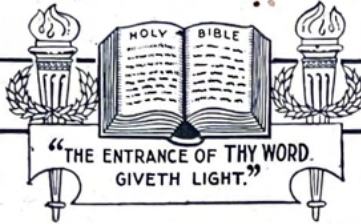


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Men Treasure Freedom

IF we say, "Man is a sinner," we do not seem to be making a profound statement. It is a commonplace fact. We express the truth in a proverb, saying, "To err is human." What do we mean when we say that a man has sinned?

The Hebrew term which is translated by the English word "sin" suggests the picture of a man straying from, or slipping upon, virtue's pathway. The Greek word presents the idea of a man aiming at a mark, but failing to hit it. Going behind the word sin, we are brought face to face with an ideal in life, and then to the knowledge that we have failed to measure up to its demands. Our English word expresses the feeling that we have done something that ought to be cleared up. When we sin we do a thing for which we accept the responsibility and for which we feel guilty.

If a man sins, it is proof he has been brought into touch with the right and the good. If we say, "that man is sinning," we accept at once the fact that he knows what is right and good. We see then a unique aspect in man's being which means that man stands on a higher level than the beasts.

A MAN sees a rose and then appreciates its beauty. Likewise a man sees a good act and realises it is the kind of deed he ought to do. Can a man know that a thing is beautiful if he does not know in addition that something may be ugly? How can a man know a way of life is good if he is not also aware of a way that is evil? Here, then, is the truth about man. He has knowledge of beauty and of ugliness; he knows good and evil. In that regard he towers far above all other forms of life on earth; in fact he is like a celestial being—like a god (Gen. 3: 5).

Man's superiority is shown, not only by his knowledge of right and wrong, but by the inward urge to do the right and to shun the evil. Even the unbelieving Jews saw goodness in the deed of the Samaritan who helped the wounded man by the road-side. They did not dispute the Master's words when he said to them: "Do thou likewise" (Luke 10: 37).

We perceive now how rich a nature God has set in us, his children. Man knows good and evil, and he feels the urge to do what is right, and to refrain from evil ways. What advantage would it be if we feel the urge to do good and yet not be free to do what is right? Scrip-

ture shows that man is free to choose to walk the narrow way of righteousness or the broad way of evil (Matthew 7: 13, 14).

MAN has, therefore, a free will. He prizes the right to make a free choice. If he were forced to do an act, he would rebel against the enforcement even if he knew that the act he was being compelled to do was right. In the atmosphere of a totalitarian State, even though material security is offered, men are not happy. To be told what to do and to be made to do it, even if it may be for one's material advantage, is disagreeable. Men want to enjoy the right to make their decisions in perfect freedom. In a just democracy, when each man is left free to choose his own way of life, man is happiest. History shows how men prize freedom of moral action above material security. To enjoy freedom, the Pilgrim Fathers left the old world and endured the hazards of the unexplored realms of America. Many pioneers of Australia preferred the hardships of the bush to the rigid forms of life in towns, dominated by ancient customs.

Man is a being with a free will. We do not overlook the fact that a man may be pressed by circumstances. Environment may affect a man's decision; but no matter how trying the situation may be, the final decision for right or wrong is made by the free will of the person. John Milton, in "Comus," expressed the truth very well. When a young woman is tempted by Comus she refuses to yield. He threatens force, and says,

"If I but wave this wand,
Your nerves are all chain'd up in alabaster."

The lady replies,

"Fool, do not boast;
Thou canst not touch the freedom of my mind
With all thy charms, although this corporal rind
Thou has immanacled, while heaven sees good."

BECAUSE men value freedom of choice very highly, they are prepared to bear the responsibilities of their decisions, rather than deny the freedom of the will. Men would rather carry in their hearts the feeling of guilt than claim they are only machines and not responsible for their actions. Judas never denied his freedom to act, although he denied his Lord. He did not find refuge in the

Please turn to page 418.





The Call To Service

The Men God Will Use

Frank Hunting, preacher of Ann-st., Brisbane, church, urges complete surrender to Christ's way of life so that the church may be revived and awakened to the need of saving souls.

GOD is entirely dependent on men for the establishment of his kingdom here on earth. If we fail him God is finished; he has no other method. But God cannot use all men, nor can he always use those who claim to be Christians. Christians are sometimes slow to realise that they may be God's number one problem for the establishment and extension of his kingdom. The man God uses will have the following qualities:

SIN will have no part in this man's life. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear me." "Sin shall not have dominion over you." "Go, sin no more." There is God's attitude to sin. And remember, God does not make the false distinctions we make concerning him. We need to be cleansed from all sin, shunning the very appearance of evil. We cannot be too scrupulous in regard to our faults and failings.

How do we get rid of sin in our lives? We must sincerely face it, own up to it, wherever we discover it. This is something that often takes a good deal of courage and an exacting honesty. Quick to detect faults in others, we are remarkably blind to our own failings. We must resolutely face our sin in whatever shape or form it dwells within.

Facing our sins is not enough. We need constant check-ups on our manner of living. These checks must be penetrating and searching. They also need to be constantly applied. At no point do we need to be more ruthless with ourselves. We are not to become morbidly introspective, but remarkably frank in facing and getting rid of our faults and follies.

THE men and women God will use must be men and women of power. Moral power, spiritual power, the power of a Christ-like personality and character are to characterise the lives of those God would use. All Christians may achieve the victory of God in their own lives. Most of us have hardly begun to realise the spirit resources which God has for us. Paul prayed that Christians might be filled with a mighty increase in strength in the inner man. This is surely a possibility for each of us.

How, then, does this come about? We must be men and women of the book. We must

know the book. This will come about only as we study it. This is more than mere reading. Most of us do not settle down to a systematic study of the Bible until we feel a strong urge and call to serve God, and feel impelled to venture to live victoriously in him. The Bible is the word of God, and we must live by that word, for there is a very real sense in which we must feed on the word.

WE must also be men and women of prayer. Prayer is indispensable to vital, victorious Christian living. We must pray daily. We must pray without ceasing. We must pray in faith, believing God will hear and answer.

We must pray confidently. For men and women of God prayer is more than a mere saying of perfunctory prayers. The prayer of faith is prayer that strives. It persists till it prevails. Such prayer is costly—both in time and concentration.

There is another side to prayer. True prayer is sensitive to God's will. Some men call this listening to God, others call it waiting on God. The name matters little; that we do so is most important. God has a purpose and a plan for each of us. We can only work that purpose out as God's will becomes known to us. Therefore we must constantly wait upon God to know his will for us.

CHRISTIAN men and women of power will always be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is indispensable to all effective Christian work. He is the Spirit of power. He is the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of guidance, the Spirit of love. He convicts men of sin, makes known the will of God, guides into all truth, gives victory over all sin. His presence means victory. Why are we not Spirit filled? It may be sin or faulty surrender. We are not willing to do the will of God. The Holy Spirit is given to those on Christ's active service. Or it may be said of us, ye have not because ye ask not.

The man God can use most is always a disciplined man, a man whose gifts are sensitively trained, a man who has developed the full powers of mind and personality. Therefore, we should study to show ourselves workmen approved of God. It is not what we are now that God will use, but what we could become. Too many Christians are offering the rag ends of their capabilities for the service of God. It is not sufficient to offer our all to God; we should see to it that our all is developed to its very best.

N.S.W. Emphasises Evangelism

Our correspondent in N.S.W., Ethelbert Davis, reports on the growing belief that evangelism must occupy the attention of the church if society is to be saved.

AT present little is taking place in the religious life of Sydney. One subject which is agitating the minds of the churches is the part the church will play in the new world that will follow the war. But, without being unduly critical, nobody seems yet to have decided what that part will be. Each religious body, judging from the surveys being made by endless committees, has drawn its own blueprint, only to revise it later.

More and more church leaders are stressing the fact that the church's primary mission is the church's primary mission still—evangelism.

Brotherhood Conference

The conference executive arranged a meeting of the men of the churches to discuss the matter contained in a booklet by Hon. E. C. Summerlad, C.B.E., M.L.C., entitled "Go Ye into the Highways," with the subtitle, "The New Approach." It was an address delivered by Mr. Summerlad at the N.S.W. conference of the Methodist church on March 7, 1944. It was printed and distributed widely by the Methodist conference. Our conference executive purchased 500 copies and distributed them among the churches.

From an analysis of religious conditions, Mr. Summerlad estimates that 80 per cent. of the people are away from the church, and unreached by the church's message. He claims that "the traditional methods for the propagation of Christian principles in the community are no longer adequate. They have been by-passed in the march of time." New methods proposed for the bringing of the

church's message to the unchurched are: the use of the press, the film and the radio.

The meeting, which was held in the City Temple on Aug. 11, discussed the issues raised, and while finding that the things suggested could be used in order to publicise the church and propagate its message, we are finally thrown back on the fact that the God-ordained method of spreading the gospel by the "foolishness of preaching" had not been by-passed.

New Churches Launch Out

The church at Wollongong has been in existence only two or three years, and is now about to launch out into a new work at Gwenville, a suburb of Wollongong. The church hopes to arrange a Hinrichsen mission in a few months' time to start a church.

The church at Fairfield, which came into existence last December, has been meeting in a hall. Plans are now in hand for a church home, and it is expected that the new building will be started in a week or two.

Evangelistic Fellowship

In what is known as the Parramatta district there are now fourteen churches. In this district an evangelistic fellowship has been started, the purpose of which is to run missions or conventions in each of the churches throughout the year, and to help the churches in every possible way. It is intended to have a minimum of organisation so as not to involve too many business meetings. The writer has been appointed chairman and Mr. Geo. Verco secretary.

The Habit of Giving

Theme: The Living Church at Worship

Leader.—O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 39, "Now let my soul, eternal King."

Prayer.—"Lord, work in my heart a true faith, a purifying hope, and an unfeigned love towards thee; give me a full trust on thee, reverence of all things that relate to thee; make me fearful to offend thee, thankful for thy mercies, humble under thy corrections, devout in thy service, and sorrowful for my sins; and grant that in all things I may behave myself so, as befits a creature to his Creator, a servant to his Lord; make me diligent in all my duties, watchful against all temptations, perfectly pure and temperate, and so moderate in thy most lawful enjoyments, that they may never become a snare to me; make me also, O Lord, to be so affected towards my neighbor that I never transgress that royal law of thine, of loving him as myself; grant me exactly to perform all parts of justice; yielding to all whatsoever by any kind of right becomes their due, and give me such mercy and compassion, that I may never fail to do all acts of charity to all men, whether friends or enemies, according to thy command and example. Amen."—Thomas a Kempis (1379-1471).

Bible Reading.—1 Cor. 1: 1-9.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 42, "O give thanks to him who made."

DEVOTIONAL MEDITATION

ONE of the hardest things to do is to keep a wise balance between material and spiritual considerations all throughout life. Worship as a part of life is no exception to this task. At times, in the church's life, the emphasis has been placed so much on the necessity of having a sound financial position, that the whole business seems to become callous. At other times so little emphasis has been placed on the necessity of regular giving, and so much on some vague "transaction with the Lord," that giving has degenerated into an excellent opportunity to evade one's rightful duties.

The habit of giving has two sides to it; and if they are kept together as a nut is wrapped in its kernel, then our stewardship at worship will avoid the dangers of emphasising the material or the spiritual at the expense of each other. When the living church at worship fulfils its habit of giving, especially at the offertory, there is much more to it than can be seen with the eye or felt with the hand: there is love. It is this grace of the Christian life which makes it a gift. Were love absent, the habit of giving would degenerate into a reluctant contribution to a pestering charity.

But love is no cover or excuse for harboring the demon of covetousness within us. In fact, we only love and show our love when we are straining our capacity to give to the breaking point. There is no room in the Christian's life when he has "first of all given himself" for shirking the responsibility which he owes to his church. The thought simply does not occur. Everything is subordinated to this one fact: "the love for Christ which is

*It is not the deed we do,
Though the deed be ever so fair,
But the love the dear Lord
looketh for,
Hidden with lowly care
In the heart of the deed so fair.*

*The love is the priceless thing,
The treasure our treasures must hold,
Or ever the Lord will take the gift,
Or tell the worth of the gold
By the love that cannot be told.*

*Behold us, the rich and the poor,
Dear Lord, in thy service draw near;
One consecrateth a precious coin,
One droppeth only a tear;
Look, Master, the love is here!*

—Christina G. Rossetti.



in my life remains there by spilling it out in deeds of love." It is by the habit of giving life, love and means that the living church lives.

*"The secret of life—it is giving;
To minister and to serve;
Love's law binds the man to the angel,
And ruin befalls if we swerve.
There are breadths of celestial horizons
Overhanging the commonest way;
The clod and the star share the glory,
And to breathe is an ecstasy."*

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 508, "Take my life and let it be."

Prayer in Unison.—The Lord's Prayer.

Business Session.

Solo.

"Echoes of Home Missions."

Missionary Letter.

Prayer Session.

Address.—"The Courageous Church in China."

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 21, "Give to our God unending praise."

Prayer.—"Gracious Father, we have come to know something of the meaning of love, because we know thine own love, manifested in Jesus. We love because thou hast first loved us. Teach us all its divine mystery, its sacrifice, its suffering and its joy, that we may thus learn thy secret, and become more like thee. Amen." ("The Daily Altar.")

STATE NEWS

Queensland

Two successful days of fellowship have been held. One was at Albion for overseas missions, when there was an attendance of more than 50 women, and £14 was the amount of the offering. Miss Peters, a missionary from India, was the speaker. The sisters of Albion church provided a delightful luncheon. The other was held at Sunnybank, when 38 sisters were present, and a fine musical pro-

gramme was presented. Mrs. Wendorf was speaker. An offering of £4 was received for Women's Federal Missionary Education Dept.

At the auxiliary meeting on Aug. 3, Mr. Alcorn gave an interesting address.

Mrs. Burnham, who has been very ill, has been restored to health. Mrs. Williams (Kedron) and Mrs. Fordyce (Sunnybank) are both ill in hospital.

South Australia

There were 68 women present at the monthly meeting of the Sisters' Auxiliary on Aug. 4. Mrs. Russell, from Bordertown, was present. The programme for the forthcoming Sisters' Conference was presented and received.

The home missionary superintendent reported £124/7/1 as the result of the penny-per-week collections. £8/4/- was raised in this way during July.

A prayer meeting, held prior to monthly meeting, is well attended.

Mr. Hammer gave an interesting address on the work among aborigines.

The offerings for foreign missions during the year ending June 30 amounted to £126/16/1.

Western Australia

On June 6, at the auxiliary monthly meeting, Mrs. Thickins led devotions which were arranged by Kalgoorlie sisters. 63 members responded to the roll-call.

The financial statement showed a balance of £269/1/-. Mrs. Scott thanked members for bedsocks for the Wooroloo patients.

Mrs. Duncan thanked those who came from Cottesloe and Claremont to assist in the canteen work.

Since last report addresses have been given by Miss Elsie Roxburgh, and Matron Hill, of Bethesda Hospital.

Victoria

All committees report continued and increased activities. On July 27 the 99th mission band was inaugurated at Croydon. On July 28 the overseas committee entertained about 30 ladies at Wattle Park, where Miss M. Furman, one of our missionaries from America, was guest of honor. Miss Furman delighted all with an account of her experiences among the women of India, with whom she has worked for 32 years, and is now returning for her final term of service.

The monthly executive council meeting, held on Aug. 4, was well attended. Mrs. Scambler brought some interesting facts and stories of the work being done at the aborigine mission at Norseman, W.A., and stressed the 1/- per member offering in support of our Federal living link, Mrs. K. Roberts. Miss Furman brought a greeting from the Indian women, and was asked to take a return greeting from our meeting.

New South Wales

A happy day was spent on Aug. 4, when a party of twenty women from the Wollongong church came to Sydney to give the programme at the monthly meeting of conference at City Temple.

Prior to the meeting the executive and superintendents entertained visitors at luncheon at the Y.W.C.A.

Mrs. Stirling, the Wollongong president, gave an interesting address, and the musical items were enjoyed. One who had been a Roman Catholic gave her testimony why she became a Protestant.

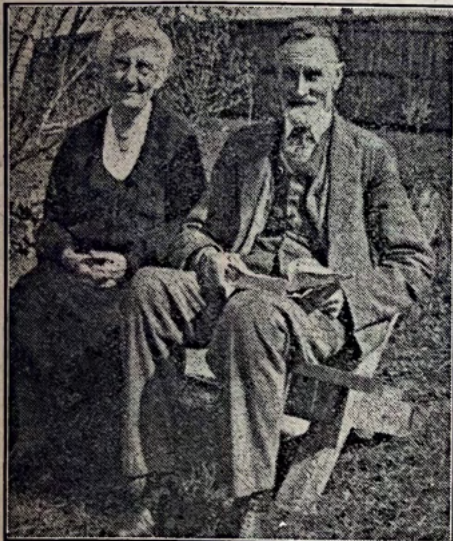
During month the president visited Newcastle, and spoke at the meeting of the district conference.

Mrs. Rush, who has been ill, is improving.

The Australian Christian

A Diamond Wedding

THERE was significance in the fact that on a Lord's Day Mr. and Mrs. Peter Orr, of Launceston, Tas., should celebrate their diamond wedding. This anniversary marks another milestone in their united fellowship in the service of the Lord. It would be difficult to estimate how much under divine blessing the work in Launceston and Tasmania owes to these loyal servants of Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Orr, who are members of the Sand-



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Orr.

hill church, were born in Scotland and were married in Edinburgh. Mrs. Orr was formerly a school teacher in Cumberland. After their marriage they settled in Cumberland, where Mr. Orr worked in the mines.

In 1886 they came to Australia, and before coming to Tasmania spent eighteen months in Western Australia. They have lived in Launceston ever since. Mr. Orr joined the church 52 years ago during a visit to Launceston of Sydney Black. Mrs. Orr was immersed the following year by J. G. Price. Mr. Orr was for thirty odd years the secretary of the Launceston church when it met in the Temperance Hall and laterly in their present building in Margaret-st. When for long periods the church was without a full-time preacher, our brother often conducted and addressed the gatherings. Few homes in Tasmania have been more "given to hospitality" than theirs.

Mr. Orr has ever been a great student of the word. He and his good wife can say with the Psalmist, "Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage."

Mr. Orr is 85 and Mrs. Orr 86 years of age. They have a family of five. Their elder son, John, was the second Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar. He is now Professor of French in Edinburgh University. The daughters are Mrs. T. R. Arnot, Mrs. H. Masterman (both of Launceston) and Miss Hannah Orr, of Melbourne. The second son, Mr. T. Orr, is the secretary of the Sandhill church.

A great host of friends whose lives have been enriched in knowing these pioneers of Tasmanian churches of Christ join in wishing them the Father's blessing.—S. H. Wilson.

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 crossfiring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.)

THE LORD'S RETURN

I SHOULD like to express my appreciation of Mr. Scambler's article in the "Christian" dated July 26. This is a timely message, and pleasing to many of us who love to think of our Lord's coming again, but who hate the simple fact to be weighed down by "burdens heavy to be borne." It is significant that the preaching of the apostles on the subject was not "surrounded by clusters of opinions."—L. G. Burgin, Inverell, N.S.W.

SLUMS

I WRITE to congratulate the editor of "The Australian Christian" for issue of Aug. 17, with a special word of appreciation for the article by Miss Marjorie Buckingham.

The data on the slums opens up the main issue of current political and economic problems which has yet to be faced by the church.

Slums, poverty, unemployment and war are inevitable consequences of an economic system that is basically unsound and unchristian. It denies the essential Christian teaching of brotherhood, co-operation, moral purpose, and is materialistic from root to fruits.

I am amazed more every day I live to find Christians championing it—supporting both the system and its machinery—including stock

exchange and land speculation—the most respectable forms of gambling and unearned increment.

A combination of selfishness and prejudice seems to blind most to the causes of the evils we condemn.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God" is a good text for Sunday. But in the final analysis, investments, profits and privileges usually prove too strong for the ideals. But while that remains so, how dare we preach the kingdom of God to others?

Let the church face facts and declare her attitude without fear of favor, and people will begin to listen to her voice.—Andrew A. Hughes.

A PLEA FOR PROPHECY

BECAUSE someone has said that the pope is the antichrist and that Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini are the three unclean spirits of Rev. 16: 13, and others have set days and dates for the Lord's return, I cannot see why these should be made reasons for discouraging some and causing others to despise and neglect "prophecy," as, unfortunately, is the case to-day.

I have found that those who oppose "prophecy," including good earnest preachers, have not made a frank, unbiased and close study of it, while others avoid it because they believe it to be controversial.

It is true, however, that prophecy is a unique part of the Bible. No other religious writings contain prophecy. Peter reminds us that "we have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place . . . hearts" (2 Peter 1: 19, also 20 and 21).

The preacher who does not balance his

preaching with the light of prophecy is making a serious mistake, and is at great loss, for he is depriving himself of one of the mightiest means of bringing conviction and decision. Here is my personal testimony concerning "prophecy":—

1. It stimulates evangelism. (108 decisions in four years speaks for itself.) This is the real task of the church. Social reform will soon follow when men are saved from sin.

2. It deepens consecration—a dire need of the church.

3. It quickens missionary effort.

4. It separates from the world and sets affections on things above.

5. It keeps the church from departing from fundamental doctrines.

6. It promotes an understanding of the whole Bible and encourages Bible study—surely an urgent need of the times.

7. It proves the Bible to be the infallible word of God.

8. It helps us to understand the course of this world, the world-wide spiritual declension and the signs which shall precede our Lord's return. That Bible teaching is related to world events, and that the Jew is God's time-piece, cannot be successfully denied. John Wesley said he read the papers "to see how God was moving in the world."—Cecll W. Jäckel, Horsham, Vic.

World of Books

Thoughts For This Crisis

THE thoughts of great thinkers become known to the people who follow in the next generation. What great men think to-day will not reach the ordinary person for twenty or thirty years. Leading scholars of the last decade were wrestling with the thoughts occupying the attention of men and women throughout the world to-day. If we are to grasp, even lightly, the situation to-day, we must have some knowledge of the works of great thinkers of the present and immediate past. Since the basic problem of life is bound up with man's attitude to religious principles, it is of importance to find out what those men think about God and his way of life. Any writer who strives to help us understand what leading teachers say about the deeper issues of life is making a valuable contribution. Kenneth Henderson, M.A., B.Litt., has rendered valued service in writing his book entitled "Thoughts for To-day." The main thoughts of thirteen leading philosophers and religious teachers are presented in a small volume. About six or seven pages are sufficient for the writer to gather up the main thought of the scholar. Mr. Henderson had been told by one of his teachers at Oxford that he ought to be able to get down the leading idea of any philosopher on the back of an envelope. Of course many details must be left out of such a brief summary of a great man's teachings, but some idea of his viewpoint can be gained. Mr. Henderson is writing for the ordinary readers; and anybody ready to take pains and to read carefully will be able to follow his discussions. Amongst those selected for study are Bergson, Inge, Whitehead, Bosanquet, Carrel, Berdyaev and Niebuhr. I gather that the tendency of thought is back from idealism to realism, perhaps idealism tempered by realism. We may be entering into a world in which men will not hide in the clouds of isolationism, but be ready to face facts with realism and courage. I hope younger preachers will read this little book and be encouraged to read some of the books suggested by Mr. Henderson.

"Thoughts for To-day," by Kenneth Henderson, M.A., B.Litt. Publishers, Clarendon Publishing Co., Sydney. Order from Austral Co. 3/-; posted, 3/2.

Notes on Various Topics

Our Young People

W. R. Hibburt

Call to Prayer and Dedication

KING GEORGE has issued a call to his subjects to regard September 3 as a day of prayer and dedication. Many will be glad to honor this request, but careless multitudes will disregard it. Five years of war should have conveyed some lessons to all. We have many reasons for gratitude, especially in this favored land of Australia. We still face grave problems and difficulties, and prayer for blessing and guidance will never be unnecessary, but deliverances from perils and the progress of the liberating forces of the allied nations should ensure that thanksgiving will also be offered. The King calls also for dedication. They who have been preserved and blessed should determine to express their gratitude in changed and better living. The thing which our nation supremely needs is a due acknowledgment of God and a turning from selfish, self-centred and pleasure-seeking living to the service of our Lord.

Pure Gold

A review by Mr. R. A. Hickin of a symposium contained in a new publication on "The Inadequacy of Non-Christian Religion" closed with the following summary paragraph: "Expressed succinctly, the obvious difference between Christianity and other religions, apart from the question of revelation, is that in Christianity there is no impurity. All is pure gold. In the other faiths there are noble elements, exalted teaching, and, in some, a high morality; but side by side with these there is practical heathenism, immoral living and gross superstition. Thus, as the writers believe, those who go out as messengers of Christianity are on firm ground, nothing can rob them of the confidence that their faith is everywhere and at all times unique." This statement is true when by Christianity we

mean the religion and revelation of Jesus Christ as distinguished from the debasements and corruptions of church history. Christianity as it was in the mind of our Lord was perfect. We cannot get beyond it. But "immoral living and gross superstition" have sometimes crept in, and even now they exist in what we call Christendom. Were all professed Christians to hold the faith and live the life of the Son of God, the power of our witness would be increased a hundredfold. Let us maintain the purity of the Christian faith and practice.

Varia

Important topics of national and world interest abound. The transformation of the war situation strengthens hopes of early liberation of oppressed peoples and of subsequent peace. It has been thrilling to hear the broadcasts from liberated places in France with their record of the delirium of joy at the allied successes. What must it be for loyal French people to be welcoming their own army as comrades of the allied forces bringing freedom! Deploring the terrible loss of life and war's devastation, we rejoice that in west and east, in Europe and the Pacific, aggressors are being discomfited and defeated.

The reduction in coal stocks threatens to bring much discomfort and injury to Australia. No constitutional amendment is needed to give the government power of control. May it have the will and wisdom to act for the best interests of the people. Prayer for peace should include in its scope petition for internal and industrial peace.

A. R. Main

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

THE PEACE OF GOD

"THE darkness seems to thicken,
And the scenes of sin increase;
They may move my heart to pity,
But they cannot touch my peace."

"WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?"

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

Mr. Jones found some holes in his stockings and asked his wife, "Why haven't you mended these?"

"Did you buy that coat you promised me?" "No-o," he replied.

"Well, then, if you don't give a wrap, I don't give a darn."

"This week Mars is 47,000,000 miles from the earth, but will be gradually moving away again. And looking around at world affairs, who can blame it?"

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—"TO THIS END WAS I BORN"

Sept. 4—Eph. 1: 1-14.
" 5—Eph. 1: 15-23.
" 6—Col. 1: 9-23.
" 7—Phil. 2: 1-11.
" 8—Heb. 3: 1-10.
" 9—John 18: 28-32.
" 10—Amos 6; John 18: 33-40.

AT the mock trial of Jesus, the chief accusation was that he claimed to be a king. Because of this he was derisively saluted, crowned with platted thorns, arrayed with a purple garment, cruelly smitten, and dishonored by a superscription above his cross in three languages. In answer to Pilate's question, "Art thou a king?" Jesus said, "To this end was I born, that I might bear witness to the truth," thus revealing the nature of his kingdom, and showing that his mission was to bear witness to and reveal the truth. And in the light of scripture teaching, we may reverently say, "To this end, that he should die, was he born," for nothing short of crucifixion could complete the divine plan.

"Junior J"

has made the greatest discovery in the world. He has come to know Jesus as his Helper and Friend—his Saviour! He has become a Christian. "Junior J" has adventures in living the Christian life. These are depicted in a three-page folder issued by the Victorian Young People's Department.

"Inter I"

has answered the greatest call. "Inter" relates to his pals how Christ is his Leader at all times and in all places. This is made graphic in a small folder.

Illustrated Pamphlets

IT is important that young people have clear concepts about the Christian life. Too often we use adult language and experience, and confuse the issues in the mind of youth. The above pamphlets are an attempt at simplification by the use of practical illustrations in youth's realm of interests. The statements are graded to the juniors and intermediates, and are recommended for wise distribution at the time of decision. They are on sale for 9d. per dozen from the Victorian Churches of Christ Young People's Department, Room 321, T. & G. Building, 147 Collins-st., Melbourne, C.1.

A PREACHER'S APPOINTMENT

AMONG the important appointments of a week for a preacher is the one which takes him to the State school to give scripture instruction. Its importance is realised when the following facts are appreciated:—

- (1) It puts a Christian content into the educational processes;
- (2) It is the only occasion for many children when they are made at home with holy things, and when God's name is spoken in reverence and his word honored;
- (3) Jesus is set forth as the pattern for living.

At the request of conference the Victorian Young People's Department takes an offering for the work of the Council for Christian Education in Schools. During August and September most churches arrange for an evening offering. Since the council is expanding its work, all churches are encouraged to participate.

SCRIPTURE EXAMINATION, 1944

TASMANIAN PRIZE-WINNERS

Div. 1.—1, Shirley Bassett and Shirley Martin, Sandhill, equal, 98; 2, Harry Harvey, Caveside, 93; 3, Leonie Pipef, Margaret-st., 90.

Div. 2.—Special, Eleanor Arnot, Sandhill, 99; 1, Margaret Dixon, Sandhill, 98; 2, Shirley McHenry, Sandhill, 95; 3, Peter Bassett and Neta Orr, Sandhill, equal, 94.

Div. 3.—Special, Dianne Fish, Sandhill, 98; 1, Janice Shields, Margaret-st., 96; 2, Lois Younger and Max Horder, Margaret-st., equal, 94; 3, Jack Smillie and Peter Smith, Caveside, equal, 93.

Div. 4.—1, Laurie Horder, Margaret-st., 99; 2, Beverley Bassett, Sandhill, 98; 3, Geoff. Masters, Sandhill, 97.

Div. 5.—1, Syd. Ritchie, Margaret-st., 93; 2, Elaine Stevens, Margaret-st., 91; 3, Malcolm Davis, West Hobart, 85.

Div. 6.—Special, Joyce Barton, Margaret-st., 81; 2, Betty Johnson, Margaret-st., 78.

Div. 8.—2, Miss G. Barton, Margaret-st., 78.

Div. 10.—Special, Mrs. A. R. Harvey, Caveside, 91.

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Here and There

We learn that J. E. Thomas, of North Williamstown, Vic., who is in Epworth Hospital, is cheerful. We understand that our brother is to be operated on within a day or so.

The following telegram from Sydney reached us on Monday: "E. C. Hinrichsen had wonderful jubilee services Petersham Sunday; chapel full first time in years; two adults decided.—Morris."

In a letter to the Federal F.M. Board, written within sight of Nduindui, Mrs. Waterman tells of the safe arrival of the missionaries (Mrs. Waterman and Miss Clipstone) in the New Hebrides, also reporting that H. Finger and R. Saunders were well.

"When intoxicants have been made, sold, and consumed, there is nothing to show for the expenditure except a certain crop of trouble, poverty, crime, and disease. It is more than sheer waste. It would have been better for everybody concerned if all the money had been expended in digging holes and filling them up again."—Sir Thomas P. Whittaker, M.P.

Friends will be glad to know that "Temperance Speaks" will be heard in future from 3SR Stepparton and 3UL Warragul on Friday nights at 9.50. On Mondays, at the same time, it will be heard on 3WB Warrnambool. The talks begin on Sept. 1. These series of temperance talks are sponsored by the Victorian Local Option Alliance, Clyde House, 182 Collins-st., Melbourne.

We are glad to learn that Chaplain J. K. Martin continues to enjoy success in his work. In a personal letter dated Aug. 21 he says: "Yesterday I had communion with several of our church lads as well as other Christians. There was Eddie Mott, E. Kew; Ron Woff, Cheltenham; Dick Rhodes, Mitcham, and several Christians from different churches. At night I preached at the local Presbyterian church and Ron Woff sang a solo. The church folk entertained the soldiers at supper after the service in the hall."

Andrew A. Hughes writes: "There is very great need at present for young men who will devote time to boys' club work. In the Melbourne Boys' Clubs Association, catering for about 700 boys altogether, we have need immediately of youth leaders, trained gymnasts and club organisers. Difficulties have been increased by the absence of young men in the Services, but if any who are available and willing to do this work, either trained or untrained, I would be very glad to have them contact me. We will even arrange for training courses to be undertaken by suitable young men, and provide all expenses."

Chaplain Victor R. Griffin, formerly of Victoria, and a past student of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, is associated with Corps Medical Battalion, of the U.S.A. Army, which has been honored with the presentation of a plaque and clasp for its work in the Italian campaign. J. S. Payton, writing of Chaplain Griffin's work in "The Christian-Evangelist," quotes our brother as saying of the men: "I do not know whether more of them have turned to religion than have fallen away, but I do know that religion means more to a lot of men than it ever meant before." Of the ready confession of one lad he writes: "After one of our litter-bearers had returned from carrying wounded under fire, one of the men for the first time began attending services regularly. One of his companions said to him, 'Red, you've changed your ideas, haven't you?' Red replied, 'Brother, up there you don't have to change your ideas. You get them changed for you.'"

By telegram the following message reached us on Aug. 28:—"Weekly meetings conducted at Bankstown, N.S.W., by E. C. Hinrichsen are inspiring and helpful; mother and son decided for Christ on Thursday night.—Budgen."

With President Roosevelt commending the reading of the Bible to those who are serving in the armed forces, the Army will soon begin distribution of 1,250,000 pocket-size testaments especially prepared for the three major religious groups. The President has written a foreword and the Army's Chief Chaplains the afterword.

"Owing to shortage of paper in England, the British and Foreign Bible Society, together with the American Society, has placed an order in Sweden for 95,000 Bibles and 250,000 Testaments—so few among so many. These books are to be sent as soon as possible to France, Czecho-slovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Greece, Rumania, Estonia and Latvia, and the cost is estimated at £55,000. If 95,000 Bibles and 250,000 Testaments cost £55,000, what will the millions needed cost?"

A refresher course for preachers was conducted at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, last week. Forty preachers, several from country churches, enrolled for course. At the opening session on Monday evening, B. J. Combridge set the tone for week's fellowship and study by a searching address on "Seeking Life's Higher Levels." Four sessions of an hour and a half were held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and there were two on Friday morning. The subjects dealt with were (1) The Church and the Modern World (Lecturers, W. R. Hibbert, G. J. Andrews, R. L. Williams and V. C. Stafford); (2) The Preacher in the Modern World (Lecturers, H. G. Earle,

C. B. Nance-Kivell and T. H. Scambler); and (3) The Restoration Movement in the Modern World (Lecturer, E. L. Williams). An unplanned for visitor was Dr. W. Moore, an Australian who was a Middle Park member, who went to Butler University and Chicago University (where he secured his Ph.D.), and then became a professor in Butler University. Latterly he has been a chaplain to the American Forces in New Britain. Dr. Moore delivered three lectures at the Refresher Course: The Perils of the Preacher, and Modern Trends in (a) O.T. Scholarship and (b) N.T. Scholarship. The members were greatly blessed by his messages. It was admitted on all hands that the whole course of studies reached a particularly high standard. Ladies from different churches assisted the college staff in preparing the meals. The help of the churches in covering the expenses of the fares, etc., is much appreciated.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE WOMEN'S FEDERAL CONFERENCE

THE Federal appeal for the living link (Joan Roberts) has met with a splendid response. Many States received more than their quota, and have diverted the extra to other comforts at the aborigines station. The full amount for year 1944 (£185) has been forwarded to the secretary, Aborigines' Board.

Although we have not yet been able to have a Federal conference of women, we have much to be thankful for in that we have been spared the ravages of war in our own land. The committee has suggested to the various States that a thankoffering be made, and the money be sent to our sisters in the United Kingdom, to be used for comforts for sick and wounded soldiers, or for rehabilitating women and children who have been bombed out of their homes.—A. R. Bates, Federal secretary.

From Week to Week

I HAVE been reading the proof-sheets of a book on sermon construction written by T. H. Scambler, principal of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris. The book will not be ready for sale for a month or so. When copies are available I hope to find space for a review of the book. Mr. Scambler can write in an easy and interesting style. One is carried on by the easy flow of words, and it seems to suggest that constructing sermons is an easy task. Every now and again the writer does stop to impress upon the student that considerable industry is required to construct a good sermon. Like learning to swim, you must practise sermon construction and the art of preaching before you can become proficient. Of course practising is not enough; certain principles must be grasped and applied if one is to become an acceptable preacher. Mr. Scambler has gathered up the fundamental essentials, and has stated them in simple language. Not only students, but those who have passed through their training course, will benefit from a study of this book.

DR. J. S. WHALE tells a story, in his book entitled "Christian Doctrine," about a young curate who went to William Stubbs, bishop of Oxford, and asked him for some advice on preaching. The bishop was silent for a moment, and then replied, "Preach about God; and preach about twenty minutes." There is commonsense in the bishop's reply. Preaching must be based on themes related to God. Sermons must make it clear what God would have men do. The sermon ought to be bound up with the whole of the worship service. It must not dominate, but blend into the rest of the service. If it is only a lecture or a statement of facts, it will fail: it must inspire and lift worshippers to the Throne of Heaven.

Sermons can become wearisome, if they are prolonged. Only on special occasions can they be extended with effectiveness. Careful preparation will enable the preacher to exclude unnecessary items and words from the sermon. Time will be gained and hearers will be saved from much useless detail, if the preacher is able to prepare well.

It would be beneficial for both preacher and hearer if the advice of that wise bishop of Oxford were heeded.

PARIS has been liberated. What rejoicings there have been in France! The fact that so many are being liberated from the yoke of a foreign power brings joy to many who are bowed by the burden of war's sorrow. Soon France will rise again. From the enthusiastic manner in which those who once lived in France speak of Paris, there must be something in the national life of France that can capture the hearts of men and women. As one who knows France only from casual reading, I have gained the impression that France lacked the stability pure religion gives a nation. It seems that France will become a great nation again; but only if God is given a central place in her life. Then pious souls like Marshal Foch will rise to lead the nation. It was well known that the Marshal spent a great deal of time in prayer, seeking divine help and guidance during the dark days of the first world war.

LONG letters for the Open Forum cannot be inserted. Space limits demand that letters be kept short. Efforts are made not to alter the sense of a statement when parts are deleted. We aim at doing our best to meet the wishes of correspondents. There are rules to be observed, and we ask our friends to observe them. Thank you!

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth.—On morning of Aug. 20, visitors included F. W. Whitley, R.A.A.F. J. K. Robinson, who gave a highly instructive talk, had completed his first year of happy service with the church. At 7.30 p.m., E. R. Berry was leader of a hearty song service. Mr. Robinson struck a heavy blow at the drink evil before he delivered the gospel message.

Subiaco.—Chaplain R. Vincent was a visitor on Aug. 13, and preached at evening service. There was a good attendance. It being Orange and Flower Sunday, Endeavorers visited Home of Peace and Bethesda Hospital with generous gifts of oranges and flowers. Girls' Club gave an excellent concert in King's Hall, Subiaco, on Aug. 16. There was a large attendance, and proceeds were nearly £20. R. J. Duckett, of Victoria Park, spoke at morning service on Aug. 20, and R. Raymond preached at night, when a young lad made the good confession. Cpl. Ted Martin, of Horsham, Vic., was among visitors during the day.

Maylands.—Church and auxiliaries are in good heart. A. McRoberts is preaching powerfully. There is much interest, and strangers are attending. Morning attendances average 71, evening 80. Community services followed by singing of hymns and supper, held monthly, are appreciated. On Aug. 20 the aged mother of Malcolm and late Lionel Johnston attended. Ray Burdeu, of Brisbane, helped. Mrs. Swaine was welcomed from Subiaco. At evening meeting Mrs. Hollett sang a solo. Mr. McRoberts replied to questions. Mrs. Burdeu is having a rest at home before returning to hospital. Cpl. Unice Longbottom's presence on leave has been enjoyed. Sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. R. Rhoades in their bereavement is expressed.

Queensland

Maryborough.—Morning meetings continue to be well attended. The church welcomes into fellowship for the time being Jack Savill, R.A.A.F. Mrs. Smith (senr.) and A. Payne are well enough to attend services again. Miss E. Smith and Mr. Gossley are sick in hospital. Good Companions' Club is making progress. Much sickness prevails among members.

MANSE PURCHASED

CHAPEL DEBT CLEARED BY SPECIAL OFFERING

IPSWICH.—The church is blessed with a fine body of young people. An adult Bible class has been commenced. Sunday school is practising for anniversary. The church took up a special offering and cleared the building of debt. A very fine manse has been procured close to the chapel. W. Jones is in hospital with a crushed foot. Ladies' Guild is doing a fine work. Mr. Larsen is giving a series of addresses on the world's great crises.

Roma.—Attendance at all meetings is well maintained. On Aug. 20 Mr. Shakespeare, general secretary of B. and F. Bible Society, spoke at morning service. Jas Fyfe passed away on Aug. 17 in Brisbane General Hospital at the age of 80, and was buried at Roma on Aug. 19. Mr. Wylie conducted a service in the chapel and later at the graveside. He also conducted a memorial service on evening of Aug. 20. At annual meeting of local branch of B. and F. Bible Society on Aug. 21, L. R. Pitman was re-elected president and E. McIntosh secretary, both having held these offices for four years.

New South Wales

Rockdale.—On Aug. 13 Mr. Burns spoke morning and evening to good congregations. A young girl from the Bible school made the good confession. On Aug. 20 Mr. Burns brought a helpful exhortation. Several visitors were present, including Max Wilson, from New Guinea, and others in the Services on leave. At night Mr. Burns addressed a large congregation, at close of which a baptismal service was held.

Bexley North.—On Aug. 13, in absence of preacher at Wollongong, A. Rae (Marrickville) exhorted church, and gospel service was taken by J. Saville and L. C. Yelds. Miss Hope Toyer was soloist. On Aug. 20 J. Henderson spoke at both services. Miss Thompson (Rockdale) rendered a solo. Junior C.E. held an arts competition, and a number of drawings were exhibited. Opening date of new building has been postponed to Sept. 23.

North Sydney.—Much encouragement has come from two additions by faith and obedience. Sickness is prevalent and reduces attendances. More young people are attending services, and these offer opportunities. Hearty congratulations were expressed to Miss Ivy Fleetwood on her gaining a 100 per cent. pass in school examinations, and to Jean Robertson on her third prize. Other results were also very satisfactory. Special appeal to raise £200 in twelve months for building fund is making good progress.

South Australia

Whyalla.—Attendances at all services are good. In recent scripture examination, six certificates of merit were obtained in addition to other passes. Mr. Matthews has been elected secretary of preachers' fraternal. Several Y.P. members attended rally held at Tumbly Bay. Sister Harrington is in hospital seriously ill.

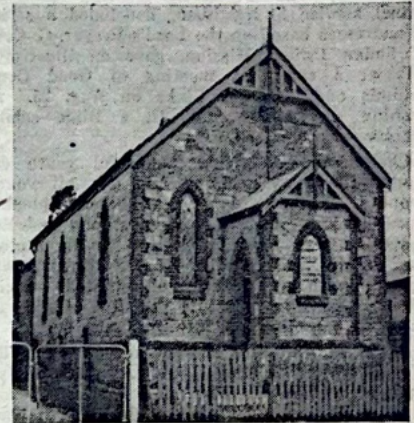
Edwardstown West.—Fourth annual meeting of Ladies' Sunshine Circle was a great success, 16 societies being represented and 45 persons being present. Report shows good work accomplished. On Aug. 19 Miss P. Hunting, from Victoria, was married to Mr. Niehus. On Aug. 20 the church joined in a combined service in Methodist church in connection with a united campaign arranged by Unley and Mitcham Ministers' Fraternal. K.S.P. and girls' clubs are making progress.

Winkie.—On Aug. 13 Mr. Williams spoke in morning. Evening service was combined with Berri. Mr. Hunt was elected superintendent of Bible school at church business meeting. School has commenced practice for anniversary. Attendance for some weeks has been small; many scholars have been sick. Ten scholars and four teachers sat for scripture examination. Highest marks for school, 97, were obtained by Vera Searle. Mr. Johnson presided and preached at Winkie on Aug. 20. Mr. Chapple conducted evening service. Visitors were welcomed.

Murray Bridge.—In the chapel the wedding of Murray F. Hutchinson (A.I.F.), and Miss Nelley I. McDonald took place on Aug. 19. N. G. Noble officiating. An immersed believer was received into membership on Aug. 20. N. G. Noble will close his 4½ years of local ministry at end of January. A special minute of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Noble was recorded unanimously at a splendid annual meeting of church on Aug. 24. W. E. Harper and N. G. Noble were re-elected elders. Deacons for ensuing year: F. C. Mitchell, A. C. Page, C. O. Harper, J. Gibson, D. C. Dix, Colin Mitchell, A. R. Coote, L. C. Fitzgerald and Douglas Butler. Keith F. Mitchell (R.A.A.F.), wounded in France, is recovering well in England.

Fullarton.—There has been an increase of scholars in Sunday school during last few weeks. A house-to-house campaign is being arranged to try to interest children to come to school. A visit from Mr. and Mrs. Kennett, from Victoria, was enjoyed on Aug. 13, and from Mr. Woodward, Chatswood, N.S.W., on Aug. 20.

Naracoorte.—Junior Christian Endeavor had a good commencement, and has been going on steadily since. Officers appointed; Percy Foster, secretary; Mrs. K. H. Foster, organist; A. C. Killmier, superintendent. Practice for Bible school anniversary has begun. At annual general business meeting of church, income



The Chapel at Naracoorte.

from all sources and for all purposes was shown to have doubled during past three years. Ladies of Sisters' Guild have begun making toys for Christmas tree. Foreign mission offering for year reached £24.

Long Plains-Avon.—Miss Jean Chivell made the good confession on Aug. 13. Mr. Standley passed away in Adelaide at the age of 87, and was laid to rest in the Shannon Cemetery. On Aug. 12 Boys' Four Square Club from Glenelg gave a concert at Avon for the A.C.F., £9 being realised. At a P.S.A. service the club sang anthems and solos which were appreciated.

Victoria

Hampton.—Social service offering was over £13. On Aug. 27 C. L. Lang illustrated his gospel address with lantern slides. An offering was taken for scripture in schools fund.

Hartwell.—C. J. Robinson's messages are appreciated. On Aug. 20 Bible class attended a combined meeting of all Bible classes in district. Among visitors to church has been Mrs. Jeffries, of Fremantle, W.A. A cricket club, under presidency of A. Hancock, has been formed.

Ascot Vale.—Mr. Burt, of the college, was married to Miss Pollard on Aug. 19, Mr. Bensley officiating. Social service offering was £47/-. An afternoon was held in home of Mrs. Young; Miss Scott gave an address on mission work. P.B.P. girls visited Royal Park Home and entertained about 50 junior and senior girls.

Minyip.—Services, although small, are well maintained. During past few months, fellowship of a number of visitors has been enjoyed. On Aug. 13, at commencement of G. T. Black's ninth year of service, words of thanks and appreciation were spoken for his faithful ministry with the church. Overseas offering amounted to £5. The church is planning for district conference.

The Australian Christian

Newmarket.—On Aug. 20 and 27 Mr. Graham spoke at both services. A party travelled to Camberwell mission. After gospel service on Aug. 27, a cup of tea was served. R. Jones is home on leave from N.G. Mrs. Bruce was soloist at gospel service.

Frankston.—On Aug. 13 J. C. F. Pittman addressed the church in morning; T. Hagger was at Chelsea. On Aug. 20, 84 were present at Bible school. Mr. Hagger has been appointed superintendent. One scholar gained an honor, one a merit, and several gained passes in annual examinations. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Beattie in the loss of her brother.

Oakleigh.—Dr. Moore, U.S. Army chaplain, was speaker at worship service on Aug. 20. At gospel service S. Neighbour concluded a series of addresses based on the Lord's Prayer. C. Cole, of Sudan United Mission, gave an illustrated talk at a combined meeting of Good Companions and Explorer Clubs on Aug. 25. At evening service on Aug. 27, a Bible school scholar was baptised.

Cheltenham.—A highly successful youth demonstration was held on Aug. 20; all young people's auxiliaries having a share. Splendid word by Explorers, Good Companions and Endeavorers was appreciated, and youth leaders are greatly heartened. W. R. Hibbert was present with a lantern and assisted. Social service offering to date is £12/10/-. Children's Day boxes realised £2/10/- on first day.

Moreland.—Visiting speaker recently was Dr. W. Moore, chaplain, U.S.A. Army. Soloists have been Miss G. Workman, Mrs. Bruce and Mrs. A. Taylor. The concert given by Malvern Girls' Choir, sponsored by Bible school, raised £16 towards troops comfort fund. Young People's Fellowship raised £4/3/6 towards youth camp site. £10 was donated by ladies of church to living link, Norseman aborigine station. Social service offerings have totalled £27.

Shepparton.—On Aug. 6 W. Gale visited the church on home mission work and conducted services. On Monday night he gave an illustrated lecture. At C.E. birthday celebrations on Aug. 13, A. W. C. Candy, of E. Kew church, was speaker, his messages being appreciated by good congregations. He also spoke at half-yearly rally of Goulburn Valley C.E. Union. Arrangements have been made for a volunteer mission with K. Macnaughtan, of Geelong.

Middle Park.—At morning service on Aug. 20 Mr. Brooker gave a helpful address. Mr. Stewart spoke at gospel service. Phi Beta Club was visited by members of Carnegie club on Aug. 24. Mr. Stewart spoke at morning service on Aug. 27, and D. Cartmel, of the college, at gospel service in absence of Mr. Whiting. D. Stewart's resignation as preacher of South Melbourne-Middle Park circuit was received with much regret. Mr. Dowell, senior, is seriously ill.

Bayswater.—On Aug. 20, at close of Mr. McCullough's address, a young lady made the good confession. Last Sunday night, Methodists joined in gospel service, when F. Garrett (Methodist) conducted. The Methodist choir rendered an anthem and Mrs. F. Finger a solo, both being appreciated by a good congregation. At close of the service the congregation had a season of prayer for combined mission to commence on Sept. 9. Bible school has joined in "Faithful Fishermen" campaign.

Geelong.—During August a special series of addresses by K. Macnaughtan proved most helpful. Attendances are excellent despite the number laid aside through sickness. Bible school, under direction of A. Carr, is doing a good work. Scholars are enthusiastic, and a happy spirit prevails. Church extends sympathy to Sister Colman, whose mother passed away recently. Good wishes of church go with Miss V. Callanan as she leaves Geelong to take up an important position in Melbourne. Her work has been an inspiration and blessing, particularly among the youth.

Footscray.—D. C. Ritchie was the speaker at both meetings on Aug. 27. Mrs. B. Hughes was the visiting soloist at evening service. A welcome home social in honor of R. Arnold, S. Cousins, D. Hardinge, H. Helmore, D. McGregor and Mrs. Joy Roderick, now back in civilian life after service in the Forces, was held on Aug. 22. Y.P.S.C.E. meeting was in the form of a round-table discussion on Aug. 23. Cricket club held a successful social evening on Aug. 26.

Warracknabeal.—On Aug. 20, following Mr. Black's address, a lady confessed Christ. A young lady from Bible class was immersed. "Faithful Fishermen" campaign was launched on Aug. 20 with encouraging beginning, there being 51 present. Three new scholars at-



The Chapel at Warracknabeal.

tended. Bible school work is a very bright unit of church. Both junior and young people's Christian Endeavor society continue to have good attendances. Mr. Black, who has completed eight years of ministry in the circuit, continues to render faithful service.

Dunolly.—The church appreciated the help of visitors from Maryborough church on Aug. 6. R. Hindman addressed gospel meeting; Mrs. Robertson brought a message in song and Miss N. Kirk played the organ. The help of Miss G. Scott was appreciated on Aug. 20, when she brought a message in song at gospel service. Sunday school is showing interest in competition for F.M. Children's Day appeal and also in the "Faithful Fishermen" competition. Scholars gained one honor, three merits and two passes in examination. Electric light has been installed in chapel. The home-call came to the church treasurer, W. J. Scott, on Aug. 2, and sympathy is expressed to the bereaved.

Mitcham.—On July 23 R. Rhodes, home on leave from N.G., received a presentation from church after gospel service. Y.P.S.C.E. has resumed on Thursdays under leadership of Mr. Pratt, after several months' recess. On morning of Aug. 27, Mr. Grenness spoke, and at gospel service a group from Gardiner church attended, and Allan Thomas spoke, 43 being present. The service was followed by chorus singing, after which tea was served. Sympathy of church is extended to Mrs. Watson in the loss of her sister (Mrs. Wiseman), Miss I. McKay, in the loss of her uncle (Mr. McLure), and Mrs. Tidd, in the loss of her husband, a past member of Bambra-rd. church. Mr. Clipstone officiated at the funeral. A. H. Pratt and A. Bailey are recovering after sickness.

South Yarra.—On Aug. 20, visitors included Mr. Weir, from Warranbool, who addressed the church. Alan Wordie, R.A.A.F., on leave, was received into fellowship. A lad from the Bible school was baptised and received in on Aug. 27. In recognition of E. Roffey's work, the church has increased his salary by 20 per cent. Last Sunday girls of the Services were invited to gospel meeting, and supper was served. Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Hall delighted with solos. An offering was received for Christian education in State schools. Attendances at Bible school are still increasing, average for last month being 121. J.C.E. donated £1 towards support of Indian orphan. Sympathy was extended to relatives of Mrs. Mayman, who passed away last week. She had been a faithful member since 1894.

Gardenvale.—August has been a month of spiritual revival under Mr. Anderson's leadership. On morning of Aug. 20, a special every-member-present meeting was held, and in evening a "families" service was conducted, when Mr. Anderson gave a stirring address to a large audience. At conclusion of service two Bible school girls made the good confession, thus making a total of five young people who have confessed Christ this month. At same meeting, the first baptismal service was conducted in chapel. On Aug. 18 the new girls' club held its first meeting under leadership of Miss R. Sumpton. Out of 10 scholars who sat for the recent Sunday school examinations, two obtained honors, five merits and two passes. The mission band has presented to church a cushion for pulpit. D. Hall is home on leave.

Gardiner.—K.S.P. anniversary services were concluded with men's meeting on Aug. 15 with excellent programme by visiting artists and fine address by H. Chambers, Gardiner Methodist church. 72 young people attended monthly squash at the home of A. Fergus on 19th, when Chaplain Ridgeway, R.A.A.F., was guest speaker. P.B.P. club anniversary services were held on Aug. 20, with T. H. Scambler morning speaker, and R. L. Williams at gospel service. Phi Betas formed choir, with Miss M. Brough as conductress. On 21st Phi Betas held 21st birthday party, when about 80 past and present members had a happy time of fellowship together. Sympathy was expressed to W. Davidson in loss of his mother. E. Cartledge, A.I.F., was welcomed home on leave. Mr. Scambler was speaker at morning meeting on 27th, and C. Cole at the gospel service. After service Mr. Cole gave a lantern lecture on the work of Sudan United Mission to a large combined gathering of members of churches in the district.

Mission Work

IT was of particular interest to me to read in the "Christian" Thomas Hagger's article relating to the life and labors of the late H. G. Harward. My mind was carried back to the days in Bendigo, in 1901, when our brother conducted his first tent mission which, I understand, was the first such mission conducted in Australia. As a lad in my teens, and as a stranger to churches of Christ teaching, I at first listened outside the tent; then on other nights I went inside, until, on almost the last night, I made my decision. I can remember, to this day, the subject spoken upon by the evangelist on that first night, and remember saying to a companion on the way home, "That message is the clearest one I have ever heard." As a member of the church at Bendigo, I was privileged to have a part in the Harward-Pittman mission, held a year or two after the first mission, when some 90 souls were won for Christ. Naturally I have had, at all times, a feeling of deep gratitude to God that he, through this consecrated servant and messenger of the gospel, led me into the fold of Christ. H. G. Harward's evangelistic work has always been a source of inspiration to me; and has helped me considerably to maintain the evangelistic vision.—D. D. Stewart, Middle Park, Vic.

ADDRESSES

L. R. H. Beaumont (preacher Wanganui church, N.Z.).—8 Keith-st., Wanganui.

L. Larsen (preacher Ipswich church, Qld.).—The Manse, 2 Bright-st., East Ipswich.

Men Treasure Freedom

(Continued from front page.)

thought that he was a victim of circumstance and could not help himself. No, rather than do that, he took upon himself the full burden of guilt and cried, "I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matt. 27: 4). To escape from his intolerable burden, Judas sought refuge in death.

Because we are free-will agents, knowing good and evil, when we choose to do the wrong and sin we become aware of evil, and remorse burdens us. How to lighten this burden of remorse is man's major problem. Some seek an escape from it in strong drink, in rounds of foolish pleasure, in drugs or in suicidal death.

Sin points to the truth that man is a being who is superior to all creatures on earth; it also accounts for man's greatest problem. The scriptures analyse man's nature and problem, and make them crystal clear. Human experience, recorded in the great literature of the masters of prose and poetry, confirm the revealed truth.

The Bible provides a solution of the sinner's problem that will not deny man's richest treasure—his free will. In another article we shall discuss the great hope scripture sets before sinful men.

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MARRIAGE

WALKER-POCOCK.—At the church of Christ tabernacle, Margaret-st., Toowoomba, Qld., on Aug. 21, at 7 p.m., the marriage was solemnised of Alfred Stewart Walker, of Pinelands, Crows Nest, to Edith Amelia Poccock, of 70 Channon-st., Gympie, V. G. Boettcher officiating.

BIRTHS

DAHL (Clarke).—On Aug. 19, at Nooralie, to Jean and Carl—a son (Warwick Edward). A brother for Caryl.

STEELE.—On Aug. 23, 1944, to Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. R. Steele, of 31 Salvado-st., Cottesloe, W.A.—a son (Graham John).

DEATHS

CLAY (nee Tully).—On Aug. 18, at Doncaster, Rose, beloved wife of Herbert George, loved mother of Vernon, Mavis and Mildred, eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Tully, loved sister of Albert, John, Ada (Mr. Petty), Nellie (Mrs. Cameron), Elsie (Mrs. May) and Roy. Our loved one at rest.

STEVENS.—On Aug. 15, at the General Hospital, Launceston, William George, dearly loved husband of Ada Stevens, of 9 Brougham-st., Launceston, and loved father of Bertha (deceased) and Doris (Mrs. James, Melbourne), aged 78 years.

IN MEMORIAM

HUNT.—In loving memory of our dear mother, who was called home on Sept. 2, 1943. —Inserted by her loving children, Harold, Leslie, Arthur and Millie.

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Sept. 10.—Gethsemane's Dark Hour.

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

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

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Wednesday, 6 p.m., Fellowship Tea.

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

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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.

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Saturday, 16th, 7.45 p.m., Methodist Church, Motion Pictures and Message.

Sunday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m., Combined Communion, Methodist Church. 3 p.m., Youth Rally, Public Hall. 7 p.m., Public Hall.

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India's Changing Scene

THE Indian deadlock continues, and no solution offered seems acceptable to the several discordant factions. The religions of India are not unrelated to her political ambitions. It is well to remember that, of her 380 million people, 265 million are Hindus, and upwards of 90 million Moslems. Recent issues of the Indian Christian newspaper, "Dnyanodaya" (Rise of Knowledge), contain many interesting sidelights revealing much of the thought of present-day India. We are indebted to the above paper for the following.

Leading Hindu on Christianity

The president of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, Mr. V. S. Sawarkar, recently described Hitler and Mussolini as being "among the foremost representatives of Christianity." Whether such a gross misrepresentation is due to ignorance or to wilful perversion, it is unworthy of an Indian leader of a great political party.

Rights of Indian Christians

Prof. E. Ahmed Shah, of Lucknow, has written to the All-India Council of Indian Christians suggesting that the following print should be discussed at conference of missionary societies in Great Britain: "To insist on a settlement both with India's majority party (Hindus) and the strongest minority party (Muslims) on the question of the right of the propagation for our faith with a view to convert, for it is the inalienable right of the Christians under the great commission given in the following words: 'Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' Gandhiji clearly denies this right in his book on Christian missions."

GANDHI STILL BELOVED

THE bereavement of Gandhiji, in the death of his dear wife Mrs. Kasturba Gandhi at the Aga Khan's palace outside Poona, has appealed to the sympathy of people in every land. In such an hour of sorrow India appeared at her best, as aeroplanes brought to the side of sorrowing Gandhiji leaders of note without distinction of caste or political creed. What memories must have surged through Gandhiji's broken heart as he sat there for five long hours watching the flames burn away

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.

all that was left of the woman he had loved for nearly sixty years since they became one in marriage at thirteen years old! Of all the tributes paid Kasturba Gandhi, we feel the most eloquent has been that by Mrs. Munshi in her sentence, "She was a brave woman without showing it, and a great woman without knowing it."

Memorial to Mrs. Gandhi

A national memorial fund of over £70 million (Aust.) is planned to the memory of Kasturba Gandhi for the purpose of spreading the principles of basic education in which Gandhi has been a firm believer. It is hoped that the sum will be raised by October next, when Gandhi reaches the age of 75 years.

Christian Nationalists and Gandhiji

A resolution welcoming "the release of Gandhiji, and urging government to grant forthwith a general political amnesty, declare Indian independence and take immediate steps to form a representative and composite national government at the centre," has been passed by the executive committee of the National Christian Party. In the opinion of Christian nationalists, this course "would organise the defence of the country in co-operation with the Allies, and also alleviate the distress caused by the war among the masses." After the usual evening prayers at Juhu on Sunday



Mr. and Mrs. Ron Graham.

This young couple are missionaries-elect for India, and hope to leave early after close of college year at Glen Iris. Mr. Graham will have completed his course at Glen Iris, and prior to this training had business training. Mrs. Graham is an experienced kindergarten teacher. For India's new day this couple will be admirably suited.

evening, May 28, a party of Indian Christians, headed by leaders of the Nationalist Christian Party, visited Gandhiji's shack and offered prayers for his long life and blessings for his efforts "to lead our country to freedom and mankind in the path of truth and non-violence." "If God has any service still to take from me, I am sure that your prayers and those of many others in many lands will be answered," observed Gandhiji.

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Obituary

G. F. Bryant

THE church at Ararat, Vic., has suffered great loss in the passing of G. F. Bryant at the advanced age of 86 years. Our late brother was a devout disciple of the Lord. He was a liberal contributor to the work of the local church and to the brotherhood also. He practised tithing and was most careful to see that the amount given was a full tithe. His custom of late years was to pray with his family and friends when present in the home, at 5 o'clock each afternoon. This he never missed. In addition to working in the church, he rendered valuable service to the community as councillor and mayor of the town. He also served on hospital boards, and was made a life-member of the Maryborough Hospital Board. He lived in Maryborough before going to Ararat. His life's calling was that of mine manager and mining superintendent. In this he was regarded as an authority, not only locally but as far away as London his advice was sought. He exerted a great influence for good both in the church and the community where he is greatly missed. His body was laid to rest in Carisbrook cemetery. A service was held in the home at Ararat by E. H. Randall and V. Quayle. We commend the members of the family to the care and blessing of our God.—E.H.R.

G. F. Henderson

THE church at Mildura and the brotherhood I have sustained a loss in the passing of G. F. Henderson at the age of 74. For many months our brother was unable to attend church, but in spite of his illness he maintained a keen interest in it. Baptised at the age of eighteen in the Bungally Creek at Wan Wanda East, near Horsham, our brother came into fellowship with the Horsham church. Then, under the leadership of the late A. B. Maston at South Melbourne, he began active work amongst the churches, and in various parts of the State of Victoria. Very interested in the work amongst young people, he commenced Sunday schools at Wan Wanda East, Polkemmet, Hopetoun, Wargan, Merbein. Evidence of his pioneering spirit is shown in the fact that the church at Merbein commenced in his home. Later it was his joy to see the work grow at Merbein, where he laid the foundation stone of the present building. For the past six years he was in membership with the church at Mildura, where he became a life-elder. Our brother is survived by his devoted wife and four children. To them the church extends sincere sympathy and Christian love. A large number of friends paid their last tribute to his faithfulness and love for the Master when he was laid to rest at Merbein cemetery.—J.W.L.

Mrs. Walter E. Proudley

ON Thursday, Aug. 3, at St. Vincent's Hospital, at the age of 23 years, Mrs. Walter E. Proudley passed away to be with Christ. Before her marriage to Mr. Proudley in December, 1941, our sister was Miss Joyce Margaret Boston. Born in Bundaberg, Joyce accepted Jesus as her Lord at an early age, and was always a sweet and faithful disciple of his. She has served the church in Bundaberg as teacher and pianist of kindergarten, and as pianist of Ladies' Guild. At the beginning of this year she became superintendent of the kindergarten, where her love of children, and her quiet and gracious personality, along with her devotion to Christ, guaranteed her success. The children were as happy with her as she was with them. Since her marriage Mrs. Proudley has been in poor health, and on Wednesday, Aug. 2, she suddenly had a stroke. She did not speak again, though part of the time she was conscious, quickly passing away about 24 hours after admission to hospital. Mrs. Proudley was the younger daughter of Mrs. M. J. Boston, whose elder daughter,

Madge, passed away suddenly in 1936 within a year of her marriage. She is comforted in the knowledge that they are "happy in Jesus." Both Mr. Proudley and Mrs. Boston are surrounded by sympathetic friends, and brethren in Christ who are themselves bereaved of one they loved very dearly.—A.B.C.

Thomas Murphy

THE church at Chelsea, Vic., will miss the fellowship of the late Mr. Murphy, who received the home-call on Lord's day, July 30, at the age of 82 years. He was baptised on Nov. 14, 1881, and has spent his long life in service of Christ. He will be remembered in the church at South Yarra, where for 25 years he served as church secretary. For the last 15 years he has been with the church at Chelsea, residing with his niece, Mrs. Jones. Here, for over 10 years, he was secretary of the church, giving faithful service and regular attendance until, through ill-health, it became necessary for him to relinquish those duties. To Mrs. Jones and family and to other relatives the church extends loving Christian sympathy in their bereavement.—A.S.C.

S. Thomson

THE last surviving link of the pioneers of the church at Fremantle, W.A., was severed on July 17, when Samuel Thomson quietly fell asleep in Jesus at the age of 76 years. He was born at North Melbourne, Vic., in 1868, and at the early age of ten years confessed his faith in Christ and was baptised by the late Matthew Wood Green. Through all the years he never forgot his Lord nor spared himself in his service. As a young man he came to the West in 1892, and with a few faithful souls set up the Lord's Table in their bachelor quarters. The church was organised in that year, and it was his great privilege to see it grow and prosper for 52 years. He was honored at the jubilee services by his brethren, and shortly after at his golden wedding, for he married in 1894 Miss Elizabeth Jessie Abercrombie, of Victoria, who has survived him. He was a member of the officers' board almost the whole time, serving for many years as secretary, deacon and elder. During a visit to England a few years ago, he suffered a stroke, and has not since been free from suffering; but for all that he attended the services whenever he could do so. He loved the place of prayer. Besides the widow, there are three sons—Harold (England), Wilkie (preacher, Long Plains, S.A.), and Roy (R.A.A.F.). He was predeceased by his daughter, Alsa (Mrs. R. Prince). The relatives and friends will long cherish a sweet memory of one who loved his Lord and Master. The large gathering of business men and town-folk who assembled in the chapel and later at Fremantle Cemetery bore ample testimony of the high regard with which he was held in the community. Roy Raymond, a former preacher of Fremantle church, assisted the writer at the funeral services. The church expresses grateful remembrance of a life unselfishly spent, and commends the dear ones to the comfort of the Father of love.—C.H.H.

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(John 12: 23)

"SIR," replied Lincoln, to an inquirer, "I have never yet asked myself whether God was on my side or not, but I tell you what, sir, I am determined to be on God's side." To be on the side of the heavenly Father, going in step and keeping date with God, is life's master secret. So Jesus lived, and the 12th chapter of John indicates vividly some of the things involved.

(1) It involves appreciation of God's encouragements at human hands (1-11). See Jesus acknowledge the banquet at Bethany and the real significance of the appointing, when he trod the way of peril and duty towards Jerusalem. (2) It involves acceptance of opportunities for witness and testimony (12-19). The enactment of the prophetic sign as he rode into Jerusalem was an heroic "good confession." We do well to "let ourselves go," faithful on occasions to the glory of God. (3) It involves awareness of the mystery and glory of sacrifice (20-33). Purposeful, sacrificial living is the only way, the royal way to life's fulfilment. (4) It involves assurance that an obedient life is a light for God (34-50). Thus Bishop Latimer at Oxford: sure that by God's grace he was lighting such "a candle in England" as should never be put out.—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

*If the best man's faults were
written on his forehead, he would
draw his hat over his eyes.—T. Gray.*

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The Australian Christian

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August 30, 1944

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