow, we must all begin to-day to take up the task of training young people according to the principles of the kingdom of God; for when we bring boys and girls, and young men and women to Christ, we fit them for to-morrow and eternity, and help to ensure the coming of a better world-order.

Victorian Conference

(Continued from page 172)

The Federal Board announces that receipts were a record. To June 30, 1943, the sum of £9440 had been received, while expenditure reached £9019. The Victorian annual offering reached £2081/17/7, and the total receipts for the year were £5055/2/8. The sum of £4842/15/3 was forwarded to the Federal Board.

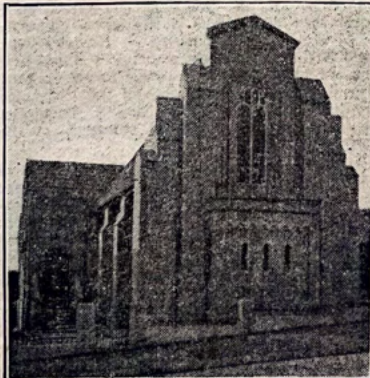
Education and Vision

The committee for the Promotion of Christian Union reports that rallies were held in various centres for young people. Reference is made to the work of the Regional Committee of World Churches, to the fellowship with Baptists, and to a new booklet by F. C. Hunting entitled "The Vision that Made a People."

New publications are announced by the Literature Committee, "The Witness of Churches of Christ on the Church, the Ministry and the Sacraments," by E. L. Williams, M.A., and "Forward with Christ," by F. C. Hunting, a handbook for young people. Reference is made to the increased interest in "The Australian Christian," "Pure Words" and "Austral Graded Lessons."

The College of the Bible report announces that Dr. W. A. Kemp has been appointed chairman of the board. Two new members were added—A. W. Stephenson and E. Morris Price. The annual offering reached £1583, the Victorian contribution being £912.

T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., has been appointed to the Council of the Collège of Divinity. Success of students in last year's examinations for the degree of Licentiate of



Chown Memorial Chapel.
College of the Bible.

Theology show that the training at the college is equal to that of similar institutions.

The Australian Christian

Page 174

April 12, 1944

Here and There

We are indebted to the Victorian Committee on Christian Union for the "Christian Unity Digest" appearing in this issue. We hope "Unitas" will send news items on the progress of the church toward union, again when convenient.

The closing date for S.A. Bible school temperance essay competition conducted by the Sisters' Auxiliary has been extended from March 31 to April 22. Entries should be sent to Mrs. R. N. Tippet, Waterman-ter., Marion, or church office, McHenry-st., Adelaide.

After many years of patient suffering, Mrs. Allan, wife of J. E. Allan, preacher of the church, Glenferrie-rd., Hawthorn, Vic., died on April 5. Depest sympathy is extended to Mr. Allan, Mrs. Deane, daughter; Ernest (A.I.F.), and Keith (A.I.F.). An appropriate obituary notice will appear shortly.

At Rockdale, N.S.W., on Apr. 2, Mr. Carter spoke morning and evening. Three scholars from B.S. made the good confession, making five for past month. A fellowship tea was held for teachers and scholars, Mr. Greenhalgh being speaker. A social evening was held on March 29 by Women's Fellowship, and £8/1/- was raised for sanctuary for young people's camp.

According to H. B. Holloway, Executive Secretary of Year Book Publication Committee, the 1943 Year Book of the Disciples of Christ reveals the following facts (the comparisons shown are the year ending June 30, 1943, with the year ending June 30, 1942): World membership is 1,842,123, a gain of 15,689. Membership in United States and Canada is 1,679,012, a gain of 14,069.

At annual meeting of church at Warragul, Vic., deacons appointed were Messrs. E. J. Waters, snr., McDonald, Riedhead and Byard; treasurer, Mr. Pedersen; secretary, C. Waters. The church extends sympathy to E. J. Waters, snr., and family in the sudden death of their son and brother, E. Waters, of Mildura district, late of Hamilton church. Mr. Baker is an enthusiastic worker, and his ministry is appreciated.

The President of the Victorian Baptist Union, H. R. Groves, in an address to a meeting of Baptist ministers and deacons, said: "Our need to-day has been well stated by that evangelical English paper, 'The Christian,' which points out that old methods of evangelism, based on the assumption that people had a knowledge of scripture, will not do to-day, since people are ignorant of scripture, and then declares: 'What we need are men of God who will fearlessly proclaim the great doctrines of our faith, and against such a heavenly background make a definite appeal for acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.'"

On afternoon of April 1, the monthly Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Service was held at North Fitzroy, Vic. There was a very good attendance to hear Mr. Leslie Hollins, M.L.A. for Hawthorn, speak on "Christianity in Public Life." The speaker contended we would not get a new order of life unless we were ready for it or made some sacrifice to attain it. It was of little use to pray that the kingdom of God should come unless we were prepared to give up the present economical system. God's way of life must be our way of life. Christ's teaching was the solution of all our social problems. There must be a personal change and a social change before a state where God's laws are obeyed can be brought into existence. Mr. Kevin Allen provided several fine solos, and Messrs. Roger and Graham Ratten delighted with unique instrumental duets.

It was revealed at the monthly committee meeting of the British & Foreign Bible Society in Victoria on April 3, that generous grants of scriptures had been forwarded to bushfire sufferers in the areas recently devastated. Handsomely bound copies of the scriptures have been sent to Clunes, Yallourn, Hamilton and other places, and the presentation of these copies by the society has proved most acceptable. One minister wrote, saying, "I know that in every case your gift will be appreciated." The Bible Society is well known for its free grants of scriptures to hotels, boarding-houses, institutions, theological colleges, reformatories, hospitals, prisoners of war, internees, etc.—and its war-time service of "Testaments for the troops" is noteworthy. In Victoria alone 82,125 Testaments have been presented to Victorian Service personnel.

At the annual business meeting of the church at Hamilton, N.S.W., reports showed good progress for year. Women's Guild showed a year of great activity, £35 being raised. Bible school gained new scholars and maintains a good average attendance. During the year Mr. Jones conducted a successful Happy Hour, and commenced the Berean Bible Class and Fellowship Hour with average attendance of 20. P.B.P. Club has recommenced, and several new members have joined. General church report showed finances exceeded last year by over £100. A feature of the work has been the evening services, which have shown an increase of about 45 since Mr. Jones' ministry commenced. During his nine months with the church there have been 26 decisions for Christ. Plans are well in hand for altering and beautifying front of building. The church decided that when inviting a full-time man, they would be in a position to be self-supporting.

IN this issue the youth work of all States is featured. It is a pleasure for us to cooperate with the various young people's departments in making an appeal for greater support for those actively engaged in the spiritual training of boys and girls and of young men and women.

During the past decade Sunday school work of all religious bodies has suffered from the general tendency to make Sunday a holiday. Instead of sending children to school for Bible training, parents have taken them out for car trips, etc. From 1935 to 1939 Australian Sunday schools of all the larger religious bodies decreased in numbers by about 78,000.

In view of this general falling away in the attendances, the reports from several of our State conferences, indicating that, instead of decreases, there have been considerable increases in enrolment is most encouraging. Now that the tide seems to be turning in favor of schools, we should do all in our power to recapture our grip upon the young people of the community.

THE Austral Graded Lessons are now being used extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand. Although paper shortages have brought about certain reductions and alterations in the teacher's journal and scholar's handwork book, constant efforts have been made to meet changing needs. At present plans are being put into effect to encourage teachers apply more initiative in the presentation of the lesson. How this may be done will be outlined in the next issue of the lesson book. It is hoped that, by two distinct outlines and presentations of the lesson, junior and intermediate teachers will gain much help. A pleasing feature of this new venture has been

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

DR. LEIPER, American Secretary of World Council of Churches, writes: "The present world war is the greatest emergency of all time. More than 93 per cent. of the world is involved in it. The incidental emergencies created for all kinds of human interests include those which have confronted the Christian churches—caught in the most terrific persecution since the early Roman empire.

"In the providence of God there has existed in this period an agency which, for the non-Roman churches, could act for all in those many matters which are the concern of all and which can only be handled through a united approach.

"When the war broke, it happened that already in Geneva the World Council had an able staff and a fully equipped office—a lovely building made available through the generosity of the Swiss churches. One after another vital emergency tasks were laid on the doorstep of the council.

"Most important, probably, was the provision of chaplains and religious worship and study materials for the prisoners of war. At first these were relatively few; now they number over 8,000,000. The Ecumenical Chaplaincy Commission was formed with headquarters in the World Council office and under its supervision. In it the War Prisoners' Aid of the World Y.M.C.A. co-operates; but the major responsibility for the chaplains lies with the World Council staff. It is absolutely impossible for this to be done denominationally. A united approach is required.

"Soon there was evident a Bible famine. How could it be met? The American Bible Society generously came forward with funds and made it possible to set up a special service under the able direction of M. Beguin. A stream of Bibles has been flowing ever since to widely scattered areas. Over 180,000 Russian Bibles went to Russian prisoners of war. And they were welcomed!"—"World Call."

From Week to Week

the willingness of workers in various States to help.

HAVE you a grasshopper mind? That question was asked in an advertisement claiming to direct people to someone who could give mind-training. The grasshopper mind was described as one that jumped from one subject to another. As a result no real progress toward a set goal was made. It seems that there are people in the church who have grasshopper minds, for they never seem to maintain a set purpose in their religious life. They jump from one view to another. I have heard someone described as the disciple of the last book he had read. Each book, it was suggested, changed the reader's mind. There was a lack of steadfastness.

As a people we have a set purpose to fulfill. We have set ourselves to restore the life and teachings of the New Testament church with a view to showing the way to Christian unity. May we not jump from the path that leads to such a noble goal! In such a mission we must not reveal the grasshopper mind; but each must say with Paul, "This one thing I do,"

CH. WADDINGTON, in his book, "The Scientific Attitude," writes, "Trying to cure the ills of society is rather like dosing a cow; you want one man to hold its mouth open while another blows the pill to the back of its throat down a cardboard tube; and it has the same danger; that the cow may blow first." It seems that society does not react as some reformers would like it. That was the experience of some in Germany. It is easier to commence a revolution than to guide it; likewise it is easier to initiate reforms than to secure the results one desires. Unseen factors set up reactions, and society, like the sick cow, may blow first.

News of the Churches

South Australia

Forestville.—Two boys, scholars of Bible school, confessed Christ at gospel meeting on April 2. A special youth service was held on evening of March 26. Items were rendered by a young people's choir under leadership of Geo. Clarke. Those of the church who are in the defence Forces, and consequently unable to take active part in the work of the church, now represent a considerable proportion of the membership.

Murray Bridge.—Young Worshipers' League annual awards were given by Mrs. F. C. Mitchell, superintendent. Fine church and auxiliaries' gift of deep appreciation to Miss Brenda Orchard in view of her marriage with Mr. Ray Watts in chapel, March 25; N. G. Noble officiated. Relieved from "a faithful guard," and much suffering, Waldon E. Brake passed "home" Mar. 23. Church's condolence to Mrs. Brake, Miss Lorna (of Grote-st.), and Elliott (A.I.F.). Service greetings from Ivan Blenkiron, Keith Mitchell, Norman Page, all R.A.A.F.

Gawler.—On March 15 a welcome social was given to Mrs. C. Gwynne from Port Pirie. On March 18 a Bible school rally was held. At a teachers' tea Mr. Dunkerton gave advice on a modern Sunday school. At 8 p.m. a public meeting was held, to which all youth organisations in the town were invited. Greetings and items were given, and Mr. Dunkerton gave a talk. Mr. Bartlett concluded with an address. Youth services were continued on the Sunday, Mr. Dunkerton preaching at both services. Several young people took part in evening with musical items.

Prospect.—On March 31, C.E. members held combined meeting with Endavorers of district. Five members from Youth Fellowship conducted; 45 were present; a good spirit prevailed. Service on morning of April 2 was addressed by A. E. Brown; good attendance. Bible school conducted afternoon service with special service of song, which was greatly appreciated. A. E. Brown continued messages on the closing days of our Saviour; a large attendance, many visitors, including Mrs. Saunders (Melbourne), N. Hall and M. Bunyan (on leave). Choir rendered special anthems. A good spirit is being felt in all auxiliaries. Mid-week services are well attended. The preacher's visitation is much appreciated.

Cottonville.—Sunday school anniversary services were continued on March 26. Splendid singing was rendered, and Mr. Brooke was speaker. Average attendances for two Sundays were—morning 118, afternoon 291, evening 272. Prize-giving night was also well attended. Annual meeting of school was held on Mar. 20, when Mr. Parker was elected superintendent and Colin Butler assistant. Appreciation was expressed to Mr. Butler, past superintendent. The aim of £30 for home mission offering was reached. £8 has been received towards thank-offering for debt reduction on May 27; the aim is £150. Sgt. Rob Caldicott (N.G.) has had malaria again. Mrs. Howard, now living in Unley, has transferred to Park-st. church. A.C.W. Richards is stationed in Victoria. Word is regularly received from Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coventry, in India.

New South Wales

Bexley North.—During March J. Henderson commenced as student preacher and preached at all services for month. Attendances much improved, except prayer meeting. Soloists, Miss P. Perkins and Miss H. Toyer. Progress is being made on new building, and effort to raise £100 (additional to £126 in hand) in ten weeks.

This will represent approximately half cost of new structure. Women's Fellowship made £10 donation to this fund at church business meeting, when all officers were re-elected. Fellowship has been enjoyed with visitors.

Wollongong.—In response to special aims for a year of progress, attendances are increasing. Sunday school held anniversary services on March 26 and the following Wednesday. F. Hunting's messages to church and school were much enjoyed. Singing was led by R. Warmbrunn, Sunday school superintendent.

Hamilton.—Attendances maintain good average at all services. P.B.P. Club recently held a successful social. A young man decided for Christ on March 12. Annual church business meeting was held on March 18, and good reports were received. On March 26 the Berean Bible Class held a debate, and 25 were present. Youth leader, Mr. Hunting, spoke at morning service, and at night Lloyd Jones preached and a married lady confessed Christ.

Victoria

Emerald.—On April 2 both services were taken by F. B. Alcorn. Special services are being planned to commemorate 29th anniversary of the building of chapel, which was erected in one day on April 17, 1915.

Parkdale.—Church anniversary services were held on April 2. Speakers for day included A. Wilson and V. Stafford. On March 27 R. Hills, a faithful worker in Bible school for many years, died in Alfred Hospital. Soldiers' Aid Society, assisted by P.B.P. club, forwarded another batch of parcels to those in Services.

North Fitzroy.—On March 26 R. Ennis addressed the church, when Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson were received by letter from West Preston. Visitors were welcomed. In evening Mr. Ennis exchanged with Mr. Horace Jeffs, of North Carlton Baptist Church. Mr. Ennis preached at both services on April 1. In evening service, Graham, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Trotter, confessed Christ. Attendances at all services are well maintained.

Brunswick.—Bible school held a successful anniversary on March 26 and April 2. Good addresses were given by A. Withers, W. R. Hibbert, Mr. Grago and S. G. Prentice. Scholars sang under leadership of S. G. Prentice. At close of final meeting presentation of a wallet and wall mirror was made to W. B. Jenkin, a past superintendent, who has been active in Bible school work at Brunswick for past 46 years. Mrs. Shain, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jenkin and W. Thompson are recovering from illness.

Bentleigh.—On March 12 C. B. Nance-Kivell was morning speaker. F. Sumpton preached at night. J. D. Lang was morning speaker on March 19, J. Anderson preached in evening. On March 26 J. Anderson was morning speaker, N. Arnott preached at night. Annual business meeting of church was held on March 17. Reports showed church and auxiliaries were in splendid condition. All officers were re-elected: Elders, S. Raitten, G. Romeril; deacons, C. Dahl, A. Polit, A. Beddome, H. Lee-Archer, Mr. Nugent, T. Kenaley. Bible school continues to grow; record attendance on March 26 (111). Mrs. Corrigan attended on morning of Apr. 2 after illness. With Mr. and Mrs. Anderson to lead in the work a happy and fruitful year is anticipated.

Cheltenham.—At a recent meeting of Christian Men's League, R. T. Pittman gave an appreciated talk on the New Testament world. Brethren home on leave have worshipped with church; these include W. Crittle, Allan Butler, Ern Allan, Cam. Daff. On March 26 children of school joined in a tea. A walk after school included two halts, when hymns were sung to shut-in folk. All attended evening service and

took part. Miss Gwen Riddle is making good recovery after an operation. Combined choirs of Methodist, Mentone Presbyterian and this church gave an inspiring rendition of Stainer's "Crucifixion" on evening of April 2. Explorer Club has enjoyed visits from F. S. Deane and Ron. Hillier. A united communion service was held on Good Friday morning, members of this church, Methodist and Presbyterian participating.

Christian Unity Digest

(“Unitas”)

There is one church. “Churches” in the denominational sense arise from division and disagreement among Christians. This is not the will of Christ for whom there is only one body. This conviction strikes deep into Christendom to-day, and there is a widespread desire for the emerging of the united church. There is honest recognition of the wastefulness, tragedy and sin of perpetuating schisms and building up denominations.

It is not intended under the above heading to discuss doctrinal or other aspects, but to publicise in brief form current events and statements relative to the quest for unity.

“The Call to Christian Unity.”

A series of addresses on this theme was given during Lent at People's Services in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. Various denominational leaders presented their viewpoints.

Canon Maynard said the Church of England, standing between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism, had affinities with both and could act as a “bridge church” across which ideas might pass and lead to ultimate unity of all Christian people.

“Differences in doctrine are no grounds for division,” affirmed Alan C. Watson, of Toorak Presbyterian Church. “In a united church, Presbyterians would want to see the scriptures accepted as the only rule of life and the catholic faith. They would want proper and agreed standards of worship in which the two sacraments of the New Testament had a central place.”

Principal Northey, Congregational church, said that church unity was not a social union or a motive for expediency so as to present a united front to the world. Reunion must be on a plan based on spiritual unity. C. Calvert Barber put the Methodist point of view. What was needed was something more than federation and less than union, that would transcend but not destroy, assimilate but not suppress. This was the only ideal to which Methodists could possibly subscribe.

Coventry Plans for Christian Centre of Service

In plans for rebuilding bomb-destroyed Coventry Cathedral is included, as an essential part of the scheme, a Christian Centre of Service for the whole community, in full partnership with the Free Churches. The centre will be connected with the cathedral by a special Chapel of Unity belonging to Anglicans and Free Church members together. The Bishop of Coventry said, referring to the 80 per cent. of Coventry people not members of any church: “We just cannot tackle this 80 per cent. outside the Christian churches in isolation.” The scheme envisages active participation by Anglican and Free Churches in all phases of Coventry life, including health, learning and recreation, as well as religion.

Central Bible School for Melbourne

Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational churches and churches of Christ are to unite in establishing this year a Bible school designed to appeal to Melbourne to re-discover the Bible. Principal T. H. Scambler will represent our brotherhood on the Board of Lecturers.

Whyalla City in the Making

PRIOR to the war, Whyalla was practically only a point on our Australian map. On seeing the place three years before its present boom, one could not even dream of its future possibilities. This is not the place to speak of its industrialisation or its future projects, but Whyalla has the appearance of a town that has "arrived" and intends to stay.

Even in the short space of two years remarkable changes have taken place. Where two years ago stood scores of temporary huts, hovels, tents, etc., now stand orderly rows of houses built by the Housing Commission. Already four hundred homes have been built, with the possibility of more in the future. Many large homes have also been built, and a modern block of flats, three stories, in all twelve flats are about completed, costing £7000. Whyalla technical school with equipment cost £40,000. Another up-to-date primary school is almost completed in the Housing Trust section of the town, and the prospect of well-paved streets is destined to become a reality in the not distant future. Modern shops dominate the business section of the town, accompanied with "up-to-date" modern hotels. The saddest blot on the Whyalla landscape is to see the crowds of men leaving the hotels on Saturday evening, many well under the influence of liquor and carrying a kitbag well stocked with bottles so there will be no shortage for Sunday. There is evidence that more licences will be asked for, as the newer section of the town is not "catered" for.

It is anticipated that the future business section of the town will be in the newer areas; and in this regard it has interest for the churches, for here the religious work of the community will more or less be centred. With the growth of the town came people from various parts of the Commonwealth, mainly from South Australia, and among them members of the churches of Christ. It was not long before they organised a church, and less than twelve months ago opened their fine church building.

Feeling the need of a leader to direct the work, the Home Mission Committee and church made plans to have a full-time preacher, and that desirable objective was reached on the week-end of March 12. S. Matthews, who led the work at Flinders Park, S.A., for nearly twelve years, was chosen as the first preacher for this young church. On Saturday, March 11, a public welcome was extended to Mr. Matthews and family. Sunday, 12th, were services that will live in the minds of the splendid congregations. In the morning, the new minister and family were received into the fellowship of the church, and the induction of preacher and charge to church was given by the conference president. A good congregation were present at evening service, when Mr. Matthews for the first time led the service, the president giving the address. The church feels happy in this new move, and grateful to the Home Mission Committee for their help.

A most pleasing feature of the work at Whyalla is the preacher's residence. Before inviting their preacher the church made the necessary plans for having their own manse. Through the sacrificial giving of its people and the good offices of the authorities who gave permission to build, a very fine home has been erected. Whyalla solved its housing problem before it became a problem. In this they are to be congratulated. On Sunday, March 12, a ceremony was held asking God's blessing on the home and upon the lives of those who will dwell under its roof. The manse was formally opened by the president of conference, and the new preacher and family welcomed to their new home.

This is one of the best and biggest moves made by the Home Mission Committee of South Australia in recent years. We crave your

interest and prayers for this new cause. Visitors to the town would find a loyal band of Christians ready to welcome them.—A. Anderson, president of conference; chairman of Home Mission Committee.

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.)

"DUTY HAS ITS CROSS"

IN the article with the above title appearing on 29/3/44, I read the following sentence: "Naturally he shrank from pain and anguish; when he thought of the cross he cried, 'Let this cup pass from me.' But it did not take him long to decide whether he seek personal pleasure or travel the path of duty."

I have neither time nor desire to enter into a discussion, but it pains me much to hear my Christ, who loved me and gave himself for me, branded a shirker.

Thousands of Christ's beloved followers have gladly suffered, with joy and gladness, torture equal to or worse than death by crucifixion and never asked to escape it if possible.

Now why put the worst construction on Christ's prayer?

In the light of Heb. 5: 7 and 12: 2 I am not prepared to accept the statement, implied or otherwise, that Christ shrank from the cross. I prefer to think of Christ as going to the cross with his chin up, not seeking to avoid it.—C. Young.

[If we consider Christ as man and God and that the Word became flesh, then we must appreciate the fact that he was tried in all points as we are. We know he endured hunger, thirst, weariness and a feeling of isolation. Why then should we be afraid to recognise that the Son of man also experienced the natural reaction of man to pain? However, although tried as man, Christ never yielded to the impulses common to man, and in that he showed his superiority over us. He could shrink from the thought of the coming tragedy, but not turn back from his divine purpose. It ought to be stated that no man has ever faced a similar situation. It was not just death that was set before him, but something much more dreadful: it was the carrying to a completion of the task that had been entrusted to him—the bearing away of the heavy burden of a world's sin. We cannot set the death of the Lord on the level of a martyr's death. Something much more than death was involved. He had a duty none other could fulfil, and that involved the cross. One thing the article in question did not do: it did not suggest we could brand Christ a "shirker"; it stated that he fulfilled his duty, although it involved the cross.—Ed.]

CHRISTIAN UNITY

DR. CALVERT BARBER in his address in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, March 26, made a great plea for Christian unity. He wanted unity, and believed that it could be found in something more than federation and less than union. This is a worthy ideal, and whether we agree or disagree with the view, it deserves very careful consideration. Its implied distinction between Christian unity and church union is by no means new, and we are familiar with his usage of the two words.

It seems unfortunate and not calculated to help the cause of either union or unity that an incorrect criticism of his remarks should find a place in your columns of March 29. The paragraph I refer to was headed "A Methodist View of Union." Dr. Barber presented a view

of unity, not of union. The closing sentence in the paragraph read, "The New Testament ideal is unity, and not some halfway position between a federation of denominations and unity." Had your writer substituted the word union for unity twice in that sentence then, while its truth may have been debatable, it would not have been unfair to Dr. Barber; as the sentence stands it should not be included in the paragraph at all, for, either it entirely misses his point or else it badly misrepresents his view.—Les. E. Snow.

"EVERYMAN'S CAMPAIGN."

EVERY SATURDAY EVENING—8 p.m.

Assembly Hall, Collins Street.

WANTED

Board and lodging wanted by elderly brother, not fussy, with elderly couple or otherwise, church members preferred. State terms, must be reasonable. George, c/o Austral Co., 530 Elizabeth-st., Melb., C.I.

LYGON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST NEW CENTURY BIBLE CLASS.

Every Sunday at 3 p.m.

BIBLE QUIZ CONTEST.

APRIL 16, 23, 30.

Six Opposing Teams in Novel Features.

PRESTON CHURCH,

High St. (near Bell Railway Station).

SUNDAYS, APRIL 16, 23, 30 at 7 p.m.

Week nights, APRIL 18 to 27

(except Monday) at 7.45 p.m.

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Pentecost Island, New Hebrides.

THE post-war period for missionary enterprise will bring both challenge and opportunity. The impact because of war will bring diversified problems such as never before encountered in the history of missions. Norman Goodall, of L.M.S., after quoting George Burder, 1795, "Look on the terrestrial globe. Let Africa, Hindostan and China attract your notice. Behold the astonishing clusters of the South Sea Islands," says: "The astonishing clusters of the South Sea Islands figured prominently in the plans and prayers of those who launched the modern missionary movement. Carey's first, though unrealised, wish was to serve in that island world which Captain Cook's voyages had brought excitingly to the notice of the West, and it was in the South Seas that the romance of missions was quickly seen to be inseparable from the price of martyrdom. In these later days, it is among the 'astonishing clusters' that the younger church has reached a degree of maturity unequalled in any other part of the world." It has been stated that work in the Pacific Islands falls into three groups:—

1. Islands where the church has reached a degree of maturity rendering it capable of independence of the West.
2. Areas in which help from the West is clearly indispensable for a considerable further period.
3. Territories still presenting opportunities for pioneer missionary work.

In the first group are numbered Samoa, Fiji and Tonga. After overcoming the initial difficulties which beset the Christian movement in the above areas, including ferocities which contributed to martyrdoms, nearly half a century has now passed during which the whole community has at least been nominally Christian, and has enjoyed a hundred per cent. degree of literacy coupled with an education centred upon the Bible.

In the second group are listed such islands as Cook, Gilbert, Ellice, Papua, New Guinea, Solomons and New Hebrides. All these areas have been seriously affected by the war—some of them catastrophically. It is felt that pre-war needs will thus have been accentuated and many new problems, some of them as yet scarcely discernible, will require speedy and wise handling during the post-war settlement. Of interest to Australian churches of Christ is the fact that the New Hebrides group, with an over all estimated population of 40,000, has now a military population far exceeding the native one. The New Hebrides is classified as comparatively weak in native leadership. Goodall says: "The absence of native leadership strong enough to carry much of the local pastoral service exercised by missionaries constitutes a serious barrier to further devolution."

Post-War Planning

Of the third group are such places as inland Papua, parts of New Guinea and of the Solomons. Such areas are still in the pioneering stage, or could be classed as untouched areas. Parts of the New Hebrides would also come under this classification, and for our own people would have to be noted the work on Maewo and Pentecost. Leaving Maewo out of the reckoning, government figures show the population in our other islands as 11,000, Aoba (4500), Pentecost (6500). In the more thickly populated area of Narua, where we have a group of churches, there are still many unreached people, and in the South there are many groups classed as entirely heathen. It is to this task that we as a people must set ourselves. Plans are now in hand, and it is anticipated that before many weeks we will have important announcements to make re-

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.

garding forward moves in the New Hebrides, including possibility of new workers and a return of some who have been detained in Australia.

NEWS FROM AOA

FROM Ron Saunders comes news of how they fare. These men have stood to their task well, and in the forward plans above mentioned these men will have needed relief.

Health
 "Our health has suffered in this hot weather. In January I had another attack of malaria, which fortunately was only a mild one. However, the aerebrin that I take regularly lessens the power of the parasite, so that I was in bed for only a couple of days. With it I had an attack of dysentery which was quickly cleared up with sulphaguanidine. The prickly heat rashes have caused me annoyance at times. This month a tropical ulcer broke out on my right leg shin. However I scraped it out with a blade razor, painted it with argyrol solution, and spread sulphadiazine ointment on top of that. Now it is completely healed. Praise the Lord, I now feel quite well. Mr. Finger is not in health. He has had two fairly bad attacks of malaria. Last week he had dysentery with his malaria which has left him rather weak. He has gone down to rest at Vaera Tabuti's house at Devil Rock, where the cool sea breezes blow all the time."

Educational Needs

"We now have 50 pupils in the school. Twenty-six of these are in grade I, thirteen in grade II., and eleven in the leadership class. Only three of these are Pentecost boys. Only nine are girls. It seems impossible to round up the girls and get them to school. The backward position of the women is lamentable, and I think that they need a woman missionary to teach them. The women are with few exceptions just inane, ignorant, giggling females. The men want to preserve the status quo (translated the mess as it is) of lord and master and the woman as convenience and garden digger. We are appalled at the senseless girl marriages, wife-beating, and the careless casting off of an undesired wife. Unless the women receive teaching to give them self-respect they never will be any good. Only through the women will the race suicide of these people be arrested. Something has to be done and quickly, or entire villages will be gone. These old women are the exponents of the witchcraft medicine that has caused three deaths recently in Navuti village alone. Multiply that by our fifty villages and it mounts up. There is just dawning on me the absolute power of this witchcraft over their lives."

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Federal Aborigines Mission

J. Wiltshire, Secretary

The Annual Offering

SO far as we have been able to learn, the offering for the work of the Board this year has exceeded that of last year. W.A. total is the only complete one we have, and that amounts to about £250. The general interest of the brotherhood of Commonwealth expressed in their giving and in correspondence amounts to an urgent challenge to the Board to advance. That they appear to advance so slowly is an irritation to them as to brethren generally, but the field's vastness is surpassed only by its perplexing problems. The researches of the Board are very extensive and thorough with the object of taking the surest road of progress.

Norseman

K. N. Roberts and Joan Saunders were married on Feb. 5 at Kalgoorlie, by H. R. Fitch. A feature of proceedings was the presence of the dormitory boys and girls with Miss Elsie Roxburgh in charge. The chil-



Group of Australian Natives.

dren had saved their pennies for months to pay their own fares from the mission station. Their conduct at the wedding and during their stay in Kalgoorlie, a matter of a few days, was commended by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts spent a few days in Perth, where the State committee organised a very well attended rally and reception supper. The chairman of the Board (C. R. Burdeu) presided, and both Mr. and Mrs. Roberts spoke. A charge was given to the churches and the missionaries by R. Raymond. At the reception Albany Bell and Mrs. Burdeu expressed the good wishes of the brethren and sisters to the young couple. R. J. Duckett, secretary of the State committee, made a presentation of a small wallet of notes to the guests.

The Board had tea with Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and together reviewed the contemplated work.

Mr. Paul, of the Inglewood church, has been released from service duty to build the dormitory at Norseman. The purpose of the Board is to provide accommodation for between twenty and thirty children with a social dining room and matron's quarters. The present dormitory will become the matron's room and a sick room.

Metropolitan Natives

The Native Affairs Department some time ago approached the Board with a request that they might take up the question of the many natives that have become scattered through the city and suburbs to their own hurt. It is possible that a useful and inexpensive work in this connection will be undertaken. A country road's board has made a similar request. There is a growing conviction that only the Christian missionary statesman can meet the demands of these people.

The North-west

An appeal from the north-west of Western

Australia has been heard by the Board, and opportunity is being sought to investigate the field and explore ways and means of meeting the need. Then in the northerly central areas of this vast State a deep need is discovered. This has been occupying a great deal of the Board's thought.

On Vacation

Miss Elsie Roxburgh's first vacation is due. She will come to Perth and will be present at the State conference. Her presence will be a blessing to all. She has done excellently among the children, and slowly, but surely, is leading them into the way of life.

Finance

Statement of Receipts and payments for year ended Dec. 31, 1943.

Receipts.—Bank Balance, 1/1/1943, £804/11/11; Queensland, £120/15/10; New South Wales, £107/10/-; Victoria, £15; Tasmania, £74/18/11; South Australia, £240; Western Australia, £340/8/8; Sundries, £19/4/3; Total, £1722/10/2.

Payments.—Salaries (including £50 to Miss Eadie), £393; Travelling Expenses, £39/4/7; Secretarial and Office Expenses (including £34 Subsidy the H.M. Dept.), £47/11/2; Mission General Expenses, including Dormitory Expenses, £128/18/10; Printing and Publicity, £50/18/1; Mission Property—Renovations, £102/11/9; Purchase Dormitory, £72; Horse, Cart and Harness, £45; Furniture, etc., £42/2/8; Sundries, £23/11/1; Sundry Expenses, £27/0/8; Bank Balance, 31/12/1943—Commercial Bank, £250/6/8; Savings Bank, £500; Total, £1722/10/2.

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DURING THE YEAR . . .

- (1) Scores have been baptised by Home Mission preachers.
- (2) Two churches, Georgetown and Canterbury-Earlwood, have gone self-supporting with full-time preachers.
- (3) Fairfield, new church started, self-supporting with student preacher.

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—E. C. Hinrichsen, Director of Evangelism, New South Wales.

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Cups of Cold Water

(Matt. 10: 42)

THREE cups of cold water had been placed
upon the table, by Tom, Marjorie and
Harold. They wondered the reason for Mr.
Stanbury's request, until he proceeded to tell
a story for each one.

The first was about the brave Englishman,
Sir Philip Sidney, who was wounded in battle.
When about to drink some water offered him,
he observed the longing gaze of another
wounded man. Forgetting his pain, he handed
the vessel to the other man saying, "Soldier,
thy need is greater than mine." The second
story was of 15-year-old American Nan Wood,
who became interested in a lone lady on a
railway station in France. Seeing the lady
was ill, Nan got her a timely cup of water.
A little later, as her train was moving off,
it was learned that the lady was Marie Curie, dis-
coverer of radium.

Finally, Mr. Stanbury told of a lad having
read Matt. 25: 34, 35, and wishing he could
refresh the Lord Jesus. Going to work, he
overtook a poor woman with a very heavy
basket of laundry. His timely help brought
smiles to a sad face in a way that thrilled him.
Then he realised he had refreshed the Lord.
He recalled also Christ's promise about a cup
of cold water.—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

"What is wanted in the nation of
to-morrow must be put into the hearts
of the young to-day."

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