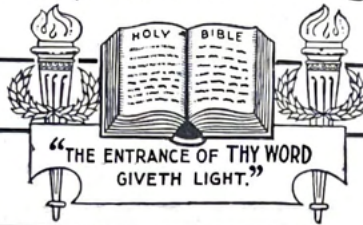


W M Fraser

# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Triumph of Spade Over Theory

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S historic account of world events in this war would be different from our meagre description of what has taken place. Mr. Churchill would write as one knowing the inner facts determining this action and that, but our attempts would be confined to the viewpoint of the outsider.

There is a big difference between viewpoints of divine history and secular accounts of past events. The Bible which is actually a divine account of historic events, is written from the inner point of view God has of man's behaviour, but secular history is the limited and outward view of finite man. God's account of human deeds expresses the events of history in terms of divine judgment or blessing upon the evil and good deeds of the human race. Secular history, because it is limited, attempts to analyse the processes of history into causes and effects. Human pride encourages man to resent being brought under judgment; man tries to escape from even the appearance of divine judgment. Since the Bible troubles the conscience of proud men, it would please them if it could be shown that the scriptures are false. For many centuries able thinkers have devoted time and energy to undermine the authority of God's word and to show that it is false.

DEFENDERS of the faith have striven to show that the divine story of events is reasonable. That was the line of attack Bishop Butler followed in his famous book, "The Analogy of Religion." He aimed at showing that those who accept the religion nature suggests must, if they are logical, go on to accept the truths of divine revelation as presented in the Bible. His book confounded the critics and encouraged the believers.

However, none is so blind as the person who will not see. Ignoring the penetrating reasoning of Bishop Butler, the critics continued their attacks, suggesting that the books of the Bible were but the creation of human imagination written long after the time of the events that they claimed to record. "How could Moses have written the story of the journeyings of Israel?" they would urge. "The art of writing," they would say, "did not develop until long after Moses had died."

In an attempt to illustrate their claim, they pointed to the ancient stories of Homer. "Were they not mere fabrications of the imagination, without any foundation in history?" they



Queen of Sheba Visits King Solomon.

suggested. However, the theory that the homeric songs did not have an historic background was smashed by the determination of a youth, who planned to ascertain if ancient Troy actually existed. Between 1870-90 this Heinrich Schliemann uncovered ruins that led to the discovery of the remains of the actual city of Troy about which Homer sang.

THEN Sir Arthur Evans proved that writing existed many centuries before Homer's time, and that it was possible for a poet living in the days of ancient Troy to compose and to write songs concerning the glory and defeat of that city.

This defeat of the literary critics in the field of homeric literature was followed also by the startling discoveries in the field of biblical archaeology—that young science concerned with the evidence gained from the ruins of ancient cities.

Discoveries made among ruins in the lands of the Bible have disproved also the assumption of critics that "the art of writing was not generally practised until about the eighth century, B.C." Dr. Gordon Childe, in his book, "What Happened in History," writing of the people of ancient Mesopotamia,

[Please turn to next page.]

# King Solomon's Naval Depot

(Continued from Front Page)

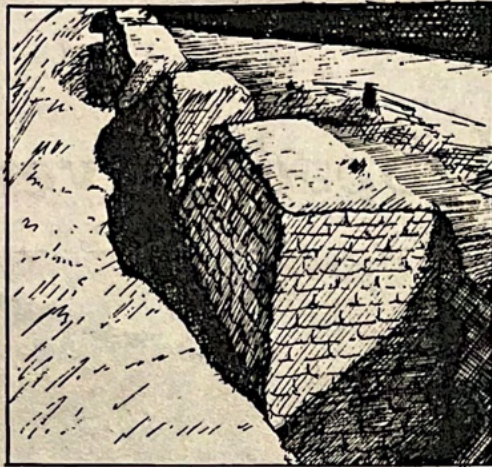
says, "As administrators of the temple estates, the priests must give account of their stewardship to a jealous master and their colleagues in the perpetual corporation. So they have agreed upon a conventional method of recording receipts and expenditure in written signs that shall be intelligible to all their colleagues and successors; they have invented writing. Soon after 3000 B.C. the writing becomes fully intelligible to modern philologists too, and the documents speak to us across the millennia."

**A** PIONEER of biblical archaeology, Professor A. H. Sayce, who was, prior to his investigations in Palestine, etc., considered an "unsafe" critic, wrote in 1898, "Just as the archaeological discoveries in the Mediterranean had given a death-blow to the 'critical' theories about Homer and the early traditions of Greece, so similar discoveries were now giving the same death-blow to the theories about the Old Testament and its contents which had been imported from Germany. Subjective fantasies must make way for the solid facts of science which were at last being recovered."

**A** MOST startling discovery confirming the Bible narrative was the uncovering of the site of ancient Jericho in 1930 by the expedition under Professor John Garstang, of the University of Liverpool. Not only the main facts but even the significant details of the Bible story, were confirmed by the discoveries. Dr. J. W. Jack, in "The Expository Times," March, 1942, shows how the finds on the site of Jericho (the city of palm trees) has confirmed the interesting details of Judges 3: 12-14. There is proof now, based on the ground of the widest discoveries in the Bible land within recent years, of the date of the capture of Jericho by King Eglon's Moabite force and of its occupation by him for eighteen years.

Dr. Nelson Glueck, who has been excavating in Palestine during the war, tells a fas-

inating story in "The National Geographic Magazine," February, 1944. He opens his article by saying, "The school children of Palestine use the Bible as a guide-book when they hike through the land. The close relationship between the holy book and the holy land, fostered by generations of pilgrims, is being confirmed anew by those who delve for facts in the very earth." He reminds us



Uncovered Walls of Ancient Jericho.

of the way General Allenby used the Bible and Professor G. A. Smith's "Historical Geography of the Holy Land" to gain information about roads, water, and natural features in Palestine. Upon such information gained, the general planned his successful campaigns.

**D**R. GLUECK has been engaged on the task of excavating the site of King Solomon's naval depot on the Red Sea. We read, "King Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom." (1 Kings 9: 26.) Dr. Glueck, writing of his investigations on a site near the Red Sea, says, "After extensive excavations, we have identified the earliest stratum with Solomon's seaport of Ezion-geber, whose architects built it directly in the path of blinding sandstorms." Solomon was wise in his strange choice of the site, for it is so exposed to the winds that his furnaces for smelting copper could get sufficient draft without hand blowing. Thus "Solomon's men employed what is essentially the principle of the Bessemer blast furnace, re-discovered less than a century ago." No doubt the king used the metal for the building of the temple at Jerusalem.

This ancient town was a port, a market, and a

manufacturing centre. Through it, Dr. Glueck thinks, the Queen of Sheba travelled to Jerusalem to enjoy the wisdom of Solomon and to make some treaty with him.

**H**OW fascinating it is to follow the activities of the archaeologist! Year after year they unfold new treasures of truth that support the divine narrative and make clear to us the need of giving more attention to the warnings God has revealed in his story of divine judgment in history. Only the foolish will ignore the significance of these new finds by the archaeologists.

## Hymns of the Wesleys

*F. J. Funston has chosen Charles Wesley's hymn No. 422, planned for Dec. 10, as the hymn for December.*

**T**HE history of hymnology has few stranger facts than that the first hymnbook for use in Church of England was published in Georgia and that the publisher was John Wesley. He was, of course, at that time (1737) a Church of England missionary and Georgia was an English colonial possession. Though hardly entering into the history of hymnology, it is also strange that no reference to the Wesleys has been made until this, the 36th, article of the present series! Fortunately, there has never been any pretence to an order of merit. With 28 hymns in our book, a score or more in most hymnals, and hundreds in any Methodist one; with a wide variety of subject-matter, a mastery over every metre and a monopoly in some, the illustrious pioneers of Methodism have given the church universal such noble hymns as "O, for a thousand tongues," "Jesus, lover of my soul" and "Soldiers of Christ, arise." It was an Anglican who said of Charles Wesley's 6500 hymns that "it is perfectly marvellous how many rise to the highest standards of excellence."

Now let to-day's hymn, "Love divine, all loves excelling," have what space is left! The hymn has maintained its place in Christian song for just on two centuries, having first appeared in 1747 in Charles Wesley's "hymns for those that seek and those that have redemption in the blood of Jesus Christ." At least three other hymns have borrowed from it, and the author of our No. 54 has indulged more generously than most in this "sincerest form of flattery." The repetitions, copyings, plagiarisms, imitations, echoes or whatever they may be, in hymnology as well as in other literature, would make an interesting study—especially, in this case, as we find that Wesley's "original" hymn is itself an adaptation of Dryden's lines:

"Fairest isles, all isles excelling,  
Seat of pleasures and of loves,  
Venus here shall choose her dwellings  
And forsake her Cyprian groves."

All honor to the man who thus converts a song as Charles Wesley has done—and by his song converts men!—F.J.F.

It's plain enough you get into the wrong road if this life if you run after this and that only for the sake o' making things easy and pleasant for yourself.—George Eliot.



An Artist's Conception of Jericho, Based on Archaeological Facts.

# The Joy of Receiving

*Prelude: Holy Night.*

Great and glorious are thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are thy ways, thou King of the ages. Who shall not fear, O Lord, and glorify thy name?

*Hymn.*—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 76; "It came upon the mid-night clear."

*Prayer.*—O God, our Father, at this time we are hushed before thee. Speak, thou, to us of those qualities of mind and heart which make for serenity. Our lives are not always joyous. "The strain of toil" is not so hard to endure as "the fret of care." Come, thou, into our consciousness, and look upon those hidden areas of thought where all our actions are determined. Lift up the candle of thy presence in the dark corridors of our natures, where the feet of contentment too seldom go. Show us what these shadows are that prevent us from being children of light. Are they caused by our selfishness and doubt? Are we unhappy because we do less than the good we know? Do we know the blessing of receiving as well as of giving; or are we so greedy in our getting that we fall in gratitude? O, may we come as little children to the doorway of this hour, expecting to be admitted by One who knows the secret of joy and lives to share it. Forgive our sins of forgetfulness and self-pity. Help us to believe that the outward spring which makes every bough ache with life is the symbol of that spiritual spring which can fill the boughs of our thoughts with the gay blossoms of hope and our sky with the radiance of joy. In the name of our Lord and Saviour we pray. Amen. (S. Harkness.)

*Bible Reading.*—Luke 2: 1-20.

*Solo or Quartette.*—(Suggest a bracket of Christmas carols.)

*Prayer for the hope of an enduring peace.*

*Devotional Talk.*

## THE JOY OF RECEIVING

In Christian lands, and even in some pagan countries, Christmas is the time of gift giving; for it was at this season that the most wonderful and precious of gifts was given to the world, when God gave his beloved Son, Christ Jesus. Therefore at Christmas time many people delight in giving gifts to their friends and loved ones as an expression of that "goodwill to man" of which the angels sang. Others, on the other hand, have only one concern—what they will receive. They have not learnt the true meaning of Christmas or the joy of giving; for their receiving is more a gratification of selfishness or greed than joy in the love that prompts the gift.

Most of us have experienced the joy of Christmas with the children round the Christmas tree. We have seen the faith and eager expectancy in their bright little faces, and witnessed their joy in receiving their gifts. Have we received the gift of our heavenly Father with a like joy?

With Jesus, "the gift of God," there came to this sad old world of ours a revelation of the brotherliness, goodwill, tolerance, common good-neighborliness, that help to make the good life. We have the power to see beyond the outward appearance to the beauty and possibilities in each individual personality. The artificial barriers of class, color, race or creed melt away, as we, too, kneel in adoration before the Babe of Bethlehem. If we receive this gift with the faith and joy of a little child, new strength surges through our life. With a clear vision and strong purpose, we shall go out from the experience of Christmas to help make the angels' song of "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" a living reality. We will endeavor to remove those things which causes "even the least of these



"He Gave His Only Begotten Son."

little ones" to stumble and extinguishes faith, joy and hope from their lives.

God gave his all with the gift of his Son, and he asks of us our all. For there can be no real love between two persons without that mutual surrender. With all barriers between God and ourselves gone, we shall be able to receive with joy his blessings and the gift of his Holy Spirit. God has promised us that gift, too. And if we receive the Spirit with joy, then we shall have the resources, the poise and balance adequate for all of living, and to carry on the task of building God's will into our world. We shall know how to give good gifts as well as receive them; and all shall be able to share in such gifts and say with sincerity—

These gifts be thine on Christmas day;  
The joy that passes not away;  
The faith that lightens every cross;  
The love that knows not death nor loss—  
These gifts divine be thine.

*Hymn.*—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 75. "I heard the bells on Christmas day."

*Prayer for Nation.*

*Business.*

*Home Mission Notes.*

*Overseas Letter.*

*Address.*—The Church in Australia: (3) Compassionate Services.

*Hymn.*—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 801, "O little town of Bethlehem."

*Benediction.*

## Victoria

At a meeting held on Oct. 18, Miss Roxburgh spoke to a representative gathering on the work at Norseman, illustrating her talk with a number of slides. Time was also given for questions and answers which proved very helpful.

Twelve members of the missionary department, accompanied by Miss Vawser, spent a day at Drumcondra on Nov. 1. The missionary presentation, "Their Lives Challenge," and Miss Vawser's stories and solo were enjoyed by the ladies from Latrobe-terr. and the Drumcondra churches.

The monthly meeting held on Nov. 3 was well attended, 140 ladies being present, including Miss Vawser, of India, and Mrs. Jeffery, of Western Australia. Mr. T. Hagger brought a message that stressed the importance of home missions on all present.

## Tasmania

At the October meeting of the women's conference executive, Mrs. Coles, the president, led devotions. Mrs. Stanton Wilson, of Launceston, gave an interesting address.

A letter was received from Sir Ernest Clark, Governor of Tasmania, in appreciation of the letter of sympathy sent to him from the executive on the death of Lady Clark.

On Nov. 8, Mrs. Hughes, the vice-president, was in the chair in absence of president who is in Melbourne for several weeks. A welcome was given to Mrs. Hill, from W.A., the wife of the new travelling evangelist in Tasmania. Mrs. Hill brought greetings from the Western Australian executive.

It was decided at the meeting that in future all mission bands must be responsible for the expenses of State mission band work.

It was decided again to buy Christmas gifts for the patients at the sanatorium, and if there is any money over, to provide a Christmas cake as well.

The annual visit of the women's conference executive to the Hobart City Mission took place on Sept. 20, when the conference had charge of the meeting.

On Sept. 27, a day of fellowship was held simultaneously at Collins-st. (Hobart), and Margaret-st. (Launceston) churches. At both places inspiring meetings were held.

## New South Wales

The women's annual home missionary rally was held on Nov. 3, when Mrs. Davidson, B.A., president of Newcastle district women's conference, gave a very fine address. Mrs. Pollard, secretary of W.A. women's conference, gave a greeting. Mrs. Cunningham, of Hurstville guild, was soloist. Mrs. Maxwell, the H.M. superintendent, urged all present to do their best to interest women of churches in H.M. work.

## South Australia

Seventy-three women were present at sisters' auxiliary meeting at Grote-st. on Nov. 2, when Mrs. Cornelius led devotions. S.A. Alliance Fair realised £204/4/-, and churches of Christ stall received £43/5/-. Seventy-four visits have been paid to hospitals, nursing homes, and "Sunset Lodge." Gifts were distributed during these visits. Mesdames C. Verco and Cornelius represented the auxiliary

(Continued on page 561)

# Hindu Leaders' View on Christianity

S. N. THORAT, a prominent Christian leader, presented the following facts at a recent conference of the Bombay Representative Council. If these statements are indicative of widespread thought on this subject, it does not predict an easy road for the work of Christian missions in the post-war India.

## Leaders' Statements

It seems to be generally agreed that the war is likely to be followed by further transfer of political power into Indian hands. One question arises, therefore, about the future of Christian missions. It is well known that Gandhiji in 1935, in answering the question, "Would you prevent missionaries coming to India in order to baptise?" said, "If I had power and could legislate, I should certainly stop all proselytising." A year later he said frankly that he had come to regard missionaries as persons who "do harm to the whole of India." Gandhiji represents the Congress. Mr. N. C. Kelkar, a prominent Hindu Mahasabha leader, said in 1935, "Hindus must have protection against Christian aggression, and the Hindu community must devise means of self-protection." Sir R. P. Paranjpe, now appointed India's High Commissioner to Australia, once said, "The conversion of a minor in all cases should be considered illegal, and in order that the conversion of an adult may be legal, the adult should go before a magistrate and swear on oath that he or she was not being coerced or bribed, and that he or she was embracing the new religion of his or her own free will."

## Legislation About Conversion

The Hindu opinions we have quoted show that Hindus are thinking in terms of legislation with regard to "conversion." The Muslims may also join hands with the Congress, and the Hindu Mahasabha, and legislate against missionary efforts to baptise. Later there may possibly be legislation forbidding Indian Christians from preaching Christ and from baptising people into the Christian fold. Christians may be tolerated as a sort of caste, but they may also be prevented from winning the people of other communities. This should prove to be a real test of Indian Christianity. We are all very well acquainted with the agitation that followed the "heart-conversion" to Christ of a Parsi girl student in Sophia College in Bombay and later of her friend, and how the senate of the Bombay University passed a resolution disaffiliating the college, and the Bombay Corporation discussed the case.

## The Mandate of Jesus

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This is the mandate of our Lord, and any church that does not obey his command will die a natural death. If Indian Christians do not overcome this period to their very existence, they will become a dead church. We all therefore need to watch and pray. For one chief function of the church universal is to evangelise the world, and in the work of foreign missions we see the church of Christ in action. The churches in other lands are alive because of the evangelistic fervor that is in them. For evangelism is the life-blood of the church, and the church in India cannot afford to consider evangelism as a secondary concern. Moreover, India has to

*Christian teachings are being opposed by strong forces in India. Only the action of a vigorous church will prevail. Proof of the ministry of the church is found in the care for lepers in India.*

be evangelised by nationals. Every effort must therefore be made to bring about a new attitude among the people.

## LEPROSY IN INDIA

### Its Widespread Nature

CONCERNING India's lepers there are no real statistics, but some worthwhile facts are supplied by the Mission to Lepers.

1. There are approximately one million lepers in India to-day.
2. Of these, two hundred and fifty thousand are probably infectious.
3. Less than fourteen thousand are segregated in institutions.
4. Out of these fourteen thousand, about ten thousand are in homes owned or aided by the Mission to Lepers.

Of the Mission to Lepers a Government report says: "The Mission to Lepers is the biggest single agency in anti-leprosy work in India. Throughout the world, despite the war, this mission has been able to care for 10,000 lepers and give financial aid to other institutions.



A Child Healed.

This child of leper parents, herself tainted with the disease, was treated and pronounced clean.

### Demonstrating Practical Christianity

The work as a whole has become a powerful demonstration of the revitalising constructive character of practical Christianity. At the heart of the mission's success, it is realised that a mere physical service cannot be effectively rendered until it is supported by healing of spirit. The Christian church among the lepers, with a membership of 8000, is one of the most heartening evidences of the power of the gospel to bring joy and sweetness and strength to the most desolate.

## Notes on Various Topics

### T. H. Scambler

THE sudden death of Principal T. H. Scambler is mourned by brethren in all the States, and leaves us all the poorer. Our brother was a winsome Christian, devoted to the service of the Master whom he loved. Tributes have been paid to his beautiful character by many who shared his friendship and profited by his ministry. As a colleague in college work for many years, I would express my appreciation of the rich fellowship and harmonious and happy co-operative service which we enjoyed together. His place will be hard to fill, but we pray that God will raise up consecrated workers to carry on the labors of the many beloved brethren who have recently been promoted to higher service. May the rich comfort of God's love be with all who mourn a temporary separation from their loved ones.

### Mr. Curtin's Illness

The illness of the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin), who has been ordered to rest until January, may serve to remind us of the great strain under which our country's leaders are laboring. Their load of responsibility is very heavy. Deep regret is felt at Mr. Curtin's illness, and all classes hope for a steady and full recovery. Christians, I trust, give heed to the scriptural injunction to pray for those in authority over us.

### President Roosevelt's Victory

In this column party politics find no place, and I am sure that British people would have counted it worse than an indiscretion to advise the great American republic on the sub-

ject of a presidential election. Yet all, or nearly all, of us will be glad that President Roosevelt has been honored once again. He has done excellent work in the resisting of aggression and has indicated his hopes and aims for the establishment of world peace. Doubtless we might have felt sure that the United States would stand firm in war and in peace, but it is good to have one already tested and proved worthy of confidence to continue the work begun and planned, and especially to use his great influence for the secure establishment of the peace which, we all hope and pray, will not be long delayed.

### A Coroner on "Penny Dreadfuls"

Newspapers report that in Melbourne recently a nine-year-old boy was committed for trial on a charge of murdering another little boy by shooting him. Surely this is one of the saddest of cases. Found in the room where the boy was shot was a "penny dreadful," with a picture on its front page of a bandit pressing a tommy-gun against the chest of another man and showing other violent scenes. The coroner said this was unsuitable literature for children, and might be dangerous in the hands of some boys. Who can estimate the harm which the evil literature—violent and salacious—on sale in our country is doing? There are great numbers of boys and girls growing up in foul surroundings and without elevating influence. Re-doubled efforts ought to be made to give them a chance to live clean, pure and Christian lives.

A. R. Main.

# Union Discussed in Tasmania

## A Unique Service

THE celebration of the dedication of St. David's Anglican Cathedral, Hobart, was held recently. In place of the sermon, Dean Fewtrell and Mr. Gordon Arthur, minister of Wesley church, discussed the question of a re-united church.

Dean Fewtrell said that neither he nor Mr. Arthur spoke as the voice of his church. They made no official announcements. The service had the full approval of Bishop Cranswick.

"The problems to be faced in the post-war world could only be solved adequately in a spiritual atmosphere," said the Dean. "The church must close up her ranks." "It was because Methodists held these convictions that they had accepted the invitation to join in the service," said Mr. Arthur. "Such a service as this," he said, "in which we pray and think together, will be a clear witness to the rest of the world that we can stand together."

Dean Fewtrell pointed out that the fundamental reasons against their present divisions were not only that they tended to make them ineffective, but that they were contrary to the will of God. His will was that they should be one. They could not have unity just by ignoring their differences.

Mr. Arthur sketched the rise of Methodism. There were thirty to forty million Methodists, he said, waiting and willing, he believed, to take part in a reunited church. Dean Fewtrell stressed that lasting and adequate re-union could only come about by each body bringing into a common pool its own particular gifts.

Contributions which Methodists could make, said Mr. Arthur, were a deep sense of fellowship, regular discussion meetings, congregational singing, lay preachers, spontaneous, adaptable worship, and an alert consciousness on social evils.

Among the gifts the Anglican church could make were insistence on the church as the body of Christ; deep reverence for the sacraments as a real and effective means of grace, together with prayer; and an historical sense which found expression in the sense of value of and continuity with the past, and tenacious clinging to authority of the threefold ministry of bishop, priest and deacon with authority handed on through the bishop.

## C.E. Interests and Activities

R. Greenhalgh, N.S.W. Youth Director.

### FOOTSCRAY AND DISTRICTS UNION

IN church of Christ chapel at Footscray, Vic., on Oct. 4, a well-attended rally occasioned the first gathering of societies of the newly-formed district union. The chapel was beautifully decorated with flowers. Major H. F. Julien, national C.E. president, gave the address. D. C. Ritchie, president of district union, led the service. The success of the rally was attributed to the keen interest manifested by the societies and the zeal of the executive.

The Union plans inter-society competitions, union equipment aims, and a well-considered programme of events for the coming year. The next function will be in the form of a C.E. convention to be held in February.

### N.S.W. STATE CONVENTION

THIS function was a splendid success in inspiration and fellowship. The new president is L. G. Bennett, Newtown Congregational church; and vice-presidents, G. H. Davies, M. E. Sykes, and H. Watkin-Smith, B.A. K. J.

Anglican and Methodist speak of need of re-union. Dangers of institutions overshadowing essentials of Christian life are discussed by our correspondent, Stanton H. Wilson.

The ministry of the united church must be one that would be freely recognised everywhere. Study and prayer would have to go hand in hand in bringing about church unity.

The congregation of Wesley church attended, and combined choirs of the Cathedral and Wesley church rendered an anthem. Bishop Cranswick took part in the service, in which the theme was "Re-union."

### American Churches

Mr. H. O. Barnard, M.H.R., an honored Baptist of Launceston, has just returned from a visit to the United States. Last week he told the Launceston Ministers' Fraternal of his impressions of church life in the States.

Everywhere he received a warm welcome, and noticed that churches were wonderfully hospitable to travellers from much less remote places than Australia. Many churches had men appointed specially to greet and receive visitors.

In the cities church appointments such as central heating, wall-to-wall carpets, lighting, padded pews and acoustics were all that could be desired, and yet their services were poorly attended. Some big churches only had an 11 o'clock service. Others had regular youth teas in place of the evening services. Mr. Barnard saw more young people in the church services in America, but then it had to be remembered, he said, that manpower demands were not so pressing on the youth of America as on young people in Australia.

Some readers of these lines may feel envious of the wall-to-wall carpets, etc.—we as a people as lamentably in arrears in beautifying the house of the Lord—but it would be tragic if we sought better buildings solely as an incentive to people to attend. Mr. Barnard's comment on American chapels with depleted congregations seems to say that, after all, there is but one unfailing attraction to the gospel of Christ—*lives* that adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. It does not seem any easier to live that life in America than in Australia.

Flatters was elected secretary and W. Price treasurer. The national vice-president, Chaplain J. H. Sorrell, was a welcome visitor. The convention was marked by the launching of a fund of post-war thanksgiving and extension. The aim is to help war-torn land of Europe and for local C.E. extension.

The Union Youth Committee held an exhibition. All committees presented their work visually, and there were six ten-minute talks on their work, followed by discussion. This was so appreciated that it was decided to make it an annual affair.

### VICTORIAN STATE CONVENTION

THIS important function is listed for Nov. 10, 11, and 13. Lionel B. Fletcher, world-famous evangelist and vice-president of World C.E. Union, will be principal speaker, and will address all evening meetings. Junior rally will be held in Nicholas Hall on the Saturday afternoon, and a Y.P. conference will also be a feature of that afternoon.

The council hopes to revive field day early next year, and to revert to the King's Birthday week-end for the State convention.

Ron. Glasson reports twenty members in the C.E. society at Flinders Naval Depot. Congratulations!

Is there any society or committee doing service work in the community? We would like to hear of a society which is expressing Christ in community service. Which society will respond?

Successful junior rallies do not just happen! They take grit, gumption and prayer. And what is gumption, but a mixture of salt, sugar and steel. Salt—the programme must be palatable to the child mind. Sugar—it must be attractive and pulsating with the sweet spirit of Christ. Steel—it requires work, hard work, for superintendents, who must be the girders of strength under all the proceedings. Do your juniors go to pictures because your rallies lack the foregoing qualities? Think it over!—"C.E. News," S.A.

## The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

"I CANNOT prove it,  
But I know  
That, when I go  
I go to something better  
Than the best that earth can give,  
I have existed here  
There I shall LIVE." —J. Oxenham.

### BEING AND DOING

Do what you can, give what you have. Only stop not with feelings: carry your charity into deeds; do and give what costs you something. —J. H. Thom.

### NOT HIS FAULT

Clergyman.—"Do you mean to say that your wife goes to church every Sunday without you?"  
Farmer.—"Well, it isn't my fault. I can't persuade her to stay at home."

## The Family Altar

### TOPIC.—HERETICS DOOMED

- Nov. 27—2 Chron. 30: 1-10.
- " 28—Psalm 1.
- " 29—Jeremiah 9: 1-11.
- " 30—Heb. 11: 32-40.
- Dec. 1—Jude 17-25.
- " 2—2 Peter 2: 1-16.
- " 3—Gen. 19: 12-28; 2 Peter 2: 17-22.

FALSE teaching and bad living often go hand in hand. Our N.T. lesson gives a long catalogue of sins (20 in all) which sometimes accompany heretical doctrine. Yet, in the light of parallel scriptures and common experience, it can be asserted that many who cultivate Christian graces allow themselves to be led away from the truth by the influence of false teachers. Are there not hundreds of our own members who, because their ears have been tickled by the plausible statements of exponents of error, have drifted from the "faith once for all delivered to the saints"? Well might a warning note be sounded out. Beware lest carelessness of views leads to carelessness of conduct. The one lapse is bad enough; but if, as in the case of those concerning whom Peter wrote, it is followed by the second, the result is fatal, for of such are those who are "brought into bondage," and bring upon themselves "swift destruction."

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# Here and There

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Verco, of Granville, N.S.W., are on holidays at Black Rock, Victoria.

S. Price Weir, V.D., D.S.O., a member of Maylands, S.A., church, and chairman of S.A. committee of the College of the Bible, died suddenly on Nov. 14. Our brother was a former president of South Australian conference. Deepest sympathy is felt for loved ones who mourn their loss.

Nov. 12 was closing day of R. Enniss' ministry at Nth. Fitzroy, Vic.; there were good attendances at both services. 140 were in congregation at gospel service, when two young people confessed Christ. Three young people who had made their decision two weeks ago were immersed. At Christian friendship circle tea in afternoon, young people made presentations to Mr. and Mrs. Enniss, and at close of gospel service, E. Smedley spoke of the two years' ministry of Mr. Enniss, and wished him well in his future work.

Messages from visiting speakers have been much appreciated at Bentleigh, Vic. On Oct. 22 R. J. Anderson conducted service, when Mr. Parnell was baptised. At morning service on Oct. 29, Mr. and Mrs. Parnell were received into fellowship. Great interest and quick decision culminated in erection of home mission tent at Centre-rd., near post office. Arriving on Nov. 12, E. C. Hinrichsen and V. D. Morris brought encouragement to church. Messages of Messrs. Hinrichsen and Morris have brought much blessing. At conclusion of service on Oct. 19, Miss S. Barker took her stand for Christ.

On Nov. 11 the Eastern Suburban Youth Fellowship held a combined hike and rally. Starting from Box Hill station at 3 p.m., the group hiked to Doncaster, where a programme of competitive sport was arranged. After the evening meal an open-air meeting, at which there were over 100 young people, was held. Mr. Fred Elliot conducted singing of choruses and a quiz session. Mr. Banks gave an address to an appreciative audience. The young people's orchestra, with Lindsay Herford as soloist, was a great assistance throughout evening. At conclusion of meeting three young people re-consecrated their lives to Christ.

The 1945 issue of Youth's Own Diary is an attractive production of 72 pages. Passages of scripture form a headline on each calendar page and great thoughts a footnote. The opening pages serve as a State directory, while others have been reserved for instructive statements. Each year the diary has conveyed a message on Christian union and the current issue contains a graphic presentation of the forces that hinder and advance union. 5000 have been printed, and may be purchased at ninepence each from local church agents or direct from the State Young People's Departments. Another 1000 were adapted for the use of the Victorian Methodist Young People's Department, and 500 for Baptist Y.P. Dept.

At Maylands, S.A., on Oct. 27 men's brotherhood held a father and son banquet. About 90 sat down to a very fine dinner prepared by ladies of church; the mayor and town clerk of St. Peters, Ds. H. E. Dunstone and F. Symons, were present; also R. J. Coombe, L.L.B., a magistrate of Children's Court, who gave a helpful address. On Nov. 5, Chaplain-General Allen Brooke was speaker at evening service; he gave a fine message. Nov. 11 was another great day in history of church, when the third temple day was observed. A thanksgiving service was held at 8 p.m., K. Jones leading, and president of conference, T. Butler, helping. The offering amounted to £331. K. Jones was speaker at both services on Nov. 12; at close of gospel service a young lady made her decision for Christ. Mr. Jones commenced his vacation on Nov. 13.

A special plan for raising £250 for proposed erection of a new building, which has been in operation for six months, resulted in £352 in cash and promises being received when appeal was concluded on Nov. 12 at Preston, Vic. The address by Mr. Cambridge at morning service had special reference to finances, and at night choir rendered an appropriate anthem, and the doxology was sung. There is approximately £200 in building fund, and church also possesses a site for a new building. Mr. Cambridge is now on holiday. In his absence on Nov. 19 H. Turnham (West Preston) and Alan Thomas (Gardiner) were speakers at morning and evening services respectively. Their addresses were much appreciated.

Dr. Nathaniel Micklem, one of the speakers at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, London, 1944, told the story of a young girl who was an orphan and who was blind, living in a garret and earning her living as a seamstress. Her one pleasure was to read the Bible in the Braille script. Her fingers had become so hardened that she could not distinguish the Braille letters, so she pared the hard skin. She then found her fingers were too tender to do her stitching, so she thought she would have to decide between the Book and her livelihood. She put it to her lips to say good-bye to it, and then found that she could read through her lips. So she was able to continue reading the Bible after all.

A fortnight's happy hour children's meetings were conducted by R. Greenhalgh, N.S.W. Y.P. director, at Hurstville, N.S.W., services being held each week-day from 4-5 p.m. Attendances increased steadily till they reached 140. Mr. Greenhalgh conducted with ability, and gave a fine presentation of word of God. Church is indebted to Y.P.D. for making services of director available from Oct. 15 to 29. In evenings Mr. Greenhalgh was evangelist for a 14-days' mission. The mission was preceded by a fortnight of cottage prayer meetings. There were 18 decisions during mission, 14 of these being young people from Bible school. Nearly all non-members who attended did so as result of personal contact by members. W. S. French was song-leader. R. Greenhalgh gave a masterly presentation of gospel, and his answers to questions were a feature of meetings. As R. Greenhalgh was unable to be present on Oct. 18, L. E. Jones, from college, preached. 14 converts have been baptised and received into fellowship. A presentation was made to R. Greenhalgh at close of mission.

## FEDERAL COLLEGE DEMONSTRATION

THE thirty-eighth demonstration of students of College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic., was held in Lygon-st. chapel on Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. Dr. W. A. Kemp, chairman of college board, presided over a large congregation. F. B. Burt prayed and J. K. Bond read the scripture lesson. In opening period fitting reference was made to memory of late principal, T. H. Scambler. The conference president, E. L. Williams, spoke, Parkdale church choir sang "Across the Bar," and A. W. Stephenson prayed. R. T. Pittman presented diplomas to J. K. Bond, Vic.; C. N. Burn, Tas.; L. G. Crisp, Qld.; R. W. Graham, N.S.W.; G. A. Grainger, Vic. Short addresses were delivered by Messrs. Grainger, Crisp, Burn and Graham. Words of farewell and appreciation for the long and faithful services of Misses E. and A. Jermyn were expressed by V. C. Stafford representing Old Boys' Club; G. A. Whiting, present students; and W. T. Atkin, Board of Management. Presentations were made on behalf of each group to Misses Jermyn. Mrs. Jeffery, president of women's conference, spoke on behalf of sisters of Australian churches. In a brief response, Miss E. Jermyn ex-

pressed thanks. T. Hagger closed the session with prayer. Prior to demonstration members of Board of Management entertained students and friends at tea served by the ladies of Lygon-st. church. Good wishes were expressed to outgoing students, and prayers for future welfare of college were sought.

## REINFORCEMENTS FOR INDIA

MR. ANDERSON, secretary of Federal F.M. Board, announces that arrangements have been made for two young ladies to go to India to assist on mission field. It is expected they will leave early in the new year with Miss Vawser.

One is an experienced nurse, being Sister Winifred Walker, a triple certificated nurse, and at present sub-matron of the Launceston Hospital, Tasmania. She is a member of the church in that city. The other is a school teacher, Miss Kathleen Taylor, a member of church at Fremantle, W.A., sister of C. G. Taylor, preacher of Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic., and a niece of Keith Jones, preacher of Maylands, S.A. In view of the losses from the Indian mission stations in past, the advent of these new workers will strengthen our representatives who are now facing many difficulties and need our continued help. The Federal Foreign Mission Board need the prayers and financial support of brethren throughout Australia so that the work in India and the New Hebrides may be supported well in coming days.

## BORDERTOWN-KANIVA HALF-YEARLY CONFERENCE

ANDERSON, F.M. secretary, who was speaker for conference, delivered messages that were uplifting. Conference commenced on Nov. 12. Mr. Russell presided; Mr. Anderson exhorted. Afternoon service took form of a combined Protestant churches' youth rally. A. E. Milne, of Congregational church, was president, and Mr. Anderson spoke. Musical items were given by combined churches' choir and various S.S. of district. At gospel service items were given by church choir. On Wednesday, meetings were continued, when visitors were present from Kaniva and Naracoorte. Mr. Thompson, conference president, presided at morning devotional service.

Afternoon meeting commenced with C.E. hour. Miss A. Verco, Miss E. Rowe and Mr. Anderson were speakers. Musical items were given by Mesdames H. Wenham, D. Williams, M. Goldsworthy and Crouch. A gospel service was conducted, and Mr. Anderson addressed gathering. All meetings were held in town hall, and were well attended. Meals on Wednesday were provided by ladies of Mundulla and Bordertown churches. Mrs. Russell and Miss E. Dinning were responsible for beautiful floral decorations.

## EASTERN SUBURBAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

THE annual meeting of Churches of Christ Youth Fellowship (eastern suburbs) was held on November 17, at Balwyn, closing a year's fruitful service. At monthly meetings happy times have been spent in spiritual meetings, socials, amateur nights and hikes. During these gatherings a number have confessed Christ, and many have reconsecrated their lives. Average attendance was 150, East Kew winning the shield for largest representation. Donations include £10 to Dhond hospital and £3/3/- to the Mildmay Mission.

The following are office-bearers: President, K. Sturgess; vice-presidents, H. Frie and G. Scambler; treasurer, Miss L. Collis; pianist, Miss E. Morffew; organist, L. Hurford.

# News of the Churches

## South Australia

### New South Wales

**Wagga.**—Combined church and Sunday school picnic was held at North Wagga reserve on Nov. 4; there was a good attendance. Mr. Jenner spoke at both services on Sunday. In morning Mrs. Arthur Midgley, jr., was welcomed into the church, and at evening service John Laidlow, Leigh Chapman and Miss Joan Laidlow made the confession of faith.

**Paddington.**—Good attendances at 51st anniversary services of Bible school. Visitors were welcomed at breaking of bread. R. Greenhalgh was speaker at morning service; he also gave an illustrated address to children at afternoon service. There were good singing and scripture recitations by scholars. R. Wilson conducted evening service, and gave an illustrated address.

**Lane Cove.**—Church and Bible school anniversaries, helped by visiting speakers and special music, were very successful. A conservative and self-satisfied community seems to be showing some small signs of interest in able ministry and messages of H. J. Patterson. With aid of a Hinrichsen mission in new year, it is believed the church will grow in numbers and usefulness.

**Lidcombe—Carramar.**—During month of October, fellowship was enjoyed with Allen LeCornu, R.A.N., and Will Armstrong, A.I.F., on home leave. An immersed believer was received into membership on Oct. 29. Ladies' auxiliary, with increased attendance, is now busy making gifts for Bible school Christmas tree. Both Bible schools continue to be in healthy condition. New scholars have been won as result of Faithful Fishermen drive. Carramar recently held a successful social in aid of building improvements.

**Burwood.**—Bible school held very successful anniversary services on Nov. 5, 12 and 14. H. McCallum and R. Greenhalgh giving messages. W. J. Crossman and R. Greenhalgh have been conducting evening services during absence of D. Wakeley in Queensland on special military service during last three months. Death of Mr. Eyles is reported; sympathy is extended to members of family. Allen Eyles is home on leave. All departments of work are active, including recently-formed Helping Hand Club. Miss D. Hall has returned home from hospital.

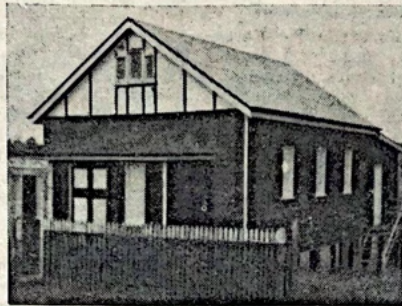
**Bexley North.**—On Nov. 5 J. Henderson addressed church at every-member-present service. Anniversary meetings were held in afternoon, when kindergarten scholars assisted, under supervision of Miss J. Toyer. J. Cunningham, of Kingsford, spoke at communion on Nov. 12. Bible school conducted afternoon meeting under lead of A. McAllister, when P. Thomas, of Marrickville, gave an illustrated talk. J. Henderson delivered gospel message to a large congregation, when scholars took part. T. Bagley was song-leader of Bible school.

**Wollongong.**—The Hinrichsen-Morris mission opened at Wollongong on Nov. 5 with good meetings in spite of a southerly gale. Unfortunately a westerly gale on 8th wrecked tent beyond repair, and after holding two meetings in chapel, missionaries decided that it was in best interests of brotherhood work that mission be postponed. The final meeting was well attended, and in response to Mr. Hinrichsen's invitation, a girl made good confession and was baptised later, a sister came forward to take membership, and a lad for reconsecration. On 12th a young lady made her confession.

### Queensland

**Ipswich.**—Meetings continue much as usual. In absence of Mr. Larsen on evening of Oct. 29, C.E. conducted gospel service. Two young men—K. Ludgater and K. Hack—gave short addresses; meeting was a great success. Church held 22nd anniversary on Nov. 4 and 5. Speakers were F. Hunting, Ann-st., Brisbane; and Chaplain D. Wakeley; their addresses were most inspiring.

**Monkland.**—Good services continue. School has grown. Monthly prayer meeting was very well attended. E. J. Kernick preached at



The Chapel at Monkland, Qld.

monthly gospel service on Nov. 5. Appreciative reports have been received of the broadcast session "Joybells of Monkland" on Nov. 5.

**Gympie.**—C.E. has prepared about 170 gifts for men and women in Forces, a special working bee wrapping them for post. A. J. Fisher conducted united intercessory service on Nov. 2 in town hall. On Nov. 5 a soldier was baptised and a Bible school scholar made good confession. A most helpful series of pre-mission cottage prayer meetings concluded on Nov. 18, all being well attended.

**Kedron.**—From Oct. 29 to Nov. 5, a series of evangelistic services was conducted. The 29th was held as a "back to Kedron" day. Annual S.S. anniversary was also celebrated by a splendid gathering. Attendances at other meetings were fairly good. Thanks are due to various speakers who co-operated to make meetings worthwhile. Two obeyed their Lord in faith and baptism. Geo. Spall, of the C.S.S.M., conducted also each school day, a "Happy After-school Hour" for children.

**Kingaroy.**—During absence of Mr. Spratt on annual holidays, meetings were conducted by C. F. Adermann, M.H.R., and G. Freegard. Faithful Fishermen increase campaign in Bible school has stimulated interest. Since beginning of conference year church has suffered seriously by removals. During same period, 5 have been added by primary obedience, 1 by letter, 1 by restoration, and 3 from other sources. In an endeavor to relieve need of Sixteen Mile and Wambo Creek, Mr. Spratt makes a quarterly visit, involving a round trip of 250 miles.

### Western Australia

**Perth.**—On Nov. 10 Bible school elected captains for house-to-house visitation. A social evening was enjoyed. On morning of Nov. 12, visitors included A. B. Burzacott (Winkie, S.A.); Fergus Anderson (Melbourne); Douglas Johnson (S.A.); and D. Moss (Moonee Ponds, Vic.). A welcome home was extended to H. Louey, and Reg. Prince was farewelled. J. W. Gordon, of Subiaco, gave a helpful talk. At 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Fletcher Thrum rendered a solo. A. G. Elliott preached in absence of J. Keith Robinson at Collie. On Nov. 15 C.E. society conducted prayer meeting. Allen Cook was speaker.

**Edwardstown West.**—On Nov. 5 there was another good attendance at gospel service; at conclusion of Mr. Cornelius' address four more boys confessed Christ. Bible school attendances are keeping near record. Work among young people is showing wonderful prospects.

**Prospect.**—Church anniversary services were conducted on Nov. 5; good attendances at all services, A. E. Brown presiding. P.S.A. service was conducted by choir under leadership of A. Cousins. Special anthems were rendered by choir. Services were continued on Wednesday evening, when H. P. Manning, of Nailsworth, delivered message. Solos were rendered by Mrs. Edquist and Mrs. Dohoney. Bible school held picnic at Hazelwood Park. At services on Nov. 12 A. E. Brown spoke. Members of cricket club held a church parade. C. Jessup addressed Bible class in afternoon.

**Naracoorte.**—Bible school anniversary services have been held, followed by special meetings, F. Hollams, of Cowandilla, speaking interestingly and helpfully at all meetings. Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Parker, of Maylands, have come to reside in Naracoorte. A flower service was held on evening of Nov. 5, with beautiful floral decorations. On evening of Nov. 8, quarterly business meeting of church was held happily and profitably. Gospel services have shown recently some improvement. A very pleasant and enjoyable time was spent at annual Bible school picnic held on Nov. 11, the weather being perfect for the event.

**Dulwich.**—Bible school anniversary was held on Nov. 5. In afternoon building was almost full as children sang their pieces under baton of E. H. Kentish. Mr. Hammer, late of New Hebrides, gave a very interesting illustrated talk to scholars and friends. At evening service there was a good attendance, when children sang again. F. Collins being speaker. On Nov. 7 school prizes and certificates won at recent scripture examination were presented. A special feature was an item presented by kinders. H. Grover, Bible school superintendent, has returned from New Guinea, and has resumed oversight of Bible school. Secretary's report showed an increase of 7 scholars for year.

**Unley.**—Visitors have included T. P. Dale, organising secretary of Social Service Department, N.S.W., Mr. Liddicoat, from Morook, and from the Services, Allen Jessup and Trevor Harvey. There is no news of Harry Earle, who has been reported missing whilst in a Lancaster bomber over Europe; Mrs. Earle was formerly Miss Evelyn Verco. Y.W.L., under Miss K. Taylor, has completed first year of activity. College of the Bible offering has reached £39. Mrs. Robert Burns is back at services after a severe illness. Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Rowland (nee Bowden) were married at Park-st. on Nov. 11. Attendances at all meetings have been well maintained, and auxiliaries are working with enthusiasm.

**Flinders Park.**—On Nov. 7 C.E. societies held annual rally, when A. Anderson was speaker. Societies from other churches were present, and church building was full; greetings were received from all members in Services, and from two orphans supported in India. Intermediates were successful in securing "efficiency" banner for Hindmarsh district while Juniors received second place. Following officers have been elected for coming year: Superintendent, G. Houston; assistant superintendent, Keith Webb; secretary, W. Walladge; treasurer, C. Coad; missionary, Hazel Walladge; prayer, Betty Dennis; sunshine, Ivan Schmelzkopf; pianist, Jean Richardson. Junior society officers were elected as follow: Mrs. Webb, leader; Elaine Webb, secretary; Margaret Challenger, treasurer. H. Francis and G. Houston have agreed to continue for a further three months as joint pastors. Church is endeavoring to secure fresh seating accommodation. Don Challenger has been discharged from hospital after undergoing a successful operation.

**Port Pirie.**—Bible school anniversary was held on Oct. 22, when T. Barber, Y.M.C.A. secretary, addressed children in afternoon, and W. O. Dawson spoke in evening. On Oct. 24 children presented a play, and prizes were distributed. The northern conference women's executive meeting was held here on Oct. 25. Mrs. Hutson, president, of Balaklava, took charge, with Miss Webb, assistant secretary. Other visitors were Sisters Edwards and Rodda, from Moolta, and 13 Pt. Pirie members. A. Hutson, president northern conference, visited church on Oct. 29, and spoke at both meetings. A wedding present was given by members to P.O. Bruce Hunter, R.A.A.F., and a surprise evening was given to Miss Muriel Hunter on her 21st birthday. A farewell evening was arranged for R. Robinson who is joining Navy.

## Victoria

**Emerald.**—Bible school anniversary services were concluded on Nov. 12. Avonsleigh and Cockatoo Bible schools joined in and came by car and truck. Chapel was well filled to hear R. Thorne, of Balwyn Baptist church. Children again sang splendidly. Prayers of the church go out for J. Legg, who has entered hospital for operation.

**Springvale.**—Church is looking forward to securing a full-time preacher. Plans are being arranged for new building on block purchased a year ago. Mr. Evans continues to give interesting addresses. On Nov. 5 H. B. Robbins gave an outstanding talk. Sunday school work is well maintained, and the prayer meeting shows signs of unusual vigor.

**Footscray.**—A well-attended and much appreciated pictorially illustrated service was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Ritchie on Nov. 12, followed by an inter-church youth rally. A. W. Cleland, vice-president Victorian conference, visited and addressed meeting on Nov. 15. H. Long, of college, addressed church on morning of Nov. 19, in absence of D. C. Ritchie at North Essendon.

**South Yarra.**—Church has been saddened by news that Air Gunner A. Hawkins, R.A.A.F., was killed by enemy action over Timor. On Nov. 19 fellowship with Mr. Hutchinson, R.A.A.F., of S.A., was enjoyed. E. Roffey spoke morning and evening. A social evening was arranged for Amelia Scarce and C. G. Taylor on Nov. 15, on eve of their marriage. Gifts and short speeches, conveying good wishes, were made on behalf of various auxiliaries.

**East Kew.**—Special meetings were held on Nov. 12. At 9 a.m. members of Baptist church and churches of Christ united in communion service. L. J. Gomm (Kew Baptist) was preacher, and at 11 a.m. P. E. Evans (North Balwyn Baptist) exchanged with Mr. Candy. At evening service subject was illustrated on screen. At 8.30 p.m. district C.E. Union conducted a praise and testimony meeting in church. K.S.P. club visited State Parliament on Nov. 14. Mr. Dobyn is improving and has left hospital. Christmas parcels are being prepared by ladies for members in Services.

**Reservoir.**—Thanksgiving day was held on Nov. 19. At morning worship, members and auxiliaries brought thankofferings. An impressive service was held. Mr. and Mrs. Burt, of Devonport, Tas., were visitors. Mr. Grainger preached. The offering amounted to £104, including £40 from Ladies' Guild. This amount was handed to church secretary by Mrs. McInnes, president of guild, who presided at evening meeting, which was entirely conducted by ladies of church, when Miss Mollie Jones gave challenging message. Miss Amelia Scarce contributed several solos. A choir of ladies assisted. Mrs. Rogers-Wilson was organist. Other ladies assisted in various ways. Mr. Grainger will complete his work as preacher on Nov. 26, having accepted a call to church at Devonport, Tas.

**Castlemaine.**—Annual S.S. picnic was held at Taradale on Nov. 11. A group of Kyneton brethren joined in. C. E. Curtis exchanged with Mr. McDonald at Kyneton on Nov. 12. Several members are laid aside.

**Doncaster.**—Women's Mission Band held final meeting for this session on Nov. 9, when Box Hill ladies paid a return visit, providing programme; Mr. Morgan was speaker. Mr. Gale and Mr. Hargreaves were present to further interests of home missions.

**Kaniva.**—Church friends gathered for a happy evening on Nov. 2 to wish R. M. Williams well on eve of his 70th birthday. Yearning Sunday school had a social gathering on 10th, when awards secured in scripture examination were presented. A good contingent attended Bortertown conference on 15th. Albert Anderson addressed meetings in circuit on Nov. 19. Mr. Earle is temporarily laid aside.

**Hartwell.**—H. Hargreaves, from Shepparton, was speaker at Mission Band on Nov. 7. C. J. Robinson's messages continue to be appreciated; part of evening service has been set aside for children. Ladies held a musical evening on Nov. 12, and raised £19 for Christian Guest Home and overseas missions. Bible school has settled down after anniversary; large attendances are reported, there being 208 present on Nov. 5.

**Mont Albert.**—Mr. Quirk has completed a series of messages on Ruth, over last four Sunday mornings. His work and help are appreciated greatly. The first degree Good Companions' Club, combined with Burnley club, came third in annual sports held on 18th. In connection with Eastern Suburban Y.P. fellowship, Mont Albert came equal second with Doncaster in attendance quota. Sunday school is practising for anniversary.

**Shepparton.**—On Nov. 5 both services were conducted by W. Gale during absence of Mr. Hargreaves. Sunday school picnic was held on Nov. 8. A garden party was held at home of Miss Melva on Nov. 2, when £3 was raised to assist effort for a new hospital for guest home. C.E. society held a trading table for same cause, and raised £1. Services on 12th were conducted by Mr. Hargreaves. Eight Air Force visitors were present at gospel service.

**Middle Park.**—S.S. anniversary services were celebrated on Nov. 5 and 12 with excellent attendances; appreciated addresses were given by W. E. Jackel, G. Whiting, L. E. Brooker and D. Stewart, at close of whose gospel address a girl from S.S. made good confession. Scholars sang splendidly under leadership of D. Stewart. On Nov. 15, scholars gave a successful concert, which reflected credit on training of teachers. Prizes were distributed, also awards for scriptural examination.

**North Williamstown.**—There was a good attendance at morning service on Nov. 12 to hear final address of L.A.C. Alex Cameron, R.A.A.F., who has so ably assisted church during illness of J. E. Thomas. Church expressed appreciation of his fine messages. Bible school combined with other schools of district in a united youth rally in town hall; Mr. Trevor Morris, children's missionary, spoke. In evening Protestant churches combined, meeting in town hall; over 1000 people listened to an inspiring address, at close of which two young people took their stand for Christ.

**Surrey Hills.**—Temple day offering on Nov. 11 exceeded £60. Quarterly youth tea at 5 p.m. on 12th, addressed by C. J. Robinson, of Hartwell, and scripture quiz, were enjoyed by large gathering of young people. At 7 p.m. Meister Singers charmed a packed audience with sacred melodies. Mr. McMaster, of Ormond College, gripped all with his forceful and unusual message. Friends of youth ladies catered generously for singers and friends at after-service social hour, at which Meister Singers, in charge of Mr. Pettigrove, sang again. Ron Arthur confessed Christ at C.E. convention.

**Dunolly.**—Ladies' guild met in home of Mrs. Stephens; Mrs. Griffiths was welcomed as a member. Children's Day F.M. offering amounted to £2/16/6. Sunday school anniversary services were held on Nov. 12. Scholars sang under excellent leadership of J. Hindman. Addresses by I. J. Chivell, of Maryborough, were appreciated. Attendance at afternoon service was a record, many visitors being present. Examination certificates and school prizes were presented. Special books were given five scholars who gained 100 per cent. Miss J. Scott is recuperating after operation. Miss S. Beasy and H. Beasy are in hospital.

**Melbourne (Swanston-st.).**—Church's 79th anniversary was celebrated on Nov. 12, with usual special home-coming services. There were excellent attendances. C. B. Nance-Kivell was morning speaker, and in evening Lygon-st. congregation joined with Swanston-st., when C. G. Taylor was speaker. Swanston-st. choir provided special music, with assistance of Mrs. E. M. Hutchinson and R. Hardy. Many visitors were entertained at dinner and tea. Customary home-coming afternoon session was cancelled to permit brotherhood memorial service to late Principal T. H. Scambler being held in the church building. Mr. Scambler was a member and former minister of church at Swanston-st. C. B. Nance-Kivell was speaker at both services on Nov. 19. In morning there were seven baptisms, five being young people from Bible school. The order of service was specially arranged to meet circumstances. A. Wilson assisted Mr. Nance-Kivell in conducting meeting.

**Blackburn.**—Church anniversary services on Nov. 5 were an inspiration. At every-member-present communion service F. Morgan was speaker. E. L. Williams, M.A., gave a splendid address at P.S.A. Mrs. F. Barber rendered four delightful solos, and Miss Florence Barber's violin numbers were much appreciated. Mr. Wright spoke at gospel meeting, when members of various youth auxiliaries were present. Chris Reekie was soloist. Temple day offering for manse project was £100. Splendid addresses have been given recently by R. A. Banks and Chaplain P. Thickers. Ralph Redman is at present on leave. Much interest is being shown in the united after-church prayer meetings when members of four local Protestant churches unite. A branch of "Society for Christian Action" has been formed, Mr. Wright being elected president and R. Robinson secretary. Good Companions won shield at annual sports day, scoring also highest points in novelty events.

## Calendars for 1945

"Scripture Meditation"—An attractive Block Calendar with tear-off scripture text and quotation every other day. Colored pictures. Price 4/- (4/3).

"Daily Light"—Block Calendar with Text only. Colored pictures. Two texts and dates on each tear-off leaf. Price 2/6 (2/9).

Write for November "Keswick Quarterly." Just out—post free.

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*The Australian Christian*



## Women's Page

(Continued from page 555)

conference at State executive meeting. Mrs. Cornelius was appointed to World Day of Prayer Committee. Mrs. Nankivell read notes prepared by Mrs. Messent about meeting of women at Federal conference.

### Queensland

Queensland women's auxiliary conference held their monthly meeting in Ann-st. church on Nov. 2. Mrs. Harlan, president, was in chair. C. F. Adermann addressed meeting, and spoke of the good work done by women. He emphasised need of care, love and protection of our gallant boys in the post-war period. Items were given by Mrs. W. Keeble and Mrs. W. Finger. Prayer meeting superintendent, Mrs. Burnham, reported a helpful day of fellowship at Kedron, when over £5 was raised for home missions. Mrs. Bates gave a comprehensive report of Federal conference held in Sydney. At ninth half-yearly conference held at Toowoomba, Mrs. J. Harlan, president of the women's conference, gave an address at Saturday evening session.

### West Australia

It is a great pleasure to know that Mrs. C. Burdeu has recovered from her serious illness, and is able to visit eastern States.

Since coming to W.A. Mrs. Burdeu has done a fine work in Missionary Education Department, and also on State Aborigines Committee. Mrs. Pollard, secretary, is in Sydney, and expects to be in W.A. for December meeting.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

IN all capital cities, and in many of suburbs, there will be special services on World Day of Prayer, February 16, 1945.

If you live in a country town, where there is no service planned, will you do your best to organise a service? If you have need of publicity material and programmes for this world-wide observance, you may obtain them from Victorian hon. secretary, Mrs. S. McCann, 13 Mowbray-st., Hawthorn, E.3, or from hon. secretary of N.S.W. committee, Miss C. Fraser, Bible House, Bathurst-st., Sydney.

### THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ballock tender their sincere thanks to relatives and friends for telegrams and letters received, in connection with their golden wedding anniversary; also members at the North Melbourne re-union, for their hearty congratulations. Will all please accept our sincere thanks?

### APPRECIATION

Mrs. D. Francis wishes to thank all kind friends for cards, letters, telegrams and all other expressions of sympathy in her recent sad bereavement.—Gladstone-st., Warragul.

### WANTED

Board and residence required for mother, son 13, daughter 9, from January 22, for week or 10 days, Emerald or nearer hills. Letter to Mrs. Collings, 342 Pt. Nepean-rd., Chelsea.

Business girl, church member, requires board and lodging, church home.—"Beth," c/o Austral Publishing Co.

Wanted to buy for mission work, light sedan car in good condition and fitted with boot.—Missioner L. Roberts, 21 Orchard-st., Brighton, S.5. X4165.

Wanted urgently, refined women over 45 years to do general house work, two adults and three children. Good home and good wages. Apply R. Heazlewood, Box 187, Red Cliffs.

### MARRIAGE

**SNODGRASS-HINSPETER.**—In chapel of church of Christ, Townsville, Qld., on Oct. 12, the marriage was solemnised of Agnes Frances, elder daughter of Mrs. S. Hinspeter and the late Mr. T. R. Hinspeter, Walker-st., Townsville, to John Phillip, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Snodgrass, of Yungaburra, North Queensland, Mr. S. W. Vanham, Rockhampton, officiating.

### BIRTH

**WALMSLEY** (Margaret Osborne).—On Nov. 16, at "Dun-Arcs," to Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Walmsley, the Manse, Swan Hill, Vic.—the gift of a son (David Henry Bryan).

### IN MEMORIAM

**BARRETT.**—In loving memory of Pauline T. Barrett, who passed away Nov. 20, 1940. —Inserted by L. Meldrum.

**HAINES.**—In loving memory of our dearly loved mother, Edith, called home Nov. 20, 1934, also our dear father, on March 9, 1941. Severed only "till he come."

—Inserted by their loving daughters, Mrs. F. Gross, Mrs. J. Atkinson, and son, Harry.

**HARDING.**—In loving memory of my dear husband, "Wilfred," father of Don and Ken, passed away Nov. 25, 1921. "Loving memories." Peace, perfect peace!

With loved ones far away;  
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.  
—Inserted by his loving wife, Ruby.

**LLOYD.**—In fond memory of our beloved mother, who fell asleep in Jesus on Nov. 28, 1942, at Hilton, S.A. "Forever with the Lord, Amen! so let it be."

—Inserted by Con and Albert, Norwood, also Violet and Ben, Prospect.

### NOTICE

#### 'COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE STUDENTS' CONCERT COMMITTEE

Express thanks to all who assisted by the sale and purchase of tickets for their concert. They would appreciate the immediate return of all unsold tickets and cash to—  
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Scripture Readings and Bible Quiz at Evening Session.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 3 p.m.

YOUTH PAGEANT.

Exhibition open for inspection.

7 p.m., Girls' Choir. Special singing.

All welcome on both days.

#### PARKDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST HOME-COMING SERVICES.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

Preacher, R. L. Williams, B.A., B.D.

Subjects—

11 a.m., "The Fellowship."

7 p.m., "The Good Confession."

Tea at 5 p.m. in school hall.

Past members and friends invited.

#### GARDENVALE BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER 3—

11 a.m., Teachers' Consecration Service. Speaker, F. Buckingham.

3 p.m., L. E. Brooker. 7 p.m., B. Huntsman.

DECEMBER 10—

3 p.m., J. Bond. 7 p.m., R. J. Anderson.

Special singing under baton of C. Gadge, assisted by members of Malvern Girls' Choir and orchestra.

DECEMBER 13—

Pictorial Lecture by C. L. Lang, Masonic Hall. Donation 1/-.

Old friends and new welcomed.—S. H. Lunn.

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Nov. 26.—Translator of the Word—William Tyndale (1492-1536).

Dec. 3.—The Place of Praise in Religion—  
Mr. C. J. Robinson.

### PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON, ST. GEORGES ROAD, NORTH FITZROY, VIC. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, at 3 p.m.

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Sun., DEC. 3, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m., Anniversary Services.

Speaker, E. L. Williams.

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Lord's day preachers: 11 a.m., C. B. Nance-Kivell, B.S.Litt., B.D.; 3 p.m., R. L. Williams, B.A., B.D.; 7 p.m., Thomas Hagger. Special singers.

Lord's day afternoon service will be special thanksgiving.

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## Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

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

### CONFERENCE SERMON

MR. J. WILTSHIRE'S letter to the Open Forum of the "Australian Christian" of Nov. 1, in reference to the conference sermon which I delivered in Sydney, indicates that he read into the sermon inferences which were not there. His letter has unfortunately placed me in an invidious position in the eyes of those who have never heard or read the original statement.

My plea was for "the widest possible freedom of opinion, but at the same time insisting upon the centrality and authority of Jesus Christ as expressed in the original apostolic creed, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

Relevant to Mr. Wiltshire's criticism, let me quote what I actually said: "Differences are inevitable in matters like inspiration, the miraculous birth of Jesus, the atonement, immortality, the millennial issue, worship, church government, the ministry, and even the ordinances of the New Testament. Allow our differences upon these matters to get out of their perspective in relation to the authority of Christ in life and conduct, and they will divide and shut out." It is in theories and interpretations relating to these matters that differences occur, and this is what I meant. I thought that would be clear to all, but evidently I should have made explicit what was implicit. I assured Mr. Wiltshire of my meaning in a private letter.

Throughout the history of the Christian church, there have been many and changing theories concerning some of these central issues. The abiding thing through them all has been the acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour in thought and experience. Whatever the theories of Christ's person, he has been accepted as Lord in thought, and obeyed as Lord in experience; and whatever the theories of the atonement, he has been accepted as Saviour in thought, and has been the Saviour in human experience. Men have become new creations in him. Historically our plea has been for the creed of apostolic confession: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." As a creedal statement we accept nothing less and demand nothing more. We may generally believe and teach more, but we are ready to accept members into the body of Christ on that confession. Theories do not belong to this plea.

Mr. Wiltshire speaks of whittling away the deity and authority of our Lord and his atonement. There was nothing in my address to suggest this; its basic plea was for the authority of our Lord. I believe in the deity and atonement of Christ, and have consistently preached these truths.

I prefer, however, to be true to our historic plea and express them in scriptural language rather than in theological and traditional terms. I believe that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God"; that "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"; that he, "being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"; that "Christ

died for our sins," and "was raised again for our justification." On this I take my stand, and will leave it to those who have heard me most, and all who read this statement, to decide whether the accusations and insinuations are true or false.—R. L. Williams.

[We expect to print in next issue, for information of readers, the substance of the Federal conference sermon.—Ed.]

### CHRISTIANITY AND CHURCHANITY

I HAVE just read the issue for November 1. Your leaders are always welcome—generally because the practical elements of the Christian faith in the art of daily living are often made prominent. After all, is not Christianity the art of living the life? Your leader, "Christianity and Churchanity," is instructive to the thinker. I recall that the then newly-arrived Church of England bishop in several of his early public addresses to Adelaide citizens, frequently used the phrase, "Practising Christianity," urging it as the great need of the times. When people speak with disrespect of church, do they not have in mind the undue "formalities of worship" in which our Lord is clothed? If the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of the world, why to-day is it non-effective? Churches are empty and preaching seems non-effective. It is the same gospel—what is missing? Surely it has not failed, and as some believe, we must wait for the Lord to come. I still believe it is the power of God, but that we are failing to preach the fact in God's own way.—W. L. Johnston, Unley, S.A.



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The Australian Christian

# Religious Education in N.Z.

G. R. Stirling reports on efforts to impart religious training in schools. Reference is also made to young people's work.

## Education Conference

THE Minister of Education has called together all pressure groups into a conference on education. Every aspect of the subject was treated. Important on the list was that of Christian education in the schools. The churches were well represented, and made a good case for a unified approach by the church in an extension on the present Nelson system. There was also vigorous opposition to the extension of religious education. The Rationalists denied the connection between religion and morals, and opposed the teaching of unproved and improbable beliefs. The teachers' union was in favor of the retention of the present system wherein ministers go into the schools for half an hour per week. They were opposed to members of their own fraternity participating in the teaching, either as volunteers or as part of their normal duties. Their whole attitude can be summed up in their anxiety to protect the consciences of their non-believing members from coercion, whether official coercion or the coercion of social pressure.

Great emphasis was made on the present disunity of the churches. However, it was shown by the representatives of the churches that they were agreed in method of approach to the question and also in the matter of an agreed syllabus. The Roman Catholics stated that they believed that Christian education should be given by the church in church schools, but that they would not oppose the proposals of the Protestant churches.

It was interesting to find that opposition to religious instruction placed so much emphasis on the divisions in the churches, yet this was not unexpected, for at the present time the educational world here is hopelessly divided on the fundamental principles of education. For weeks the papers have been full of it. At one extreme, there are the stern disciplinarians who find in the rigid instruction in the three R's all that an educated man needs. At the other extreme is the advocate of a broad, free education, with little restraint on the pupil, and in which instruction is as "sugar-coated" as possible. Teachers and educationists engage in heated controversies over these issues. Members of chambers of commerce and other groups join in as though they were experts in educational science.

One charge that the conference laid at the door of the churches cannot be successfully refuted, for it is largely true. Ministers and clergy who participate in religious instruction were accused of being unwilling to acquaint themselves with the fundamental principles of child training and teaching method. Consequently they often became a disturbing factor in the life of the schools. It is to be hoped that the forthright statements made in these discussions will sting the consciences of the offenders. Ministers were also accused of failing to observe the decencies of attendance and punctuality. Again abundant facts could be introduced to back these statements.

In the end the conference found itself unable to make any pronouncement on the matter of Bible in schools. A suggestion was made for a further conference between the groups concerned, to discuss the question of placing an act on the statute books, that would present a system of religious instruction that would be as satisfactory as possible to all concerned. It is envisaged that such a system would resolve itself into the present Nelson system with some of the anomalies ironed out of it.

## Extension Work by Auckland Young People.

The young people of Auckland were challenged some months ago to help out with the work at Pt. Chevalier. This church, for various reasons, had dwindled. On the other hand, the Sunday school work was hopeful. 130 children came without effort on the part of leaders, and in a growing area there was promise of many more. For some time the young people arranged help in preaching and general support, and have managed to awaken the enthusiasm of others. Elder brethren have also given generous support. The Home Mission Committee has now appointed F. Slatery to the ministry of church, and already attendances at services have doubled, and the work shows fine prospects.

## Change at Ponsonby

After a successful ministry at Ponsonby-rd., Auckland, W. S. Lowe has accepted a call to Brighton, Vic. Mr. Lowe has contributed largely to the good name of our brotherhood amongst other bodies and groups in New Zealand. He has always been in demand as a speaker and lecturer, and has taken a prominent part in inter-church work. We commend his abilities to the use of the Australian brotherhood.

## Obituary

### Johan Hinrich Asmus

THE building at Bundaberg, Qld., was filled on an evening of Nov. 5 for the in memoriam service conducted to honor our late brother and elder, J. H. Asmus. Mr. Asmus passed away on Sept. 30, after spending three distressing months in Bundaberg General Hospital. Born in Denmark on Jan. 7, 1865, he came to this country as a child, and in his early life became a pioneer settler in Bundaberg district. He was married in Bundaberg to Miss Margaret Michie, who predeceased him in December, 1932. He is survived by three sons and two daughters. Two sons and a daughter are in the Services. They have assurance that he has departed to be with Christ, which is far better. Always interested in way of Christ, Mr. Asmus was first a member of the Salvation Army, but becoming dissatisfied there, he could find no people after his own heart until he came into contact with John Thompson who was visiting the district. Mr. Asmus was baptised by Mr. Thompson in the Yellow Waterholes Creek, and became the first member of the Associated Churches of Christ in Bundaberg district. When others were baptised, he became the leader and teacher of the infant church, which met in homes of members. From foundation of church in Bundaberg Mr. Asmus was an elder, a helper and friend of every preacher. He came to the end of his earthly adventure, when the body could no longer sustain the mind, raised his hand to shake the hand of his friend, and then went on into the future.—A.B.C.

### Harold John Stevenson

THE church at Whyalla, S.A., suffered a great loss, and all members were deeply saddened by death of H. J. Stevenson, who fell asleep in Jesus on Oct. 27, aged 58 years. Our brother had not been well over last six months, but the Sunday before his death he had served the emblems of the Lord. Joining church 33 years ago under ministry of E. J. Tuck in Broken Hill, N.S.W., he was faithful in work until his home-call. He served as a deacon

for many years, and was responsible for chairs when kindergarten was started. Transferring to Park-st. in 1916, he became a member of church choir; he later transferred to Cottonville church, where he served as a deacon for many years, also as teacher and treasurer of Sunday school. Coming to Whyalla in 1940, his interest for the Master continued, becoming a foundation member when church was started. He was one of first deacons, which office he held until his death, besides being a trustee of church. He leaves behind to mourn his loss a wife and a family of four—Maisie (Mrs. C. Butler), Les, Reg and Joyce. His body was laid to rest on Oct. 29 at Whyalla Cemetery, Mr. Matthews officiating at graveside. To those who mourn the loss of a true husband and a loving and sacrificing father, we pray God's comfort and strength, and commend them to one who knows and understands human grief.—W. J. Tregloan.

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(Romans 1: 20)

IT is often in this life that people make an excuse by reason of something that has gone wrong, or perhaps refusing to respond to an invitation. No doubt an excuse at times is made in good faith. But how often they are a sham! Faith is required of those who would come to God. But God has given something to substantiate faith. He has created the universe, and we all see the hand of God in nature. God has been revealed in the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. If we accept the Bible as being historically true (and strong evidence can be produced), we must accept the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we accept that Jesus Christ spoke the truth we cannot deny his word. So man cannot say that he has not seen anything to indicate to him the existence of God. The veriest heathen has seen the handiwork of God. Man who sins and rejects the Christ is without excuse. —W. H. McWilliams (A.I.F.).

### THOUGHT

*Thou shalt not rise by grieving  
over the irremediable past, but by  
remedying the present. —Selected.*

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