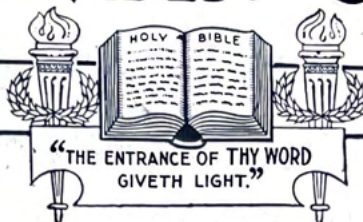


*W. M. Fraser*

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## This Dilemma Called Life

MAN will understand life if he knows his own nature. "Man know thyself!" was the cry of the ancient teachers. Some answers to this riddle of man's being have been given by pagan philosophers. Scripture, however, gives the answer that God has revealed to us. We learn that man's nature has two aspects. "God formed man of the dust of the earth" (Gen. 2: 7). The laws that govern the earth must, therefore, play a part in guiding the behaviour of man. In that regard he is like the beasts of the field. It is necessary for him to respect such laws as the law of gravity. Man is, then, a part of nature, and is subject to the laws of nature. The theory of evolution, when given a materialistic twist, errs in suggesting that man is nothing more or less than a child of nature. Nevertheless, it is needful for us to grasp that man is bound in part by the chains of the natural universe; and a study of man's behaviour must take such a fact into consideration. Paul recognises this truth. "I see," he wrote, "a law in my members (body) warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Rom. 7: 23). If we understand this natural basis in man's being, we shall be ready to accept the real life-situations into which we are forced; and then we shall be ready to face all the difficulties they present. At the least, the physical, or materialistic, side of man's being requires us to be realistic in any situation into which we may be forced by the circumstances of life. Let us be wise enough to face that fact!

THERE is a richer aspect in man than his physical basis. God breathed into the physical frame of man "the breath of life," and then "man became a living soul" (Genesis 2: 7). David the psalmist, cried to God, saying, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8). David was given to understand that man had not been made a little higher than the beasts, but rather a little lower than the angels. There is something in man that points to a unique origin. Man's full nature cannot be defined as something coming wholly from the earth, and therefore being earthly; but there is a heavenly element which makes man akin to celestial beings.

Many have sought to fathom the mystery of man's origin. While some have been content to believe that man emerged complete from primeval mud; others have been in-

spired to write about man's spiritual descent from the Spirit of God. Sir Oliver Lodge wrote, "We may not have been individuals before, but we are chips or fragments of a great mass of mind, or spirit, and of life, drops, as it were, taken out of a germinal reservoir of life, and incubated until incarnate in a material body." William Wordsworth, one of England's greatest poets, wrote—

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting,  
The soul that rises with us, our life's star,  
Hath had elsewhere its setting,  
And cometh from afar."

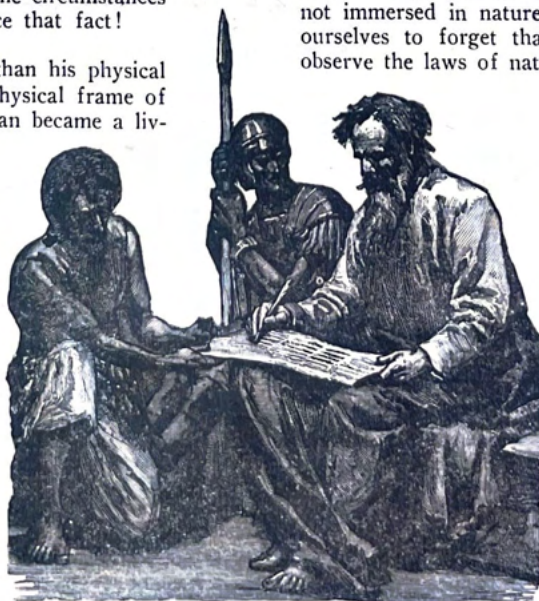
"... Trailing clouds of glory do we come  
From God, who is our home."

Paul tells us nothing vague and mystical about man's origin; but he does make it clear that there is a spiritual depth in man—an "inward man"—that delights to obey God's law.

OUT from this spirit within us there arise hopes and ambitions to build a new world. Sometimes these hopes create visions out of the "stuff dreams are made of." Such visions may cause us to shut our eyes to the real facts of human existence. They may cause us to ignore the reality of the law of the flesh and the demands of the human body. Under their influence we can be led to assume that man is not immersed in nature. Surely it is foolish for us to allow ourselves to forget that, to a considerable degree, man must observe the laws of nature!

Because man has been made from the "dust of the earth" and of "the breath of God," he is gripped in the jaws of a real dilemma. Paul perceived the inner problem of man's nature; and being caught himself between the idealism of the spirit and the realism of the body, cried, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7: 24). Paul looked forward to a final solution of the tragedy of man when that great event will occur for which "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain." To that same end all men must look for deliverance; for "even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8: 22, 23).

Under present conditions, it is necessary for us to be realists and to



Paul in a Letter Discusses Life's Dilemma

Please turn to page 399.



# The Tragedy That Never Happened

JACOB was a pessimist. He was always looking on the dark side, always ready to believe the worst, always jumping to the most calamitous conclusion. His sons took advantage of this when they sold their brother, Joseph, into slavery.

With cruel cunning "they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood, and they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father, and said, This have we found; know now therefore whether it be thy son's coat or no?" They knew their father, with his ingrained pessimism, and Jacob fell into the trap. "And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces." Notice those words "without doubt." There was not one glimmer of hope. He gave in to his fears at once. And all the time he was making a mistaken inference.

How often we do the same. Overwhelmed by appearances, we immediately jump to the worst conclusion, and yield ourselves to despair.

Prior to 1939, we were told on every hand that if another war came, the scale of operations would be so extensive, and modern weapons so deadly, that civilisation would be doomed. And there may be those to-day who, looking at civilisation's torn and blood-stained garments, still think that it is impossible for it to survive.

But is not that a mistaken inference? The outer semblance of civilisation, its coat of material cleverness and pride, its expensive garb of economic prosperity, its covering of false politeness which is often taken for the thing itself, may be rent and reddened with blood. But civilisation itself, in its inmost essence, is a spiritual thing, and is the product of Christianity, and as such, can never be destroyed. We may have hope for humanity, in spite of all the mauling and wounding it is passing through. And this hope is not based on the plans and schemes of men; it is founded on God. Humanity has a soul, and God will never allow that soul to perish.

IN the same way men have sometimes despaired of Christianity. At times it has seemed to them to be dead and done for. With all its division and strife, its fair garment seems to be ripped to ribbons, and all the crimes and cruelties that have been committed in its name have blotted it with blood.

But the essential soul of Christianity is not as weak, or as vulnerable, as it may seem. Again and again, when the wild beasts have done their worst, and outwardly it seems to be ruined, the church has risen up, clothed with fresh power, and gone forth to conquest. Especially may we feel encouraged to-day, for Christian men everywhere are coming to feel ashamed of their "coat of many colors," of which for so long they have been so proud, feeling it is hideous, and outworn, and stained with sin. They are longing for the day when the church, which is Christ's own body, will be clothed anew with his seamless garment of spotless white.

Nor, when we come to consider the individual,



By comparing the coat of Joseph with the outer-cloak of life, J. E. Brooke, of Sth. Australia, writes an encouraging message.

should we confuse clothes with character. Here is one who has been caught by the wild beasts of sin and of his own passions. They have torn him until not one rag of respectability remains. And the world, beholding him, shakes its head and says, "Without doubt he is rent in pieces." But again, it is a mistaken inference. It was not the end of the prodigal when he had bedraggled and befouled his garments among the swine. The father was waiting to say, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet, for this, my son, was dead, and is alive again; was lost, and is found." God never gives up his children, as Jacob gave up Joseph. When the showy clothes of our own pride become as filthy rags, he does not despair of us, but receives us, and reclothes us in the richest robes of his righteousness.

AND when death, the last great enemy of all, sets upon us, and our bodies are racked and torn, and cast aside as useless—what then? Is that the end of all? That is the greatest of all mistaken inferences.

For the body is just the outer clothing of the immortal spirit. "Do you believe the body has a soul?" someone once asked Dr. J. H. Jowett. "No," he replied, "but I believe the soul has a body." The soul is the essential thing; the body is incidental. Death may tear the body, but it cannot touch the soul.

Let us, in these anxious days, with death shadowing us and ours, bind to our hearts the

comfort of this great conviction—the ultimate tragedy can never happen. We may be unclothed of our frail flesh, but it is only that we may be clothed with more glorious garments—"for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." And nothing can ever separate us from our heavenly Father—"neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Why are we so certain of this? Not only because of Joseph's story, but because a greater than Joseph came into this world, and wore our mortal flesh; and although men divided his garments among them, and cast lots for his robe, and tore his body, and put him to death, and thought that was the end of him—they were gloriously mistaken.

He rose again from the dead, and now we know "without doubt" that evil can never finally triumph, but that everything good and God-inspired shall share his ultimate victory.

## THE LIVING WORD

"THOU Living Word, larger Than any creed, Thou Love Divine, uttered in Human deed— Oh, teach the world, warring And wandering still, Thy way of Peace, the Footpath of Good Will!"

—Henry Van Dyke.

## A Critic Answered

F. J. Funston, of Victoria, has chosen Hymn No. 86 as the hymn for

September. It is listed for September 3.

THE present writer does not often wish to "cross swords" with a recognised hymnologist, especially one whose contributions to the subject have been as thorough and as pleasing as those of W. Garrett Horder, but in one of his criticisms he seems to have overreached himself. Writing of William Hammond's hymn "Awake and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb," Mr. Horder commends its vigor, but goes on to say:—

"The verse, however, 'Sing till we feel our hearts ascending with our tongues, Sing till the love of sin departs and grace inspires our songs'—attributes to sacred song a power even greater than it possesses."

With that statement we would quarrel, first mentioning in support some statements of Mr. Horder's own choosing. He quotes Augustine on the psalmody of the church—"by the delight of the ears, the weaker minds may rise to the feeling of devotion" and Longfellow telling of singers "to touch the hearts of men and bring them back to heaven again." A few pages later, he quotes with approval the ideal of "singing to the praise and glory

of God." Surely these begin to answer his own criticism of the hymn!

But, beyond that, perhaps the criticism falls down of its own weight! Surely sacred song, associated as it is with practically every one of the services held in the Christian church, has some purpose beyond filling awkward gaps or allowing worshippers to stretch their legs—or their lungs. Rather should it lift hearts with tongues, bid sin depart and allow the heavenly grace to infill both tongue and life. If at any point Hammond's hymn outruns the truth, it would rather be in a verse usually omitted:—

"Sing till you hear Christ say 'Your sins are all forgiven,'

Sing on, rejoicing all the way and sing your souls to heaven."

The present writer's simple counsel would be, "Sing on"—and seek through our songs to fit ourselves for the final song of which William Hammond was thinking—that mentioned in Rev. 15: 14, when John is in the presence of "them that had gotten the victory" singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb!



# An Edinburgh Experiment

*J. A. Wilkie, of Ballarat, writes helpfully on the ministry  
of Dr. W. Graham Scroggie in Edinburgh, Scotland*



DR. W. GRAHAM SCROGGIE visited Australia about nine years ago. During a week's meetings in Ballarat, we had the privilege of having Dr. and Mrs. Scroggie in our home. During much happy intercourse, I learned some particulars of the great Edinburgh experiment of his notable ministry in that city. After 13 years at the Charlotte Square Chapel (Baptist), Dr. Scroggie had resigned while the work was at its highest pitch, feeling that the strain of leadership should be undertaken by a younger man. Among many distinguished ministries in Edinburgh the Charlotte Square Chapel was noteworthy in the steady stream of changed lives enrolling in its membership—touched by the vitality of this church. They maintained an assistant pastor; five missionaries in overseas work, and contributed to the work in other foreign fields; three or four women workers were also supported—working out in evangelistic and social services from mission premises in a congested city area; three Sunday schools were in operation; successful open-air work and tract distribution were features. A widespread activity touched the young life of the congregation as well as women's work in several branches. The church membership was about 1100, Sunday evenings saw about 1400 crowding the chapel, and the mid-week meeting averaged from 600 to 700. All this had grown, and continued, for over a dozen years.

IT was with great interest that I learned from Dr. Scroggie how all this had come about. His predecessor had been a noted preacher, who attracted hearers each Sunday from all parts of Edinburgh, but whose ministrations largely failed to build up the church's inner life or activities; so that, when he left Edinburgh and the magic of his eloquence ceased, the attendances dropped down to two or three hundred during the interval before the arrival of Dr. Scroggie. It had been a congregation of listeners but not a church of workers.

When the new leader became known the attendances increased; but he came to the decision that if his office-bearers would back him, he would introduce an experiment that would gradually change the calibre of the membership. He won the confidence of his official board, and they gave him a free hand to go ahead. His first approach was, naturally, to the then existing membership; among them he found the usual inner core of earnest, consecrated men and women, the usual decent majority of easy-going Christians, and the usual proportion of irregular and indifferent members. By personal intercourse and public speech, he set forth his programme to make Charlotte Square chapel a veritable power house for the divine Redeemer.

An encouraging response steadily increased that inner core who maintain the spiritual glow; and there was set going many forms

of active service. Dr. Scroggie's next problem was to bring into the membership men and women who not only knew Jesus Christ as "Saviour," but also had committed themselves to him as their Lord. After much thought and consultation he arrived at the following method. He interviewed every applicant for membership (whether a new convert or one desiring transfer from another church) and sought to feel their spiritual pulse and motive. In some cases the interview ended their desire for membership. Usually the applicant when he left the minister was conscious of an enlarged vision of what church membership implied. Given a printed list of questions, he was asked to pray over them, answer them carefully and return.

THERE were about 12 questions. The first five were doctrinal and were designed to ascertain the candidate's belief on such matters as to the person of our Lord, his birth, his resurrection and his relationship to the divine Father, concerning the authority of the scriptures, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the matter of believer's baptism, and the nature of the church. The remaining questions were after this fashion:—

Do you definitely acknowledge that since the grace of the heavenly Father has brought you within his family through redemption won by the Lord Jesus, your response should be an increasing love and glad obedience?

Do you make a daily habit of reading your Bible, and through prayer seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

Apart from the time given to your Bible and prayer, are you willing to give a portion of your time each week in some form of service for your Master?

Do you realise that you are a steward who will have to render an account, not only of your time, but of all your possessions, your home, your influence, your friendships and

your talents? Have you definitely set apart a portion of your income for God's service?

Are you prepared to volunteer for active service in two avenues of Christian work.

[A list of thirty activities in connection with Charlotte Square church were supplied.]

A FEW of the applicants for membership decided to apply elsewhere, some were rejected or put on probation, but the majority felt that this was a church worth joining. Edinburgh soon came to recognise the remarkable achievements of this city church. In our conversations Dr. Scroggie insisted that this Edinburgh experiment could seldom be repeated; it was not an ordinary procedure. He fully recognised that a normal church must be a nursery for babes as well as a gymnasium for athletes, and that much care is necessary to train the needy. Although some adverse criticism had been made, he felt he was justified by the soul-winning work achieved, and the standard reached which challenged all easy-going church members. As we think over this record, I suggest that one outstanding conclusion is we should never cheapen church membership, and we should aim first at quality and realise that a group of consecrated Christians could be used to spread the spiritual glow throughout most of the membership. Another result will be that the Lord will add to the church those who are being saved.

## This Dilemma Called Life

(Continued from Front Page)

face the tragic problems of life and to do all in our power to meet the requirements of the physical life, in a manner that will harmonise, as far as it is possible and practical, with the spiritual law of life. While it is good for us to be stirred into action by spiritual ideals, we must not be misled by any idealism that is unrelated to the real facts of life. As we maintain this balance, we shall be enabled to wrestle with the difficulties of life, and not be overcome with despondency when our ideals cannot be realised because of the limitations of the laws of this body of flesh. Let us also keep alive the Christian hope that tells of Christ's final act of redemption, when this mortal shall put on immortality (1 Cor. 15: 54).



## Everlasting Love

And thou, O Lord, hast loved me,  
In spite of all my sin.  
No merit have I, Saviour,  
Such wondrous love to win.  
Fathomless as the ocean,  
Measureless as the sea,  
Broader than all creation,  
The love of Christ to me.

Oh, Jesus, thou hast loved me,  
And given thyself for me—  
Thyself with all thy fulness,  
That I thine own might be.  
I scarcely know the meaning  
Of all that thou hast given;  
For with thee I have all things,  
And earth doth reach to heaven.

Oh, love past comprehension,  
Reveal yet more and more,  
Some of this boundless ocean—  
This sea without a shore,  
And flood me with its fulness,  
Until this soul of mine  
O'erflows to desert places,  
And loves with love like thine.

—Fairelle Thornton.

OH, Jesus, thou hast loved me  
With everlasting love;  
A love so strong and mighty,  
All other loves above,  
Ere time began, or ever  
The stars in heaven did shine,  
Thou didst foresee thy purpose,  
And love with love divine.

Oh, wonder past all wonders,  
Ere this earth came to be,  
In thine own great foreknowledge,  
Thou, Lord, hast loved me.  
To thee the past and present  
Is one eternal now,  
And thou through endless ages,  
Hast loved, I know not how.

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August 23, 1944

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# Choirs in South Australia

Chas. Schwab, our S.A. correspondent, writes of the help choirs render, of a youth missionary rally, of the preachers' fraternal, and of the good work of a conciliation officer.

## Choirs

THE excellent services presented by choirs becomes very evident to an interested observer as he moves among our churches. Grote-st. has a choir with a membership drawn from many suburbs. Much expenditure in time and money is represented by members of the group in order to assist the difficult work of the city church. Several members have many years of continuous service to their credit. This choir assists many of our churches by providing notable renderings of selections from negro spirituals and plantation melodies in settings which are powerful in devotional and instructional aspects. W. W. Watson is conductor of this well-known choir.

Glenelg has an outstanding musical department in the form of a young people's choir. This group, under the baton of N. Hadrick, has become well known for its service in the home church, other churches, in competitions, and on the air. The average age of the singers is sixteen years. This choir reveals the possibility of development and use of youth in the service of song.

A. Glastonbury, of Cottonville, has a group of young people in hand, and indications are that he will provide his church with much excellent music.

Prospect church, noted for phenomenal youth work, has a choir worthy of recognition. A. Cousins, the energetic conductor, has gathered and held together for many years a band of singers whose ministry merits commendation.

Maylands has always had a very fine musical department. Mrs. M. Wills is in charge at present, and is providing her church with an excellent ministry of song.

## World of Books

### Sizing Things Up

CHRISTIAN teaching must touch every aspect of daily life. Those who have been converted to the new way of life in Christ must learn how Christians ought to take a pride in work and service, whether they are in the home, workshop, office or on the farm. They must learn how to react to those who ill-treat them, how important it is to speak the truth and be honest. All ought to see the need of being crusaders of righteousness so that war may be made on disease, slums, poverty and the drink traffic. In the first volume of a series of three books entitled, "A Plan for Living," the application of Christian principles of life is discussed very effectively and simply. By using modern illustrations of life's problems, the writers go on to show how the Christian plan is the most satisfactory answer to the difficulties young people are likely to face in similar situations. The aim of the Joint Council of Religious Instruction, Victoria, in providing this series, is to help teachers in secondary schools present an interesting course of studies on Christian truths to their pupils. Each book will provide material for one year's instruction. If handled well the material will arouse interest and create discussion. It is likely that leaders of young people's groups will use the

## Youth Missionary Rally

Seven different religious groups were represented when the city hall was thronged on a recent Saturday night for a missionary rally by which over £100 was raised for India and China food relief.

Pageants and addresses revealed many aspects of life in the lands for which relief was sought. Among the speakers was A. Anderson, our own overseas mission secretary.

A group of Javanese boys attracted much interest as they sang several hymns. The event was a new and novel method of directing instructive interest toward missionary work, and at the same time rendering practical assistance to very needy peoples.

## Preachers' Fraternal

Our preachers meet in their fraternal every second week and pool experiences and prayers in the interests of the cause of Christ.

Their syllabus contains an interesting series of subjects. Studies in prophecy, religious education, psychology, worship, special services, and book reviews are included in the programme. The men get much help from these meetings at which the mutual good of all is very earnestly sought.

## Conciliation

Divorce proceedings appear to be more numerous during recent years. An excellent piece of work, calculated to lessen domestic troubles, has been carried on by a conciliation officer. His duty is to hear "both sides" of family disturbances, with a view to restoring the home life. S. Price-Weir, of Maylands church, is the officer.

# Our Young People

W. R. Hibburt

## THE HOMEWORK OF THE CHURCH

PRESENT-day trends are demanding that we ally home and church, parent and teacher. This involves house-to-house visitation. Five visitation cards designed for this express work are available from the Austral Publishing Co. at 1/- a dozen, postage extra. They are adaptable to new scholar campaigns. The cards are entitled:—

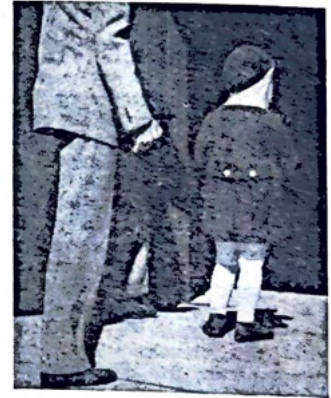
"Defend the Home Against Invasion."

"Can We Fathers Take It?"

"Dear Bobby—You will see wonderful things if . . ."

"A Nation's Future is as Bright as the Faces of Its Children."

"First Things First."



## "FAITHFUL FISHERMEN" CAMPAIGN

Victoria.

Aim: 50 New Teachers, 500 New Scholars.  
First Haul: 10 New Teachers, 56 New Scholars.

## N.S.W. EXAMINATION PRIZE LIST

Div. 1.—1, Beth Main, Wollongong, 97; 2, John McLane, Kingsford, 96; 3, David Patterson, Lane Cove, 92; 4, Pat White, Hurstville, 91.

Div. 2a.—1, Shirley Winch, Auburn South, 98½; 2, Fae Edmonds, Belmore, 94; 3, Bobby McKillop, Kingsford, 93; 4, Jean Brown, Wagga, 92.

Div. 2b.—1, Maureen Daniels, Epping, 98; 2, Brenda McGregor, Paddington, 97; 3, Melva Smith, Paddington, 96; 4, Gavin Turnbull, Penshurst, 94.

Div. 3a.—1, Denis Carter, Marrickville, 97; 2, Brian Winch, Auburn Sth., 96½; 3, Jean Robertson, North Sydney, 96; 4, Margaret Skillen, Canterbury-Earwood, 95½.

Div. 3b.—1, Shirley Saville, Bexley North, 99½; 2, Betty King, Loftus Park, 98; 3, Kevin Crawford, Epping, 97; 4, Mary Macfarlane, Paddington, 96.

Div. 4a.—1, Laurence Larcombe, Paddington, 94; 2, Patricia Cooke, Kingsford, 93; 3, Marie Mackay, Kingsford, 92; 4, Yvonne Edwards, Epping, 91.

Div. 4b.—1, Verlie Piper, Burwood, 95; 2, Ivy Wakeley, Burwood, 94; 3, Edna Handebo, Loftus Park, 93; 4, Lois Whitehurst, Fairfield, 92.

Div. 5.—1, Colin Bowser, Belmore, 97; 2, Elva Check, Belmore, 96; 3, Mary Stace, Georgetown, 95; 4, Edna Hill, Georgetown, 94.

Div. 6.—1, Ivy Fleetwood, North Sydney, 100; 2, Nell Morris, Paddington, 99½; 3, Lorna Mudford, Gilgandra, 99.

Div. 7.—1, Dorothy Butler, Gilgandra, 94.

Div. 8.—1, Patricia Hogan, Hamilton, 87.

Div. 9.—1, John Dean, Paddington, 91.

Div. 10.—1, Norma Cook, Beverly Hills, 91.

## For Little People

*Jingles for Juniors*, by E. Josephine Bamford, illustrated by C. Kingsley-Smith, is an attractive picture-book for little people. The needs of health are suggested to children in picture and rhyme, with a genuine appeal. There are also little prayers for young folk. Not only does this story-book entertain; it helps to guide and to mould character. I have seen how it can interest and help a six-year-old, and can, therefore, recommend it to readers. Price 3/9; posted, 3/11½. The publisher is S. John Bacon. It is a book of 24 large pages, with an attractive colored cover.



# Notes on Various Topics

# The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

## Brotherhood

DR. C. BERNARD COCKETT in a recent address said that "tyranny treats men as fools, but Christianity would make them brothers." He is reported as also saying that "the Atlantic Charter and the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration were breaking the bounds of a narrow nationalism through Christian international service, as governments, churches and relief agencies worked together to make the world not only a neighborhood but a brotherhood."

Christian missions and a liberal government, in winning the Papuans, had helped to save Australia. There is no satisfactory substitute for the Christian way of thinking and living. God made of one all the peoples of the earth, and Christ our Lord opened for all the way of access to the Father. He would have all enjoy the privileges of sonship and freedom and call upon "our Father which art in heaven." One corollary of our recognition of the divine Fatherhood is the treatment of his children as our brothers.

## The Gambling Evil

Betting taxes in N.S. Wales for the year ended June 30, 1944, yielded £485,986—£200,956 more than for the previous year. "Betting taxes proper," it is reported, totalled £229,297, being an increase of £81,335, and totalisator receipts increased by £119,621 to £262,689.

For the past financial year, it is also reported, the Victorian Government percentages from the totalisator totalled £298,000, which is a record and £76,000 in excess of the treasury estimate.

The amount of gambling in Australia is disquieting. The encouragement given by State governments—and sometimes by church authorities—tends to the growth of an evil which does great harm to the community and especially to the moral well-being of participants.

## "Moral Disasters in Church History"

My attention has been drawn to some statements in a striking address by Dr. Henry Townsend, Principal of the Baptist College, Manchester, England, the new Moderator of

the Free Church Council. Dr. Townsend addressed the council's annual congress on "The Ground on Which We Stand." He spoke of some of the "moral disasters in church history," and referred especially to two great sources of failure. These were (1) "The rise of a priestly mediating order depriving the laity of their rights and privileges. . . . The existence and rule of the priestly order in the church have been a moral offence which God has judged in history, and is unmistakably judging in our own day. In east and west these priestly rulers have maintained a vested interest in the ignorance, poverty and economic slavery of the masses." (2) Alliance with the State, "Priestly hierarchies have sought and accepted agreements and treaties with States and often with degenerate rulers; and the rulers of the church have mostly been morally subjected by the rulers of the State." The Moderator referred to the policy of the Roman Catholic church in four European nations as having brought damaging blows to the Christian religion. His denunciation of R.C. diplomacy did not blind him to "the multitudes of good and devoted men and women in the Roman Catholic church," "We know their piety," he said, "though we reject the double standard of morality of the Canon Law. But Romanism sets hierarchies and clergy and monastics on a higher moral level than the laity."

Over against Roman Catholicism Dr. Townsend set the high doctrine of the church which Free Churches uphold and its impact on the State. In expounding this, he restated some truths which cannot be too insistently declared. "We believe," he said, "the church is a spiritual and supernatural society in which the crown rights of the Redeemer, as our fathers testified, are alone authentic and absolute. Our doctrine of the church follows from this final authority of the Redeemer, that Christ has no competitor in the life, order and work of his church." This high doctrine of the church leads us to stand for the freedom of the church from State control or alliance.

*A. R. Main*

## From Week to Week

THOSE who were afraid that State authority was likely to interfere with the liberty of people to express themselves freely will be relieved by the findings of the royal commissions appointed to enquire into charges made against censorship authorities. The war is being waged because powers are in lands beyond the sea with the definite aim of bringing men under tyrannous control. Rumors that the enemy's methods to control the people were being applied by our own government were disturbing. Now that it has been shown that freedom of expression is permitted, so long as the safety of the country is not endangered, we can look forward with confidence to the development of democratic rule in Australia. Any reasonable person will not confuse liberty of expression with vulgarity or licence. However, we want to continue to enjoy the right to speak the truth.

READERS will learn with regret that J. E. Thomas, preacher of North Williamstown, Vic., has been compelled to go into Epworth Hospital for treatment. For some months past our brother has been laid aside, and it seemed he had regained much of his former strength; but he took ill again. Mr. Thomas is known throughout the Common-

wealth. He has won a large circle of friends by his amazing ability to gain the confidence of others. I have always appreciated his ability to defend the truth of God's word in debate. He can always make a good reply to any statement likely to undermine the authority of the scriptures. Mr. Thomas can be counted upon to add that humor to wit which brightens up the discussion. Readers everywhere will join with me in wishing our brother a speedy recovery.

BRITISH people show good common sense in the time of a crisis. Now that the referendum has shown how unwilling people are to give up what they consider their rights and liberties to a government authority, there is a move to secure a representative convention to consider the needs and demands of the post-war years. The Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition agree on the need of having some governmental control to ensure a peaceful transition from war to peace. I trust that such a convention will be held and that wise leadership will enable powers, consistent with individual freedom of the highest form, to be granted for a limited time to a central authority able to meet many of the problems likely to face us in the immediate future.

"NOW let us see thy beauty, Lord,  
As we have seen before;  
And by thy beauty quicken us  
To love thee and adore."

## OUR BEST DAYS

A BRIGHT young girl of fifteen was suddenly cast upon a bed of suffering, completely paralyzed on one side, and nearly blind. She heard the family doctor say to her parents as they stood by the bedside:

"She has seen her best days, poor child!"  
"No, doctor," she exclaimed, "my best days are yet to come, when I shall see the King in his beauty."

That is our hope.

## COULDN'T STAND A LAUGH!

A CHRISTIAN worker was talking to a man who said, "You see, sir, I get laughed at when I come to church, and I can't stand it." "Suppose," said the Christian, "you sang a comic song at a concert, and people laughed at you, could you stand it?" "Well, yes, I suppose I should be pleased." "That's so," was the reply. "You don't mind being laughed at for singing something foolish, but to do something noble, virtuous and beautiful for God, your soul, and eternal life, a mere laugh will make you lose it all. Think it over, brother, and be strong in the Lord."

## MAKING THE BEST

EVERYONE has his weak points; everyone has his faults; we may make the worst of these; we may fix our attention constantly upon these. But we may also make the best of one another. We may forgive, even as we hope to be forgiven.—A. P. Stanley.

She.—"This is an ideal place for a picnic."

He.—"It must be; fifty million insects can't be wrong."

## The Family Altar

### TOPIC "I AM HE"

- Aug. 28—Joshua 1: 1-8.
- " 29—2 Cor. 10.
- " 30—Eph. 3: 14-21.
- " 31—Eph. 6: 10-20.
- Sept. 1—1 Tim. 3: 14-21.
- " 2—John 18: 1-14.
- " 3—Zephaniah 3: 1-9; John 18: 15-27.

OUR Lord Jesus taught others nothing which was not exemplified by his own conduct. The incident of the above text is a fitting illustration. Jesus enjoined his disciples, when confronted by great dangers, to be unafraid. Now, the decisive hour having come, he stands unmoved in the presence of his bitterest enemies. Doubtless, in all history, there has been no greater example of bravery than is seen here, when Jesus goes forth to meet the enemy, and asks, "Whom seek ye?" and when they answered "Jesus of Nazareth," said "I am he"; and then, to make doubly sure that they understood perfectly, repeated the same question and the answer, knowing that they would take him to judgment and to death. Even so, whatever be the result, each one of us, his disciples, must always be ready to say "I am his."

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# Here and There

J. E. Thomas, of North Williamstown, is ill in Epworth hospital. Our brother has been unwell for some months, and it has now become necessary for him to go into hospital.

Preachers from many parts of Victoria are meeting at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris from Aug. 21-25, to study the refresher course arranged by the college faculty and the ministers' association. We trust our brethren will enjoy a period of mental and spiritual blessing.

All ministers have been asked to speak about the work of the Bible Society on Sunday, Sept. 10. Special envelopes for "Bible Sunday" will be forwarded on request. Faced with tremendous responsibilities, in the Pacific and New East, the society deserves increased support from the whole Christian church.

## Day of Prayer

**T**HE president of the Federal Conference of churches of Christ has received the following telegram, and urges churches to co-operate and to meet the wishes of His Majesty the King:—

*"I have been advised by His Excellency the Governor-General that His Majesty the King has appointed Sunday, Sept. 3 to be a national day of prayer and dedication in the United Kingdom. The Commonwealth Government invites your church, together with the other churches of the Commonwealth, to co-operate by giving full effect throughout Australia to His Majesty's desire.—Prime Minister."*

Fredk. N. Lee writes: "Will those Victorian preachers who have not yet returned the questionnaire sent out by the Preachers' Disabilities Committee please attend to them this week. Even if they do not intend to send in a reply, will they please let us know that they will not be returning the questionnaire so that we can proceed with our work."

At Kingaroy, Qld., on Aug. 6, two young ladies in their teens followed their Lord in baptism. Special addresses for the month on doctrinal themes are creating interest. Mid-week prayer meeting is very helpful. Fellowship has been enjoyed recently with three young brethren—Harold Reed (Balwyn), Bruce Munro (Lismore) and David King (Gympie).

Members of Hobart church (Tas.), at a tea gathering held in chapel on Aug. 16, agreed to a plan to pay off debt on property by 1947, year of diamond jubilee celebration. Church appreciates gift of a door-mat from Mothers and Friends Club. Youth fellowship tea was held on Sunday, 13th, Mrs. Vee-Couch gave a travel talk. Later, young people had a part in gospel service. At Women's Mission Band, August 17, Mr. T. Street gave an interesting talk. Young People's Mission Band annual meeting and tea was held Aug. 20.

For a number of years past, at the suggestion of the Department of Evangelism of World Council of Churches, churches in an increasingly wide area throughout the world have designated the first Sunday in October as World Communion Sunday. Dr. H. S. Leiper, the chief secretary of the council, in announcing this, says: "The object of this observance

is to bring home to all communicants, the obligation resting upon Christians to conform our individual and corporate life to the high-priestly prayer of our Lord that his followers should 'be one that the world may believe.'"

Owing to lack of space we have been compelled to hold obituary notices and several letters for "Open Forum." We hope to be able to make room for these in our next issue.

On Monday, August 21, the following telegram reached us from N.S.W.:—"Petersham, N.S.W., prospering under Hinrichsen ministry; two further decisions on Sunday night—Morris."

On Saturday, August 12, the Melbourne Eastern Suburban Youth Fellowship held a quest for talent at Balwyn chapel. A very profitable evening was enjoyed by 250 young people, and a great amount of talent was displayed. The winners of each section are as follows: Sect. I., Vocal solo, Miss M. Peers; Sect. II.: No entries; Sect. III.: Vocal Duet, Misses J. and L. Petty; Sect. IV.: Vocal Quartette, Misses R. Petty, I. Williamson, P. Coultts and M. Cameron; Sect. V.: Elocutionary, Miss B. Davis; Sect. VI.: Instrumental, Miss E. Morffew. Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Cuthbert were adjudicators.

September is being observed as discipleship month in Victoria. The Victorian Young People's Department has requested church officers to use the period as a special ministry to develop the mind of youth and to encourage reading, reasoning, recruiting. The churches are arranging for each young adult to procure a copy of the booklet, "Forward with Christ." Study groups are being arranged. Many preachers intend giving brief commentaries on chapters at the evening services. In some instances awards are being offered for the best summary of the book or the best letter to a friend relating the things learnt from the book.

Interest and attendances at Brisbane (Ann-st.), are well maintained in all branches of work. During past month the average attendances at morning and evening meetings were 196 and 138 respectively. F.M. offering closed with £65, in addition 12/- per week was contributed through duplex envelopes. The balance of the purchase money for the manse, £300, was raised by interest-free loans and gifts. At close of gospel service on Aug. 13, Mr. Hunting baptised a lady and a soldier. The church has benefited by the will of the late Mrs. A. Steele to extent of £50 for general purposes and £25 for benevolence. 100 copies of Mr. Hunting's booklet, "The Vision that Made a People," have been secured for distribution among new members.

At the 51st annual meeting of the church at Prospect, S.A., held Aug. 9, reports from all auxiliaries showed that a good year's work had been accomplished. Officers elected were: Secretary, H. C. Meadows; treasurer, R. Bradshaw; assistant treasurers, Messrs. Roberts and Mansell; auditors, Messrs. Cousins and Peacock; "Christian" reporter, H. C. Meadows; "Christian" agent, Sister Dixon; organist, R. Bradshaw; baptistry sister, Sister Dixon; deacons, H. Mansell, E. Collins, W. Spry and H. C. Meadows. A. E. Brown has done a great work since he commenced his ministry in February. During year 12 have joined church by letters of transfer, and 4 by baptism. Services on Aug. 13 were conducted by Mr. Brown. Members of football club attended evening service. Fellowship with Mr. Hand (Curramulka), a foundation member, was enjoyed. Church sympathises with Mrs. Crosby and Dr. Ray Crosby in the loss of L. Crosby, who passed away on Aug. 14. Mr. Crosby served for many years as a deacon and auditor.

At Cottonville, S.A., Sunday morning services continue to be well attended, with an average of 100. Church appreciates assistance of Messrs. L. G. Curtis and A. A. Glas-

tonbury on Aug. 6 and 13. R. Graham, from Croydon, also spoke. Young people took part in the services on Aug. 6—C.E. Sunday. The Endeavor societies held annual rally on 5th; 122 Endeavorers were present at this inspirational meeting. Burnside C.E. society assisted with a quartette, and Miss June Moyle gave a testimony. The J.C.E. gave a special item. Singing by Shirley and Margaret Gloyn, and Peter McDonald was a feature. Ridley Kitchen gave a heart-searching address. Colin Butler, vice-president, presided. Fellowship was enjoyed with Reg. and Violet Bradley and G. Williams who are on leave from Services. Overseas mission offering reached a total of £56/6/6. The sum of £832/15/11 has been raised by church and auxiliaries during conference year. Average Sunday school attendance for July was 106. J. E. Brooke, the preacher, returned home on Aug. 14, after several months' illness.

One of the most interesting debates the Footscray Council (Vic.) has had in recent times took place on Monday night, Aug. 7, when the question of the retention of the 1910 by-law was brought before the council for its acceptance or rejection. The amendment would mean that charitable or patriotic concerts would be permitted in public halls on Sunday nights. In committee stage two weeks ago, the casting vote of the chairman decided in favor of the amendment. On Aug. 7, when the amendment was brought to the council, the Mayor explained that he voted in favor of the amendment earlier, because two of the committee were absent on that occasion, and his vote would mean that it would be brought before the council on Aug. 7, when the absent councillors would be present. The deciding factor was the letter, received from the Theatrical Union, as expressed by councillors on the question of the Labor Party's principle that men should not be called upon to work on Sundays. The matter closed by the casting vote of the mayor in favor of the retention of the status quo of the 1910 by-law which allows public halls to be open on Sundays between the hours of 2.30 and 5.30 p.m. for educational purposes only.

The Grote-st., Adelaide, Lecture Hall, on Friday night, Aug. 11, was the scene of a happy function when, to the invitation from the Churches of Christ Ministers' Wives Association, city, suburban and country preachers, with their families—90 in all—gathered for a time of happy fellowship. The proceedings were opened with the singing of the first verse of "Blest be the tie that binds," and prayer



The Grote-st. Chapel, Adelaide.

by F. Collins. Mrs. J. E. Webb, president of the Ministers' Wives Association, presided and welcomed guests. A programme of musical and elocutionary items, interspersed with games, was much enjoyed, and then supper was served. Words of appreciation on behalf of those assembled were expressed by A. H. Wilson. K. A. Jones closed the proceedings with family prayer. There were many expressions of pleasure at such an opportunity for preachers and their families to get together, and the wish was expressed that similar opportunities might be given in the future.



# News of the Churches

## Tasmania

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—Average attendances for July were: 11 a.m., 106; 7 p.m., 107; communion, 122. 41 Bible school scholars sat for annual scripture examinations, and good results were obtained. Quarterly tea and business meeting of Bible class were well attended. On 11th another social evening was held for fireplace fund. Attendance was small, but approximately £3/10/- was raised. Mr. Wilson is planned to be the speaker on Aug. 24, at 10 a.m. broadcast devotional service over station 7NT.

## Queensland

Monkland.—An excellent monthly gospel service was held on Aug. 6, E. Trudgian preaching for first time since his sickness. One young man of R.A.A.F., baptised at Gympie, was welcomed.

Gympie.—Bible school has started preparing for anniversary, using "Austral Hymns." There was one baptism on July 30. Ladies' guild has contributed £2/2/- to aboriginal mission work. F. B. Stow, of Rosewood, has consented to conduct a mission in November. On Aug. 13 united services were held with Baptists, morning services being in our chapel and evening in Baptist chapel. Very happy fellowship was enjoyed.

## SIX BAPTISED

### PLANS MADE FOR MISSION

TOOWOOMBA.—Bible school secured highest number of passes and prizes for State in recent examination. On Aug. 6 a young man signified his desire for baptism. The following Lord's day six young people came from Hirstglen to be baptised in evening service. Over 60 attended August fellowship hour and tea. Miss M. Duncanson was guest speaker. Plans are complete for a September mission to be conducted by A. J. Fisher, of Gympie.

## Western Australia

Perth.—On morning of Aug. 13 Chaplain Roy Vincent gave a challenging message. Gifts of oranges and flowers were presented for Children's Hospital. At 5 p.m. the young people had a basket tea and rally. At 7.30 p.m. a hearty song service was led by E. R. Berry. J. K. Robinson preached.

Inglewood.—On Aug. 8 a social was held to honor Beverly Fairweather and Len Morley, who are to be married shortly. On Aug. 6 a number of Bible school scholars attended gospel service. In addition to usual gospel address, Mr. Sherman spoke to the boys and girls. Attendances at morning and evening meetings are on up-grade. On July 30 school attendance was 149.

Cottesloe.—Members of three C.E. societies visited the John Nicholson Convalescent Home, taking oranges and flowers, on Aug. 13. Attendances at recent church meetings have improved, several visitors and strangers being present. Mrs. J. Scott (Box Hill, Vic.) is at present a visitor. F.M. offering was £14. On Aug. 8 Mrs. D. R. Hill was farewelled by the ladies, prior to her departure to join her husband in Tasmania.

Harvey.—On July 20, under leadership of A. Johnston, the choir held a successful concert in aid of church-building fund; £4/13/- was realised. Young men from military camp attend gospel services. Questions from box are answered by Mr. Bamford in gospel service. Mr. Cornwall visited church on behalf

of the Malayan Missionary Society. On Aug. 13 there were good meetings. Mr. Livingstone commenced training children for anniversary.

## South Australia

Port Elliot.—B. W. Manning has planned to commence a morning breaking-of-bread service in Court House for summer season, from Sept. 3, at 9.45 a.m. Regular visitation has been done during the winter months.

Victor Harbour.—Three airmen gave splendid words of witness at evening service on Aug. 6. Bright half-hour of singing is enjoyed at close of gospel services. Mrs. Max Swincer, who had an operation in Adelaide, is home again. Miss Melva Crosby gained a second prize in junior teacher section, and Crofton Manning a second prize in senior scholars, in recent examination.

Murray Bridge.—Church's sincerest sympathy is felt with Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Page, parents of Flt. Sgt. Norman H. Page, R.A.A.F., who has been reported missing in France. Fine C.E. anniversary services on Aug. 6. Young people helped during day. Sincere welcome was extended to Allan Mitchell, R.A.A.F., on leave. Prayer meetings have been held at homes of Mrs. G. B. Gruhl, Mrs. E. Haupt and Mrs. W. Brake, in July. Gaynor Kretschmer won second prize, of division four, in State scripture examination.

Queenstown.—Attendances are well maintained. Morning services have been addressed by W. C. Brooker, G. A. Foote and G. C. Purdie, with Mr. Brooker at gospel services. At request of Cheltenham church officers the church has been supplying presidents and speakers at some of their morning and evening services. Church has enjoyed fellowship with Mrs. Fry, who has been laid aside at her home and in hospital for many months. Ray Holmes has been home on leave. On Aug. 15 the Girls' Wattle Club held a successful concert in chapel.

Flinders Park.—Eighteenth church anniversary services were held on July 30, when W. C. Brooker, of Queenstown, was morning speaker. In the evening J. G. Bridgeman spoke, and H. Francis and Phyllis Parker rendered a duet. At both services there were splendid congregations. On Wednesday, July 26, a father and son social was held, and on August 2 mothers and daughters met for social fellowship; at both evenings a pleasant time was spent. Fellowship has been enjoyed with F. Schmelzkophf, Basil Anderson, Mr. Mullens and Joan Boyd on leave, also with Sister Conning, of Moreland, Vic., and Sister Berger, of Goolwa.

Moonta.—Reports presented at annual business meeting revealed that work in all departments has been well maintained. Bible school has increased from 27 to 36 scholars. Five sat for scripture examinations, each gaining a merit certificate. Ladies' guild is doing good work, an outstanding effort being the amount of £18/10/11 raised for Red Cross work. Mrs. Tripp and Mrs. Doley, deaconesses, resigned; all other retiring officers were re-elected. Mr. Thoday was appointed a deacon and Sisters Edwards and Hodges deaconesses. Mr. Edwards conducted a question night on Aug. 6. D. J. Lawrie addressed church on morning of Aug. 13. M. T. Lawrie, of Kadina, spoke at night.

Balaklava.—Attendances have been very good, especially at worship services. Mr. and Mrs. Duck were received into fellowship from Long Plains. Mr. and Mrs. W. Pearl have returned after the long illness of Mrs. Pearl. A farewell social was tendered to Volney Whiting who has returned to his unit. Malcolm Roberts, who returned from a forward area, was honored by a 21st birthday party given by young people. Miss Elsie Wilson, of Wem-

bley, W.A., has been visiting her sister, Mrs. A. Hutson, and has had fellowship with church. Miss Edna Vawser interested church with her stories of mission life. Jack Bowden, a discharged soldier, spoke to guild and Triangle Clubs. Attendances at Bible school have improved recently.

## PREACHER RE-ENGAGED

### FINANCES IMPROVED: SEVERAL ADDITIONS

KADINA.—The work is going along nicely. At conclusion of M. T. Lawrie's address on July 29, a lady confessed Christ. A Bible school social was held on Aug. 3. A baptismal service was held after gospel service on Aug. 6. Annual church business meeting was held on Tuesday, Aug. 8. There were good reports from all auxiliaries. Treasurer reported best financial position for 13 years. Debt on building, which was £2040 in 1923, is completely reduced, and there is a small credit balance now in trust fund. M. T. Lawrie has accepted a further term of service of twelve months, commencing with first Sunday in February, 1945. Anniversary services were held on Aug. 13, choir rendering choral music at each service. Theo. Edwards, of Moonta, was preacher. Two by letter and one by faith and baptism were given right hand of fellowship at morning meeting. 130 were present at gospel service. F. G. Filmer was chairman. The annual tea was held on Tuesday, Aug. 15, with inspirational meeting following. F.M. offering has reached £14/19/4.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On Aug. 13 C. Schwab addressed church in the morning, and preached gospel at night. His addresses were much appreciated. Mrs. Sargent, a member for 43 years, died on Aug. 11. W. Beiler officiated at the graveside on Aug. 12. Church extends deepest sympathy to Mr. Sargent, who is laid aside by sickness. On Aug. 20 A. Anderson, conference president, presided at Lord's Table, and afterwards addressed church. This service was broadcast over 5 KA. Mr. Anderson also conducted evening service. W. Beiler commences full-time ministry with church on Aug. 27. Church has presented an armchair to Ross Manning, elder of church, in appreciation of over 52 years' faithful service. Mr. Manning is still ill.

## New South Wales

Lidcombe-Carramar.—During July two senior scholars made the good confession, and have been baptised; two others decided for Christ. Attendances in Bible school are growing. Morning addresses by A. C. MacLean (City Temple), A. Frazer (Rockdale), S. Stevens (Enmore) have been enjoyed. Improvements are in hand for a church building at Carramar.

Grafton.—Church anniversary services were held on July 23 and 25. Mr. Carter, of Sydney, was the special speaker, his messages were inspiring. At public meeting on Tuesday evening encouraging reports were presented by various auxiliaries, and items were rendered by young people, Ladies' Guild and Salvation Army friends. The donation of a bicycle for church use is appreciated. P. J. Pond spoke on July 13. During Mr. Pond's absence in Sydney, Len Walsh supplied. Mr. Ellan has returned home from hospital. Mrs. Perring and Mrs. Thomas are making good progress towards recovery. A party of children from "Rathgar," the Protestant Association's home at South Grafton, gave two items at a recent Sunday evening service.

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**Marrickville.**—Meetings during month have been well attended; two have been added by transfer. On Aug. 13 Mrs. Clem Gers, from S.A., was a visitor. H. C. Gowans was guest of honor at Bible class fellowship tea. At evening service Mrs. Evans made the good confession and was baptised.

**Penshurst.**—Well-attended meetings have been experienced recently by church, especially at gospel services. Since last report one lad from Bible class confessed Christ. On July 16 Bible school held special afternoon and tea to show appreciation of the work of Mr. and Mrs. C. Byrnes; they have served since the foundation of the work in this centre. Merv. Harris made presentation on behalf of scholars. Building fund balance has now passed £200. Great interest is being maintained in all phases of work. Sister K. Smith has been appointed collector for building fund. Cricket club is being formed by Mr. Eager.

**Broken Hill (Wolfram-st.)**—Children of Mills-st. and Wolfram-st. Sunday schools did exceptionally well in Bible school examinations. Ladies of church are holding a sunshine afternoon once a month. Mr. Samuels, a blind preacher of S.A., spoke at first meeting. Mrs. H. E. Paddock presided; Mrs. L. Warren contributed a song. On Aug. 8 Capt. Lucas, of Salvation Army, gave an interesting talk. Fellowship has been enjoyed with Miss M. Graham (Goolwa), Pte. Don Garner and Sgt. and Mrs. Clem Gers. Children of Mills-st., Railway Town are uniting with Wolfram-st. Sunday school for anniversary services.

## Victoria

**Reservoir.**—Attendances are well maintained at all meetings. On Aug. 13 R. Burns preached in morning, and on 20th T. Fitzgerald, Doug. Quayle, of Gilgandra, on leave, was a visitor at gospel service. On Sat. 12th, a social gathering, arranged by Young Explorers' Club, was enjoyed.

**Bayswater.**—On Aug. 6 the first of the monthly combined services was held in Bayswater public hall, Dr. C. I. McLaren was guest speaker, and there was a large attendance. On Children's day the church was visited by Phillip Langly and Jim Webb, who addressed Bible class and evening service.

**Carlton (Lygon-st.)**—On Aug. 20 meetings were well attended, many visitors being present. C. G. Taylor was speaker at all services. Miss W. Lee rendered two solos. Gift of cushions and kinder chairs, from North Carlton chapel, is appreciated. Offering for Social Service Department was £15.

**Parkdale.**—During recent weeks there have been encouraging services. J. C. F. Pittman, of Chelsea, and Mr. Grainger have preached helpfully. Sympathy is felt with relatives of late Mr. Meador, recently transferred from Prahran, who died suddenly on Aug. 17. Offering for Social Service Department has reached £9/7/6.

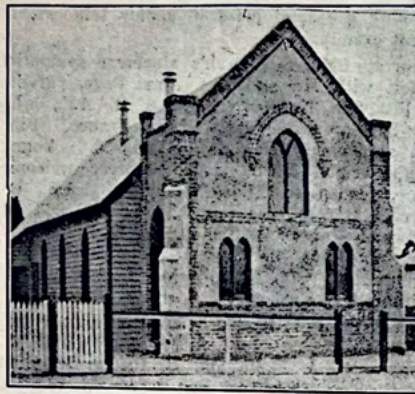
**Stawell.**—E. Randall's addresses have been very helpful. On July 23 a social evening and presentation was given to Marjorie Lee, whose marriage took place on July 29. Mr. Randall officiated. A baptismal service was held on July 30, and two were received into fellowship on Aug. 6. Teachers and scholars are preparing for anniversary.

**Hamilton.**—On July 30 the morning service was broadcast for first time; it was conducted by A. E. Forbes. Very favorable comments and appreciation have come to hand from isolated members and friends. Ladies of Mission Band spent a pleasant afternoon as guests of Baptist Mission Band on Aug. 3. Attendances at all meetings have been good.

**Dandenong.**—The Bible class held a successful social evening on Aug. 5. The "Faithful Fishermen" rally at the Sunday school has created great interest among the scholars; three new scholars were enrolled on 13th. W. Marshall continues to give helpful messages.

**West Preston.**—Well-attended services and the great interest of members in all branches of work are encouraging. Many visitors have been welcomed at various meetings. Mr. Grainger, of Reservoir, has addressed church. The Y.P.S.C.E. recently held their weekly meeting at home of Mrs. Bean, who has been unable to attend regular church services. One has been baptised since last report.

**Ballarat (York-st.)**—A youth rally was conducted by visiting members of youth department; the messages of Mr. Jame and Mr. Candy were enjoyed. On Aug. 6 morning service was conducted by Lindsay Smith; Mr. Funston, of Melbourne, representing Sudan



The Chapel at York-st., Ballarat.

Mission, spoke in evening. Sympathy is extended to Mr. Floate and Mr. and Mrs. Thompson in their loss of wife and daughter. Sympathy is also extended to Mrs. Brogan in the loss of her mother. A well-attended memorial service was conducted on Aug. 13 by W. Feary. Scholars did well in Bible school examination.

**Footscray.**—There were good meetings on Aug. 20, N. Gavros, of the college, was speaker in morning, and D. C. Ritchie at night. H. Pietzsch addressed Junior Endeavorers. On Aug. 16 F. T. Saunders conducted a lantern service in interests of College of the Bible. A special effort by the Ladies' Aid, held on Aug. 19, realised £18. A C.E. District Union has been formed with D. C. Ritchie, president, and Mrs. R. Vautier, asst. secretary.

**Camberwell.**—There were fine attendances, including many visitors on Aug. 20, when a series of special meetings, to extend over two weeks, was commenced. Principal T. H. Scambler and a team from the college, F. R. Burt, R. Graham and H. M. Lang, are conducting meetings. The special soloist was Miss F. Cowper. In response to Social Service Department's appeal there was an offering of about £20.

**East Malvern.**—Visiting speakers during July-August were A. Boxshall, W. E. Quirk, S. Neighbour, A. Thomas, R. Hillier and A. J. Ludbrook. Mrs. I. Jenkyn was appointed a deaconess at annual meeting on July 12. Mrs. W. A. Kemp spoke at Sunshine Circle meeting on July 11. Leader of discussion at fellowship meeting on Aug. 2 was C. R. Brough. Of the eleven scholars of the Bible school who sat for the annual examination ten passed, four with merit and three with honor. Offering for social service reached £2/15/6.

**Preston.**—F. Lee, of Thornbury, gave an inspiring message to the church at morning service on Aug. 20, at which two who were baptised the previous Sunday were welcomed into fellowship. At evening service Mrs. Libbis rendered a solo, and the choir an an-

them. W. Goller has suffered a very sad bereavement in the death of his wife, who was in membership, also Mrs. Combridge whose brother passed away suddenly on Aug. 18.

**Doncaster.**—After a long illness Mrs. Herbert Clay passed away on Friday morning, Aug. 18. Sympathy is extended to the sorrowing husband and family. Mrs. Clay was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Tully.

**North Essendon.**—Young people, under Mr. Jame's leadership, held a mystery hike on Aug. 5. Young people from different churches helped to make the night a success. A. Jones, chaplain of R.A.A.F., addressed morning service on Aug. 13, and D. Ploog, on leave, was welcomed. C. Medhurst is also on leave, but is in hospital. Keith Smythe and Eva Bradbury were married on Aug. 12 by Mr. McIlhagger. Revival series conducted by Mr. Bond during winter has concluded. Interest was created in these meetings. Phi Beta Pi club has planned a patriotic night to raise funds for soldiers' parcels.

**North Fitzroy.**—Major Ferguson, a medical missionary from Korea and China, preached on Sunday evening, July 29. V. Foster addressed church on Aug. 6, and R. Ennis preached at night. H. Swain, sen., was present again after illness. On Aug. 9 the Women's Mission Band met when 32 were present; an address was given by Mrs. H. Clark on "India." Mr. Ennis's addresses are much appreciated. A young men's study class meets with him each Sunday at 2 p.m. for preparation in usefulness in the work of the church. Attendances at church services are well maintained, though many are laid aside with illness.

**Box Hill.**—Morning meetings continue to be well attended, and Mr. Morgan's messages are stimulating. Dr. Kemp exhorted church on Aug. 13; prior to gospel service five Bible school scholars, four boys and a girl, who had made their confession the week previously, were baptised. To mark completion of recent rally in Bible school, a social was held for kinders in afternoon and for intermediates at night, on Aug. 5. A New Testament was given to each scholar who attended each Sunday during rally, which extended over five months, 26 scholars participating. Keen interest is being shown in "Faithful Fishermen" campaign. In the recent Bible school examination Joy Gray won first prize, gaining 100 per cent. On July 29, Ron Earl and Lorin Lloyd were married, Mr. Morgan officiating. Plans are in hand for commencement of a young men's training class.

## India and the British Empire

THE monthly Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Service was held at North Fitzroy, Vic., on Aug. 6. A. A. Hughes, M.L.A., was the speaker, and he discussed the future of India within the British Empire. He traced the origin of the present racial system of India, and outlined the political difficulties which naturally arose from the mixture of cultures, races and religions. He described the process by which the British had gained political supremacy over India and discussed the question of the possibility of a revival of Indian nationality; of the power over his race gained by Mahatma Gandhi, whose influence, notwithstanding his mistakes, was still the greatest power to-day. In bringing together all sections of his people in the National Congress, he had brought visions of a revival of national aspirations. Congress had a majority of the cross section of all the peoples of India, however diverse their opinions were on other subjects. Britain could only continue to wield her influence in India if she were prepared to treat India and her people on an equality basis in government, trade, and all other relationships. The address was interesting and was listened to by an audience that filled the building. Miss Amelia Scarce delighted with a number of songs.



## The Murray Valley

W. GALE writes: "As you read this I am in the North-east of Victoria, making contact with our brethren of the churches. This area is the land dominated by the great Rivers Murray and Goulburn, which have been in the news at the Murray Waters Convention at Yarrowonga the last few days. It is evident as one reads the matters brought to light at these sessions that great plans are foreshadowed for the 'valleys.' The watershed of the Murray extends over 414,000 square miles, or one-seventh of the continent. The great Hume Weir, at Albury, has a capacity of 1,250,000 acre feet. The 'valley' carries only 150,000 people, but it is planned to carry 700,000. Then an even greater dam is proposed for the upper Goulburn. What does this mean for home missions and the churches of the Restoration Movement? Hundreds of thousands of people are to come into this area where now we have home mission churches. These must be expanded and strengthened and other towns occupied. This is the land of promise; it is ours to 'possess.' We shall need church buildings, Bible school facilities, homes for the preachers, and some of the best preachers of the Australian brotherhood for this great enterprise. Victorian Home Mission Committee is in for heavy responsibilities, and faces a staggering opportunity. Dare we fail? This, then, is the brotherhood's first priority—"The heart of all our work."

## The Miracle of Britain's Survival

By Rev. H. A. Evan Hopkins.

A timely, well-written booklet showing how the ebb-tide turned for the Allies after the Day of Prayer in England on Sept. 3, 1942. Miracles of Leadership, of Nature, and the Weather, and of Warfare are shown; and the Author closes with a forceful appeal for national repentance that Britain and her Allies may be worthy of the deliverance God has wrought.

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### BIRTH

FISHER (nee Box).—On August 17, at "The Haven," North Fitzroy, to Rose and Ray—a daughter (Lynette Rose). Both well.

### SILVER WEDDING

BROWN-COUSIN.—Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Brown announce with pleasure the 25th anniversary of their marriage on Aug. 23, 1919, at Church of Christ, Moreland, by the late F. J. Sivyer. Present address, "Kaniva," 12 Bundeera-rd., Caulfield.

### DEATH

BUTCHER.—On Aug. 9 (suddenly), at her residence, 44 Ida-st., Bassendean, Clara, dearly loved wife of the late John Butcher, loved mother of Clara (Mrs. Seaby) and John, mother-in-law of Annie; grandma of Stella Seaby, Frank and Leslie Butcher; sister of Miss Lee. Gone to her loved heavenly home.

BROGAN.—On Aug. 8, at Ballarat Hospital, Elizabeth Ann, loved wife of John Brogan, of 25 Sweeney-st., Ballarat, loving mother of Elsie and Arthur, mother-in-law of Ramah, grand-mother of Arthur and Leone. Aged 64 years. Sweet rest.

### IN MEMORIAM

TRABINGER.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Andrew, who died on Aug. 26, 1941. A beautiful memory left behind. His cheery smile and happy ways are pleasant to recall. He will never be forgotten. He is with all his dear children, Forever with the Lord.  
—Inserted by his loving wife, Mrs. H. Trabinger, sen., 79 Arnold-st., Bendigo.

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Sept. 3.—The Guest-Chamber of the Soul.

—T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed.

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SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

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Guest Speaker: C. G. Taylor, B.A.

Sept. 3, 11 a.m., Stanton H. Wilson.

7 p.m., C. G. Taylor. Service broadcast over National Stations 7NT, 7ZR.

Monday-Friday (4th to 8th) Special "Week of Witness." Services at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, 6 p.m., Fellowship Tea.

Sunday, 10th, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.,

C. G. Taylor, B.A.

Former members and isolated members specially invited. Greetings may be sent to J. P. Foot, 112 Margaret-st., Launceston.

### COLLINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST BIBLE SCHOOL.

SEPTEMBER 3—

3 p.m., Mr. G. Andrews.

7 p.m., Mr. T. A. Fitzgerald.

SEPTEMBER 10—

3 p.m., Mr. W. Hibbert.

7 p.m., Mr. L. Brooker.

All old friends cordially invited.

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SPECIAL HOME-COMING DAY,

SEPTEMBER 17.

11 a.m., W. Graham.

3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon; speaker,

L. Williams.

7 p.m., H. Swain.

Past members and friends cordially invited. Hospitality provided. Please notify H. A. Annetts, 109 Graham-st., Albert Park, S.C.6, by Sept. 2.

GROTE STREET, S.A.

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Past members invited to participate.

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81st ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

have been POSTPONED until a later date.

Notice of future date will be published in the Christian."

### COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1.—Swanston-st., 2 p.m., Victorian Women's Conference Executive Council will meet. Leader of devotions, Miss I. V. Gill. Speaker, Miss A. Barton, B.A.

### BROADCAST SERVICE

Margaret-st., Launceston, Sept. 3, 7.15 p.m., Diamond Jubilee service, stations 7NT and 7ZR. Preacher C. G. Taylor, B.A.

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### The Australian Christian

August 23, 1944

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# Known Only to Christ

## Anonymous Donors

A GLANCE through the financial books of any missionary society would reveal amounts large and small under the heading "anonymous donation." Such is the way that many of the Lord's people wish their gifts recorded. Apart from those so designated "anonymous"—how many thousands of others give through the offering plate, such gifts being "known only to Christ."

## Methodist's Anonymous Donor

Missionary circles were intrigued for years because of their knowledge that our Methodist friends had a brother known merely as "Anonymous Donor." This year the British Missionary Society, in their magazine, "The Kingdom Overseas," report, "The 'Anonymous Donor' has passed to his reward. Through trying years after the last war he kept the Missionary Society out of debt. In those last days at the end of each year in the 1920's and 30's, when the officers of the society were almost in despair, he used to make his appearance in a secretary's room. 'Well, how much are you behind?' Quite simply he drew his cheque-book from his pocket and wrote a cheque for the needed many thousands of pounds, and the society was solvent again. So quietly and unobtrusively was it done that for years no one outside the officers of the Missionary Society knew who the 'Anonymous Donor' was. In fact, another distinguished Methodist got the credit for it. After a while, however, at home and overseas, his identity became generally known, but even then, in respect for his wishes, his name was never mentioned. He was always the 'Anonymous Donor,' that and nothing more. When, in his gathering age, he did not come in person, he sent his secretary in his stead."

## World's Most Generous Giver

The same magazine gives a few facts about the above-quoted "Anonymous Donor." "About eighty years ago a mill boy in Hull felt he was called to missionary service abroad, but those whom he consulted did not consider that he was suitable. Whereupon he said to himself, 'Very well, if I can't go myself, I'll try to make enough money to send others in my stead.' Years later he was able to offer to his church the financial support of ten missionaries, and up to the day of his death, nearly forty years later, that wonderful contribution to the funds of the Missionary Society was maintained. In a sense these few facts summarise the life story of Joseph Rank. He lived and worked in order to make money for the work of God through his church at home and abroad. He 'gained all he could, he saved all he could, that he might give all he could.'

## Also Prayer Life

"The support of ten missionaries was only the beginning of Mr. Rank's contribution to the work of overseas missions. He was continually in prayer for them: to that fact the writer can testify; but in addition to that support of ten missionaries, . . . with the wise insight of one of the world's most successful business men, he foresaw the blow it



The Silent Appeal.

would be to the work abroad if his annual gifts were to cease suddenly at his death. He therefore made provision some years ago that no such calamity should befall the overseas church. Would that other contributors would take similar steps! It can be said without any manner of doubt that in Christian history no individual Christian has been enabled and moved to make so large a monetary gift to the missionary work of the church as has Joseph Rank. And the mainspring of all, as he once declared to the writer in a private talk, was his gratitude to God for all he had done for him in our Lord Jesus Christ. Little wonder his favorite hymn began:

"O happy day that fixed my choice  
On thee, my Saviour and my God!"

## Our Anonymous Donors

Be it said to the credit of our own people, we, too, have "anonymous donors" large and small. We have been humbled over the years by thousands whose love for the Master's work was the main-spring and governed all other considerations. There are times when it is prudent to reveal names—it is a means of stimulating others—in most cases folk prefer simply—"given to Christ." Thousands of pounds have come to us over the years—some as endowment, some as native teacher and orphan support—one "anonymous" donor has fully supported a missionary for over twenty years. Christ looks down and surely blesses such giving.

## Annual Offering

For more than fifty years annual offerings have been taken from among our churches. In recent years such offerings have exceeded £6000. This is a splendid achievement, and it could be said that in 99 per cent. of such giving the donors and their gifts are "known only to Christ." No full report about 1944 July offering can be given. Pressure of work has ap-

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

parently slowed down reports from church treasurers. Considerable amounts must remain to be reported that it would serve no useful purpose to report progress save to say that Federal Board have received to date £3000 out of the anticipated £6,500. Will our treasurers throughout the Commonwealth please remit forthwith?



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A. Anderson, Federal Secretary, 261 Magill Road, Tranmere, S.A.

## SAVING IS URGENT

THE men in the fighting lines look to you for steadfast support until victory. It is up to everyone on the Home Front to be usefully active in the great national effort. Civil devotion to the Nation's service can take no better form than SAVING.

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# Obituary

## Allan Cheatle

BEALMORE church, N.S.W., mourns the passing of one of its most promising young men in F/Sgt. Allan Cheatle, R.A.A.F., accidentally killed in an air crash in England on July 26. His twin brother Ray was able to get to him in hospital, and was with him when he passed away, while two of their Air Force pals, Sid Cadman and Don Bennett, also from this church, were able to be with Ray for the funeral, and for these things we and the Cheatle family are thankful. Allan attended our Bible school and C.E. from the time he was old enough to do so, and was one of the most enthusiastic scholars who ever passed through the school; for several years he never missed a mark. At the time of his enlistment he was a keen and efficient school secretary, doing a splendid work in the reorganising of the school. He was also a member of the church soccer football club for a number of years. The writer was closely associated with Allan throughout his life as his Bible school teacher and in his sporting and social activities, and knew him intimately for what he was—keen and enthusiastic in whatever he undertook, straight in his dealings with his fellows, and a thorough Christian gentleman. Although only 20 years of age, his life was very full in accomplishment and service, and his call to higher service was a just reward. The building was packed for the memorial service on Sunday, Aug. 6, and although all extra seating possible was used, room could not be found for all. Mr. Corlett conducted a beautiful service, at the conclusion of which six young people made the good confession.—N.W.E.

## John Eaton

JOHN EATON fell asleep in Jesus on July 27 at the age of 90 years. He, with his wife and family, arrived in Australia in January, 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Eaton united with the church at Male-st., Brighton, about the beginning of 1890. A little later they removed to Prahran, when they, with eight other brethren, started the church at South Yarra about 50 years ago. They came to reside in Caulfield about twenty-four years ago, and transferred their membership to the church at Bamba-rd. Until a few years ago, they were regular attendants at the services, but advanced age prevented their coming. Mr. Eaton was a man "full of faith and of the Holy Spirit," and greatly interested in the work of the Lord. The call to higher service came suddenly, and he was well prepared to go. His body was laid to rest in Springvale cemetery on Friday, July 28. Sympathy of the church goes out to the loved ones who mourn his passing.—H.M.C.

## Mrs. C. S. Jenkin

ON June 27, just a few weeks prior to her 77th birthday, Mrs. Jenkin fell asleep and was laid to rest in the Shannon cemetery. She united with the church at Long Plains, S.A., in March, 1911, being baptised by E. Griffiths. She was quiet and unassuming, and greatly respected, and her family of two sons and five daughters were devotedly attached to her. These with her husband and eleven grandchildren mourn their loss. One of her sons, Roy Jenkin, is a deacon of the church at Long Plains, his family all being active in the work there. The church extends sympathy to all those who sorrow the loss in this life of their loved one, and commends them to the care of a compassionate God and Father through whose Son we are redeemed to life everlasting.—W.J.T.

## Mrs. Anne Kettle

THERE passed away on the evening of July 1, at the age of 70 years, Mrs. Anne Kettle. Though a Christian for many years, it was

only in recent times she linked herself to the church at Charters Towers, Qld. To all who knew her she was endeared and loved. She was a real mother of Israel. Her home was always the centre of hospitality, and her love for the Lord was shown in her generous giving to the Lord's work. We mourn her loss, but we have the assurance that she has gone to be with her Lord.—G.T.M.

## Mrs. M. Morgan

THE church at Bundamba, Qld., has suffered a loss in the passing of Mrs. Mary Morgan, on July 21, at the age of 94. In her younger days she and her husband attended the Welsh church. Her husband joined the church soon after our chapel was opened. Our sister joined some 25 years ago. She was a consistent member, and loved the Lord, and his people. Some years ago her health failed, and she could not attend the house of God. The writer, and a few of the members, journeyed to her home at Booval monthly and had a meeting with her and breaking of bread, which was a joy to her. Her trust was ever in Jesus Christ. Heaven has gained another of its jewels from the earth. She leaves two daughters and a son to mourn their loss. We commend them to the care of our heavenly Father, who has promised to comfort and sustain and to wipe all tears away. L. Larsen, of East Ipswich, conducted the service at the home and at the cemetery on July 22.—G.G.

## F. Elwick Smith

THE passing of F. Elwick Smith, of Tunnel Bay, Tas., has removed from us one who for many years has been active in the work in the south of this State, particularly at Nubeena and Tunnel Bay. As a member of the church at Nubeena, our late brother was one of the main movers in the opening up of the cause at Tunnel Bay and the erection of a chapel in that district. When secretary to the Tasmanian Southern District Conference some twenty years back, Mr. Smith organised forces for aggressive evangelism of Tasman's Peninsula, and the services of all speaking brethren were utilised each Lord's day, they travelling many miles to conduct services at seven different places. It was mainly through his leadership and activity with the Home Mission Committee that regular services were held at Nubeena, Tunnel Bay, Koonya, Taranna, Eaglehawk Neck, Oakwood and Port Arthur. To-day services are held at only the two first mentioned places. Our late brother was a councillor of the Tasman municipality for many years, and for a period was elected warden. He was also a justice of the peace, and a keen debater; yet in his home and public life the church was never forgotten. The sympathy of the church goes out to Mrs. Smith and daughter who mourn his passing. We know that for him to depart and be with Christ is far better.—N.J.W.

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Fruit trees, good kinds, 2/6 each, 24/- doz.; stronger, 3/- each. Grape Vines, Rhubarb, 9/- doz. Gooseberry, Currants, Logans, 6/- doz. For quick results fruit this season plant Strawberries, 3/6 100, 25/- 1000; Raspberries, 2/6 doz., 12/6 100, 80/- 1000. Shelter Gums, pot grown, 8/- doz. Variegated Privet Hedge, 4/6 doz., 30/- 100. Good Shrubs, including Boronia and Azalea, 2/6 each. Genistas, Robinia, Speraea, Grevillea, Ceratostigma, 1/6 each. Large ornamental trees, 2/6 to 5/- each.—A. G. NIGHTINGALE and CO., NURSERY, EMERALD, VICTORIA.

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August 23, 1944

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UNLIKE the moth playing with the flame  
that hurts only its own life, human be-  
ings committing sin hurt other lives as well  
as their own. Always we must consider primar-  
ily the evil effects of sin in the lives of those  
we sin against, before the harm to ourselves,  
and realise Satan is using us to weaken those  
we should uplift. Then our vexation of spirit  
will cause such agony of soul that sin will be  
seen in all its awfulness (Rom. 14: 13).

Having searched our sinful nature and de-  
cided upon our besetting sin or sins, either  
of habit, or traits of character, we must  
ascertain where, when and how Satan attacks  
our daily lives, especially through the beset-  
ting sin or sins we feel he is using us by, and  
do our utmost by the purposeful planning of  
our daily lives to avoid attending anywhere  
or thinking or doing anything we know by sad  
experience weakens us or others in the slight-  
est way.

God requires us not only to read our Bibles  
and pray to become dead to sin, but to have  
purposeful hearts and minds to exercise the  
will he has given us to the limit of our human  
ability. Then it is that he blesses us with  
the fulfilment of our aim to be dead to sin,  
through blessing us with the constant reality  
of Christ's resurrection power through his  
shed blood as we are brought to feel his pres-  
ence in us by the Holy Spirit, God's great  
blessing to us.—Cecil C. Robertson.

### THOUGHT

*The depths of our misery can never  
fall below the depths of mercy.*

—Sibbes.

### PREACHERS' PROVIDENT FUND

With which is incorporated the Aged and Infirm  
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Established by the Federal Conference of the  
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