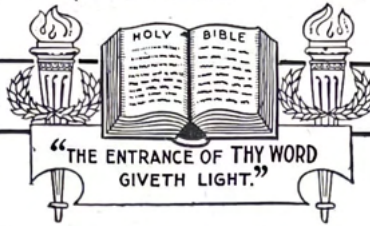


W.M. Fraser

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CHRIST AND ETHICS

JESUS was a great teacher. He did not set out to instruct men on how to make money, nor on how to gain power. His aim as a teacher was to show men the way to live.

Life is a complicated process, and it is not easy to understand the principles of right living. The children of Israel were given codes of laws by means of which outward life could be ordered. But since actions have their beginning within the heart, it is impossible, when the heart is evil, to change the outward behaviour by external laws. Christ's greatest contribution as a teacher of ethics was his insistence upon the need of purifying the source of moral action. Murder arises from hate in the heart. If a man rids himself of hate he will not murder. Adultery springs from inward lust. Take lust from the soul and a man will live a clean life. The Master insisted that men must have pure hearts so that they might live well and enjoy fellowship with God. "Blessed are the pure in heart," he said, "for they shall see God." All Christ's moral teaching may be summed up under one positive statement. The good life is full of love. Where love is evil finds little room. Remember, it was to no sentimental love that Jesus referred: it was to a strong love which holds a man to God and raises him above the level of beasts. Such a love enables a man to estimate his true worth, and helps him to see himself as better than a sheep, in the sight of God.

THE first steps to the higher life must raise a man to the plane where he gains dignity. If a man sees himself as a pig, he will live as a pig, but let a man perceive himself to be a man—a child of God—and he will desire to maintain the dignity of his high calling.

The next steps to moral living bring us to the place where we see the need of treating others with due dignity, not as sheep or pigs, but as men—children of God. So while loving God with all our might, we must also learn to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The greatest teachers of Israel, Egypt, Greece and Rome did not interpret life like this Galilean teacher. No wonder the common people heard him gladly and exclaimed, "He is different; he does not

teach like scribes and Pharisees, but as one having authority." Studies in psychology confirm this wisdom and depth of understanding in the Master's teachings. We do not need to read books on ethics or on psychology of behaviour to grasp the way to live; we need only to study diligently the truths taught by Jesus Christ.

WHILE many have laid down principles of the good life, none save Jesus has lived perfectly that life. Moses failed. What about Socrates, Aristotle, Zeno and Kant? Although we have records of their ethical teaching, there is no account to suggest that they lived up to what they taught.

We get plenty of precept but too little example. But this Jesus not only taught the principle of the good life—he lived it. After three years of public ministry, during which he spent himself helping others, the only charges brought against him were by false witnesses. Only because of the misrepresentations of his enemies could even a show of judgment be brought against him. King Herod could find nothing amiss. Pilate said, "I find no fault in him." Even Judas confessed to the priests, after the betrayal, "I have betrayed innocent blood."



REMEMBER the times in which Jesus lived; they were far from ideal. We see him in the gospel picture against a background of a poverty-stricken, bigoted and sordid social order. Yet he lives a real life. "He is not mildly inking in a lead-pencil sketch handed down from heaven, but is facing temptations, searching and alluring, from his first desert struggle to Gethsemane, where surrender to his Father's will cost him an inward agony that covered his brow with blood." If we compare the effect of the gospel portrait of our Lord with Tennyson's representation of King Arthur's character, the latter becomes tiresomely wooden. The studied and manufactured perfection of the king wearies the reader; but Jesus stands out in the gospels as One who commands respect and demands this life—this all we have to offer.

[Please turn to page 580.]

Changing India

Dr. A. J. Saunders, formerly a professor of Economics at American College, University of Madras, who has just returned to Australia, tells an interesting story of India's changing scenes.

ALFRED LORD TENNYSON'S famous tunes are particularly appropriate to India at this time; the dying King Arthur said to his last remaining knight, Sir Bedivere:

The old order changeth, giving place to new;
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

Like many other countries India is in the process of change. This war is uprooting many things which will never be the same again. It is not a justification of war, but world war does shake us out of our complacency and self-satisfied smugness, and it does give us a new direction, and perhaps greater opportunities for adjustment to new conditions. We all tend to get into ruts and stay there. Progress has always to fight conservatism. There is much meaning in the saying, "Adapt or die." The newer and younger countries have no intention of dying; they have a forward look; that involves change. To have lived in India for thirty years, to witness and be a part of important movements, and to see an old civilisation reorganising its thought and life to meet new responsibilities has been a great experience.

ECONOMIC CHANGES

Being an economist, I am more interested in economic changes; the greatest of these is the application of science to agriculture and industry. With the tremendous population that India is carrying, food is of primary importance: grow more food and better is a slogan of great urgency. Bengal shows up this problem in all its aspects.

India is developing industrially with an increasing tempo; she is about seventh in industrial production. What has been done in Russia in not more than three to four five-years' plans will be reproduced also in India. When war-munitions' production is changed over to peace production, India will be able to satisfy many of her own needs that formerly were possible only by imports from foreign countries. This industrial development will result in higher wages, and better standards of living, and relieve many of the over-populated rural areas. The future of India belongs to industry.

EDUCATIONAL CHANGES

Next, one must place education. The demand for scientific and modern education in India to-day is phenomenal. In earlier times it was only the Brahmin and the higher castes who received education, and that of a very limited, sanskrit-theological nature. But to-day—what a change! Thousands and tens of thousands, boys and girls also, are flocking to the schools and colleges to get a modern education. The science classes—physics, chemistry, biology, economics are all crowded. These young people want to know about the world in which they live, the social and political organisation of society, science and industry, and India's place in the world after the war. India's education formerly consisted largely of Hindu theology and law. But now medicine, engineering, commerce and banking, journalism, and industrial technique are more and more demanded. One can easily realise what changes will result from this new educational programme in the life and thought of the people.

RELIGIOUS CHANGES

Religion also is receiving a new emphasis, not along the old lines of outworn theological ideas, but associating religion with life and making it practical. The Servants of India Society and other movements are proof of the new application of religion to everyday life. It must be remembered that Indians

are intensely religious. Religion is at the basis of their whole social life. The caste and communal problem which is so persistent is in the last analysis religious. The serious lack of co-operation in the political and social organisation of their life is due very largely to their religious prejudices. We say oil and water will not mix; neither will the Hindus, Moslems, Buddhists; that is at bottom responsible for most of the communal trouble throughout the country. Many of the old religious ideas and practices are being modified, in some cases swept away, by modern education and the world war. Many college men are dissatisfied with the old forms of religion; unless something more vital can be introduced into their thinking they will become irreligious and agnostic.

The question arises: Will India, like Russia and China, offer an open door to Christianity after the war? I am afraid not. India is intensely nationalistic. Christian missions are regarded as Western, and represent the religion of their rulers. The Roman Catholic church is racing ahead; it is identifying itself with the institutions and life of the people. The Protestant Christian church has been for the most part a reproduction of the theology and practices of the West. The Indian Christian church must become indigenous after the war. Self-government applies to church as well as to the State. The administration and leadership of the church is passing into the hands of Indians. Are foreign missionaries still wanted? Yes, if they will limit themselves to evangelistic, medical and spiritual ministries, allowing Indians the administration of funds and positions of leadership in the church. If foreigners are not willing to do that, then they are not wanted.

Educated and thinking Indians are becoming more dissatisfied with our Western denominationalism. Why should we persist in trying to fasten around the necks of Eastern peoples our own theological differences and



HINDU PRIEST GAZING AT IDOL.

Hinduism is resisting Christianity, and the church must be ready to meet that opposition.

historic practices? Many of them earnestly desire a United Indian Christian church. This desire has led to the movement of the South India United church. But that is a long and interesting story which I cannot go into now. Negotiations are still going on between Anglicans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Dutch Reform, and it looks as though organic church union will be achieved some time in the near future.

India is marching on; great changes and developments in politics, industry and material life are coming; it is for the Christian forces also to keep pace with the general trends of political and economic life, for man does not live by bread alone. India, as every other country, must conserve her religious idealism in order to save her people from aggressive materialism.

LET me do my work each day, and if the darkened hours of despair overcome me, let me not forget the strength that comforted me in the desolation of other times. Spare me from bitterness and from the sharp passion of unguarded moments. Though the world know me not, let my thoughts and actions be such as shall keep me friendly with myself. Lift my eyes from the earth and let me not forget the uses of the stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself. Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am, and keep ever burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope. Though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within the sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life and for time's older memories, which are good and sweet. And may evening twilight find me gentle still.

A Preacher Beloved

The death of James E. Thomas on November 27 brought to a close on earth the ministry of one of the best loved of our Australian preachers

JAMES EDWARD THOMAS was one of the best known and loved men in the fellowship of churches of Christ in Australia. His evangelical fervor carried his interest into many avenues of Christian service. He was so anxious to spread the good news of salvation into realms near and afar, that he made time to co-operate with many organisations working to assist missionaries at home and abroad. Our brother's grasp of the essential truths of the gospel made him a gifted preacher and evangelist. Being a diligent student of the word of God, he was able to defend the faith as well as declare it faithfully. Few men have enjoyed the capacity to win the confidence of strangers as he had. Wherever he went he conversed with men and women, finding an opportunity to enlighten them of the hope in Christ Jesus.

In South Australia

Mr. Thomas was born at Adelaide, S.A., in 1879, and lived his early life at Unley, a suburb of Adelaide. At the age of 13 years he was baptised by J. C. Dickson, and became a member of the church at Park-st., Unley. He began preaching at the early age of 14 years. To improve his knowledge of the scriptures, he entered the training class conducted by T. J. Gore and A. C. Rankine. In 1900 he commenced to serve as a full-time evangelist with the church at Milang. He preached also at Point Sturt and Stirling East; at the latter place he conducted one of the first tent missions in South Australia.

In America

A. B. Maston, who was always on the watch for talent, selected Mr. Thomas as a candidate for college training. Thus he was enabled to proceed to the Kentucky University, U.S.A., in 1903, and gain a sound training for the Christian ministry. There is no doubt that the outstanding instruction of such men as Professor A. R. Milligan and Professor J. W. McGarvey left a deep impression on his mind and heart, and helped him to appreciate the simple but glorious truths of the church.

In Adelaide

J. E. Thomas returned to Australia during 1906 and commenced a long term of service with Grote-st. church, Adelaide. He was welcomed by members of that congregation on Oct. 9, and continued in happy fellowship until June 11, 1916.

In Victoria

Almost immediately after he left Grote-st. he went to Victoria, and led the church at Lygon-st., Carlton, in a seven-years' ministry for the Master. Then accepting the invitation to labor with a newly-established church at Balwyn, a growing suburb of Melbourne, he resigned from the work at Lygon-st. and helped to advance the pioneering work begun at Balwyn by Gilbert Chandler. During his long term of service there Mr. Thomas saw the church grow into a strong cause. In response to an appeal to go to Western Australia, he sought leave of absence from Balwyn church, and then proceeded to the

western State, where he conducted a series of tent missions. He returned to Balwyn for a while, but later went to the help of the brethren at North Williamstown, where he began, in 1938, a very fruitful term of service.

When the church at Swanston-st., Melbourne, was without a regular preacher in



Jas. E. Thomas.

1943, J. E. Thomas undertook the oversight of the city work for a short period while still associated with North Williamstown.

In Australia

J. E. Thomas belonged to the Australian brotherhood. He travelled extensively and was known and beloved by a great host. He was entrusted with one of the highest responsibilities the brotherhood has to bestow. During 1912 he was appointed the president of the Federal Conference; prior to that, in 1910, he was acting Federal president. In 1930 Mr. Thomas led the Australian delegation to the First World Convention of Churches of Christ held at Washington, D.C., America.

He Keepeth My Soul

A PARAPHRASE OF PSALM 121.

UP to the hills I lift mine eyes,
From whom shall my help come?
From him who made the hills and hung
The stars within their dome.

He wearies not nor sleepeth,
Wherever I may fare,
My soul he safely keepeth
Within his loving care.

Whatever seemeth evil,
He turneth to my good,
My trust is in his promise,
His shelter my abode.

My entrance and departure
Alike are in his sight;
No darkness can conceal the dawn
Of everlasting light.

—C. C. Albertson,
in "British Weekly."

He served on many important committees of conferences, but he took a special interest in the work of the Foreign Mission Committee. He visited the Indian mission field during 1937, and on his return to Australia was able to give his brethren valuable information about the conditions under which missionaries work. It was one of the great joys of his life that his son, Colin, went out to India to serve as a missionary.

In the Community

The breadth of his outlook on life presented him with the challenge to serve in various fields. For many years he was a visiting chaplain to men in gaols. He was also a chaplain in the Australian Army. Over the years he took great interest in the Christian Endeavor movement, serving as the national president of the Australian union. Many will remember him because of his association with the convention held yearly at Upwey, Victoria. He was chosen quite regularly to be one of the principal speakers. He found time and energy to take an interest in the activities of the China Inland Mission, the Sudan Mission, the Mission to Lepers and the Telugu Village Mission.

In Hospital

During recent months our brother had been a patient sufferer in the Epworth Hospital. Borne up by a great faith, his trust in the hope of Christ was so manifested that many who visited him were encouraged to remain steadfast in the Lord. He found release from pain on Nov. 27, when he fell asleep in Christ.

Humble Tributes

At a well-attended service in the Lygon-st. chapel on Nov. 29, those who knew him declared by their presence their thanks to God for the privilege of having had fellowship with this faithful servant of the Lord. The service was led by W. Gale, conference secretary, and besides the testimony of representatives of the brotherhood, Mr. Moorehouse spoke on behalf of the Williamstown Ministers' Association, Dr. Kitchen for the China Inland Mission, and Mr. W. H. Edgar, M.L.C., for the citizens of the State. The mortal remains of our brother were buried in the Box Hill cemetery.

Special reference was made at the services to Donald, of the A.I.F., who is a prisoner of war; and to Colin, a missionary in India. Deepest sympathy is felt for these absent ones, and also for Mrs. Thomas, Ruth (Mrs. A. J. Tilly), and Alan.

It is the prayer of many that God will raise up others to serve as James E. Thomas, for this generation needs men with a like faith and evangelical passion as he had. What greater tribute could be paid to the memory of any man!

In Appreciation

We present the following statement from one who is familiar with the good work of our late brother:—

"The late Mr. Thomas was, as you know, gaol chaplain for a while. I was speaking at Lygon-st. yesterday at the service, and met there a lady whose son served a long term of imprisonment for theft. She was very distressed at the loss of Mr. Thomas. She gave great credit to him for the fact that, since he had contacted her son in prison, the young man had so mended his ways that he was now in business and was doing well."

R. A. Kemp, secretary of North Williamstown, says: Our late brother, J. E. Thomas, gave the church standing in the community. Membership was raised from 89 to 160. His home was always opened to friends and visitors, and became known as the "local hostel." Mr. Thomas won the respect of a great company in the town.

C.E. Interests and Activities

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

W.A. NEWS

FROM Western Australia comes good reports of Endeavor activities. From Midland Junction comes the following excellent word contained in a letter to the Endeavorers: "I did what you told me to do. I've taken the Lord Jesus into my heart and life, and now I have peace and joy. Everything goes right now. I'm being baptised next Sunday, God willing." Such was the result of a visit by Endeavorers to the Woodbridge Ladies' Home, when one of the guests spoke to an Endeavorer.

Nedlands also reports activity amongst both junior and senior societies. Subiaco Endeavorers help Miss Ingram in her work with the aborigines at Bassendean; they have sung hymns to the patients in the Home of Peace and made many visits to the sick. They also successfully arranged one of the midweek prayer meetings. The C.E. district rally was held in the chapel during the month.

PROGRESS OR ENTERTAINMENT?

I N seeking news for these columns we searched State papers, and were amazed to find how little C.E. features in church reports. Is this one of the reasons that C.E. is not making the progress it should? Are we doing the work of C.E. or only becoming entertainment functions? We would like to hear of and from a really live lookout committee. Will you let us know what your society is doing in this way?

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

"HELP me to make this day
Worthy of thy giving,
That the world may be
The better for my living."

—J. Oxenham.

PROHIBITION OF BIBLE READING

HENRY VIII, had no love for the circulation of the Bible. Sir Thomas Cromwell, Archbishop Cranmer, and other reformers, had need to exercise great tact in order to secure the king's permission for the publication of the Bible in English. Within a few years a law was passed whereby all copies of Tyndale's English Bible were to be "clearly and utterly abolished and extinguished, and forbidden to be kept or used." Three years later this prohibition was extended to all copies of Wycliffe's and Coverdale's Bibles. By the same law, no one of the common people was allowed to read the Bible in any translation, either in public or at home.

In Scotland many suffered for no other crime than that of reading the Bible. An instance is given: Thomas Forret, vicar of Dollar, was charged with having "preached out of the scripture." He was further charged with having "committed to memory every day three chapters." For this he was burned with others at Castle Hill, Edinburgh.—Selected.

HER RELIGION IN HER FACE

THE story is related of a young lady missionary in Japan who was travelling on one occasion by steamer from one seaport to

"CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM"

WE have just read a very fine book on personal evangelism and one which every C.E. society should use as a study book. This is "Conversational Evangelism." The cost is 1/-. Let every C.E. member be an evangelist of the New Testament order and pattern.

PUTTING IT OVER THE AIR

NORTHBRIDGE Baptists believe that the public meeting at the anniversary was unique, in that it was the first of its kind in N.S.W. It took the form of an actual radio broadcast, the programme being transmitted from the school hall to the church. The equipment was kindly loaned by a friend of the church. The reports and items were all read in front of a microphone and transmitted to the church, where the audience was seated. The audience, of course, saw none of these proceedings; they merely heard the voices and music as though they were in their homes listening to a radio programme.

The programme was run to a set time with an announcer. One of the highlights was the 2CE local and overseas news introduced by a recording of "Advance Australia Fair." The "news" consisted of interesting missionary items concerning Coraki, India, China and South America, etc. We were fortunate to secure the services of Chaplain E. Marks as guest speaker. He spoke his message through the microphone. The evening proved a success.

another in the island kingdom. On the same boat was a Japanese merchant, so worried and depressed by business reverses that he was seriously contemplating suicide. He saw the foreign lady quietly watching the beautiful view with such an expression of peace and absolute satisfaction on her face that he could not refrain from looking at her again and again. She was a stranger to him, but he longed to ask her the secret of her happiness. His own restless, burdened heart cried out for the inner calm which could so stamp its impress upon the countenance.

In his distress and desperation he felt that he must know. He ventured to address her, and his profound respect was evident in both his words and his manner. He unburdened his heart, and asked if she could give him the secret of the wonderful peace which told its own sweet story to those who looked upon her face.

It was her rare privilege to tell this suffering soul of Jesus and his redemption, and the forgiveness of sin which alone can bring with it the "peace which passeth all understanding."

OPEN INVITATION

Wishing to get married, a couple went to a minister's house just as he was ready to leave for his service. The preacher explained what he considered a way out of the difficulty.

"You two come to the service, and at the close come forward and I will marry you."

They agreed to this, and when the minister had completed his sermon, in order to give them the cue to come forward, he announced, "All those desiring to be married come forward."

Thirteen women and one man started for the altar.

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—GREATER THAN ELIJAH?

Dec. 11—Isaiah 40: 1-11.

" 12—Mal. 3: 1-5.

" 13—Mal. 4.

" 14—Matt. 17: 1-13.

" 15—John 1: 19-28.

" 16—Luke 1: 1-16.

" 17—Isaiah 55; Luke 1: 17-23.

WITH much humility John the Baptist denied that he was the promised Elijah; meaning that he was not so in the sense his questioners had in mind. Yet according to O.T. prophecies and our Lord's assertion, Elijah, in the wilderness; ready was he to sink into but men knew him not. And now, as then, most Jews and millions of others are blind still, expecting Elijah's appearance, but in vain, for he has come and gone. After all, John was, as he said, simply a voice "crying in the wilderness; ready was he to sink into the darkness of oblivion now that he who was "the light which lighteth every man coming into the world," had appeared; ready to be nothing, so long as Christ was "all and in all." And in our day, looking backward instead of forward, we can declare that even the promised Messiah has come; Jesus Christ, the all-sufficient Saviour, our "Lord of lords and King of kings."

Christ and Ethics

(Continued from front page)

WE err if we confine the work of Jesus to the realm of ethics. The stress on Christian ethical teaching these days is helpful. However, if such a stress is allowed to dominate the whole tenor of the church's message, it will not meet human needs. Jesus made it clear he came, not just to teach ethics, but to seek and to save that which was lost and to give his life a ransom for all.

Christian ethical teaching differs from all other forms in that it demands as a basis a new life in the spirit of man. Without conversion or rebirth ethical teaching can avail little. To create in man this new life the cross had to be faced by Christ. Christ died on the cross to set man free from the bondage of sin and to create in him a new heart.

The cross is the heart of the Christian faith and life. Therefore, the church must preach Christ Jesus and him crucified. Because the new morality of the Christian faith rests upon the new birth, there is no hope for a Christian future unless the gospel of the cross is preached with such power that men are set free from sin. When men in all nations are set free by the power of the cross, we may then hope for peace to exist among men of good-will.

This, then, is the truth, while it is a fact that Christ taught moral truths, and set before us a perfect example, he came primarily to save men from their sins and make it possible for men to be born anew so that they may be able to live the new life in the kingdom of heaven.

POWER OF A SMILE

DO not look for wrong and evil,

You will find them if you do;

As you measure for your neighbor,

He will measure back to you.

Look for goodness, look for gladness,

You will meet them all the while,

If you wear a smiling visage.

You will always win a smile.



Woo Ling Heo.

Word From China

Good news from China will hearten Australian churches and stimulate interest of members in that vast mission field.

HUEILI CENTRE

AS reported earlier, contact was made with Ralph Coonradt, formerly a missionary in occupied China, who passed through Adelaide en route to Yunnanfu, via India. Dr. Coonradt was travelling to West China in the interests of the large unity movement known as the Church of Christ in China, which now embraces over 80 per cent. of the Chinese Christians. Being interested in the Chinese Home Mission Society and hoping to contact them, he promised to send any information of value concerning the society and their work to the Federal Board. Earlier word than was anticipated has been received, and encourages us greatly to know that our other Hueil workers are still on the job, and that Mr. Heo is doing Christian work among the troops. Dr. Coonradt's letter is given in full:—

My Dear Bro, Anderson,—

It is providential that, although I have not yet reached my destination, I have met with Mr. Woo Ling Heo, who was for so many years chief worker and latterly secretary of the Home Mission Society in Yunnan-Si-Kang (Szechuan). You, of course, have met him and know what a charming fellow he is. He seems also a very spiritual man with the right vision and outlook. I believe you know his wife also, and possibly the family. Mr. Heo is at present acting as Y.M.C.A. secretary, working among Chinese service men here. He is rendering an important service too, and one few could do, and very few to do it. His wife is holding the fort in the station at Hueil Szechuan, and he reports all the other workers in their seven stations are on the job. They are, of course, having a most difficult time, partly because of the inflation and partly because of their relationship and support being broken with their supporters in China and elsewhere. He is delighted beyond measure to learn of our coming to be neighbors and co-workers in their great field. Dr. H. Tsui has visited them, which has given them great encouragement and spiritual uplift. We are so glad to have such a godly and vigorous man in that office (general secretary of the Church of Christ in China). So any funds you send for them through the China Inland Mission I am sure will reach them all right. I shall long remember my pleasant visit in South Australia and conference with your friends of the missions council. My regards to the friends there. We will likely be held here yet for a while before being allowed to go to our field in Yunnan.

Yours in his service,

Ralph Garfield Coonradt.

PEARL ANDERSON

AFTER a long silence two very up-to-date letters have been received from Pearl. Earlier messages received were so out of date as to be almost valueless. Her latest are dated September and mid-October. Applying for a transfer from the government controlled mis-

sion hospital at Suifu (on the Yangtze beyond Chungking), she returned to Yunnanfu. Here she is attached to the Air Cadet Training School, but anticipated a further transfer to the C.M.S. (mission hospital) at Yunnanfu. At this latter hospital Pearl had her training, and the thought of returning once again to distinct Christian service fills her with great happiness. She tells something of her experiences and of the sufferings of the Chinese people owing to the Japanese occupation and inflated prices. Living has been extremely difficult, and at times Pearl and her group have been in real need. She has a great desire to visit Australia once again, and even this may be possible if the Atlantic Charter is going to mean anything to the under-privileged peoples of the world. It is certain that something less harsh than the "White Australia" policy must take shape. Now that direct contact has been made once again, and she is living nearer to direct mail routes, we are hopeful that she will receive more frequent letters, and that monies given friends for Pearl can be transmitted.

CHINA SUBSIDY

It will encourage the Australian brotherhood to know that subsidies are being continued to the China work. Indications point that

they will need our financial support more than ever. Dr. Coonradt points out that because of inflation and loss of contact with supporters they are passing through difficult times. Gifts toward subsidies for 1945 will be welcomed, for with the turn of the year a six-months' subsidy will be sent in advance.

INCOME MUST BE MAINTAINED

THE financial position of our overseas work was such that, at the end of August, 1944, if the sinking fund (to reduce overdraft) had been transferred to general account, the overdraft would have been almost liquidated. Three factors have to be borne in mind, however:

1. That at the end of August the annual offering had just been taken and a year's work was in prospect.

2. That the new budget allows for the largest expenditure in our history.

3. That an income not less than last year must be received to carry out this record budget, which includes new workers for India and the New Hebrides islands, as well as an extensive building programme.

If we carry out the budget and have insufficient income, our unique opportunity of paying our way and liquidating the overdraft will not be accomplished.

Notes on Various Topics

Our Colleges

FROM our Federal College of the Bible at Glen Iris and the N.S.W. Bible College at Woolwich a considerable number of men are entering their full-time work as preachers of the gospel. There are ten exit students from Glen Iris and five from Woolwich. The best wishes of the brotherhood go with them all. This year the first group of Woolwich students has qualified for diplomas. The Bible College is now free of debt, thanks to the generosity of the brethren. Seeing it is only three years since the purchase of the property, and considering the heavy costs of furnishing, renovations and general maintenance, this is a wonderful achievement. In a recent article the chairman of the Bible College Board of Management (Mr. E. C. Hinrichsen) wrote: "I wonder if there is an institution anywhere in which the faculty, board, lecturers and students are willing to do so much for so little? The Master's spirit of 'giving,' not 'getting,' is the keynote of the whole institution." This tribute might be paid to our preachers as a whole.

Police Boys' Clubs

An article in "The Sydney Morning Herald" on "Citizens in the Making," made fine reading. It dealt with the work and ideals of the Federation of N.S.W. Police Boys' Clubs founded by the Police Commissioner in 1936, to promote in the boys sound principles of good citizenship and standards of physical and mental health. Seven clubs have been established in Sydney and nine in country areas, and others are expected to open soon. The clubs are playing a big part in reducing child delinquency. Two instances were cited in the article mentioned. In Woolloomooloo, in 1937 (the year in which the club was established), 278 juvenile offenders came under

police notice; in 1943 only 43 were reported. In Balmain juvenile delinquency has almost been banished, though prior to the club the figures were very high. Police Commissioner MacKay is praised for having "broken down the old principle of the policeman catching the boy, and has substituted in its place the higher ideal of the policeman helping the boy."

"Alcohol Anonymous"

"The S.M. Herald" recently published an interesting article by a staff correspondent in New York dealing with a U.S. organisation, "Alcohol Anonymous," now helping 12,000 men and women in the U.S.A. and Canada to fight the drinking habit. Formed by two alcoholics who overcame their weakness, the organisation has grown rapidly and has now 375 groups in North America. "Alcohol Anonymous," it is said, "draws upon the resources of medicine, psychiatry, religion, and its members' own experience of drinking and recovery to help others." A great effort is made to get patients to realise their need of dependence upon a higher Power, as "most alcoholics find they cannot succeed without this." Alcoholism is declared to be a definite disease, for which the only cure is complete abstinence. The national secretary of the organisation furnished the following figures as proof of successful treatment: "50 per cent. of members who sincerely wish to cease drinking do so at once; 26 per cent. have a few relapses; the other 25 per cent. fail because they have no earnest desire to cease drinking, or were too far gone when they joined."

—A. R. MAIN.

Here and There

A Christmas number of the paper will appear next issue. Several special features will be included to make it helpful and attractive.

At the Hinrichsen-Morris mission, Bentleigh, Vic., the marquee was crowded on Sunday evening, Dec. 3; there were three confessions, making 18 up to that date.

An "in memoriam" service to the memory of the late J. E. Thomas has been arranged for Dec. 10, at 7 p.m., in the North Williamstown chapel. Alex. Cameron and J. E. Scarle will take part.

E. P. C. Hollard, a chaplain in the Forces and a former preacher of Maryborough, Vic., has accepted the invitation to be preacher of the church at Vivian-st., Wellington, commencing some time next year.

Will preachers please note that in order to obtain subsidy for this year in the Preachers' Provident Fund, contributions must reach the undersigned by Dec. 31—F. S. Steer, hon. treas., Box 9, Surry Hills, N.S.W.

From Warnambool, Vic., the following reached us on Dec. 4:—"Victorious life campaign concluded with inspiring service last night. At conclusion of Mr. Neighbour's address a young woman confessed Christ and was baptised the same hour.—Weir."

The Melbourne City Mission is making its annual Christmas appeal. H. P. Virtue, the treasurer, speaks of love and service as the key of life. This love for others is, he continues, the keynote of the Melbourne City Mission. In many spheres, in many ways, it carries on its work through the lives of its loyal and sacrificing staff—supported with the funds of its loyal and sacrificing subscribers. Truly the Melbourne City Mission is the sum of its gifts.

D. E. Pittman, after two months' absence through illness, has been able to resume work at the Austral Co. He desires to thank the many brethren who made enquiries after his health. The Company expresses appreciation to the church at Parkdale for making it possible, at its own expense, for its preacher, A. W. Stephenson, to give extra time to editorial work. A. E. Kemp, chairman of the Company, rendered invaluable help at the office in the absence of the manager.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

OF special interest to those connected with the work of Christian education in Victoria has been the appeal for £10,000 by the Council for Christian Education in Schools. Helped by splendid publicity in "The Argus," the appeal yielded £7700 to the end of November. Officers of the council are now making a special appeal to churches, church organisations and individuals to make the Christmas season, the festival of the Child, an opportunity to raise the £2300 needed to reach the objective.

There is a special desire to add a considerable number to the ranks of those who have become "partners in Christian education" by undertaking to contribute £1 a year towards the maintenance and improvement of Christian teaching in more than 2000 Victorian State schools. "The success of all our plans," said Mr. Rex Mathias, director of council, "will depend financially not upon big money gifts by the few but upon the goodwill and practical interest shown by the small gifts from the many. We are anxious, if it can be done,

to enrol by Dec. 31 the first thousand of the 5000 'partners' for whom we have appealed."

Officers of the council hope that many more donations will be received from church congregations and organisations, and from Sunday schools and youth groups within the churches. During November there was a greatly increased number of such donations. Even so, only £900 has been received from these sources, and this amount includes £500 from one city church. It is clearly recognised, of course, that many individual church members have contributed most generously in a direct way to the appeal.

Will all who are interested and who have not yet made a contribution, send a donation to the hon. treasurer, The Council for Christian Education in Schools, 31 Queen-st., Melbourne, C.1?

JUDGE BLAMES LIQUOR

HOW much attention is being given to liquor as a cause of youth delinquency? Very little, according to Judge William G. Long, of the King County Superior Court here. As a judge of the Juvenile Court for the past ten years, Judge Long was asked recently to submit an appraisal of conditions here leading to delinquency. In this report he wrote: "Liquor is another factor bearing directly upon the delinquency and dependency of children. Day after day, month after month, and year after

year, I see before me a never ending parade of delinquent and dependent children brought to the court directly or indirectly by alcohol." Judge Long also has jurisdiction of the show cause preliminaries of divorces in the Superior Court, and in this capacity has contacted some 25,000 divorce cases. Out of the average of 20 divorces granted in a day in this county, the exception is found to be one where over-indulgence in drink does not enter into the case, either in the instance of the father or mother or both. Drinking by mothers as well as by fathers, and the consequent destruction of the home, is seen as a serious disintegrating influence in American life to-day. In his report Judge Long writes: "I see both fathers and mothers freely spending their new-found wealth in over-crowded taverns, while their children prowl the streets and alleys." Fortified wine is found by those who deal with the victims of drinking to be one of the extreme dangers back of delinquency both of youth and parents. The report on liquor as a cause of delinquency ends: "Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, so long as you and I continue to manufacture and sell this product; so long as children see their parents drinking it down with gusto; just so long will children, likewise, drink it, and homes of children be destroyed by it. Probably there is nothing we can do about delinquency coming from this source except to charge off to overhead these children who are destroyed, as an incidental by-product of a partnership business in which the State and its municipalities are making substantial profit."—A report from an American paper in "The Clarion Call."

Treatment of Natives in W.A.

R. Raymond, our correspondent in W.A., reports on discussions concerning plight of natives in his State; he refers also to the question of liquor reform.

NOT for many years has a question aroused such wide public interest as the one concerning native affairs, which at time of writing, is being given such prominence in the press and causing so much concern in Parliament. Serious allegations have been made concerning the treatment of natives at Moore River and Carrolup native settlements. Charges include those of the flogging of girls and their incarceration in tiny, filthy, dark, rat-infested cells. These and like serious charges have been made by missionaries serving at these settlements, and by other informed people. The Native Welfare Council of W.A. has published a pamphlet to "all men and women of goodwill" entitled "The Tragedy of Native Affairs," giving publicity to the awful state of affairs. Widespread indignation has been aroused. Whatever the substance of these allegations, there is no doubt that Western Australia has no cause for pride in its treatment of the natives. The institutions where the things are reported to have happened which have so shocked the public, are not away in the never-never, but relatively close to Perth. Both Moore River and Carrolup are, or could be, under the very eye of the Department of Native Affairs. Bad as the administration may be, this is not the most serious fault. Basic changes are necessary. Native administration must be made a Commonwealth responsibility. Over here we find many calling out for the Commonwealth to find the money for the care of these people. That, to many of us, will not be satisfactory, unless the Commonwealth does the job. One of our daily papers heads its leader "A Record of Shame," and speaks of the "Citizens' Rights Bill," then before Parliament, as an "eyewash." This bill is to give citizenship to certain natives. Few, if any, full-blooded natives

could qualify for citizenship under the terms of the bill.

Liquor Reform

"It is to be hoped that the present 6 o'clock closing of licensed premises will be continued after the cessation of hostilities," declares the Commissioner of Police in his annual report for the year ended June 30, 1944.

There was no doubt, said the Commissioner, that this early closing had had a very beneficial effect on the community as a whole. It is unfortunate that the Commissioner has not the press on his side in support of the continuance of this reform. Sections of the press were not slow to point out to the public that the delegated powers under which 6 o'clock closing was enforced will end when the war is over. One leading article recalls that control of the retail liquor trade is essentially a State responsibility, and an early indication of the government's intention would be welcomed by both licensees and the public. The same article points out that when W.A. trading hours were from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. most people were satisfied. Against this we would take sides with the Commissioner who with authority can speak of the reform's most beneficial influence.

Sorrow

Western Australian churches mourn with the Australian brotherhood the passing of two great leaders. Both A. G. Saunders and T. H. Scambler were well known in this State, and both have served here as conference president. The Western brotherhood extends its sympathy to bereaved.

Rejoicing

We rejoice with Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Burdeu in the complete restoration to health of Mrs. Burdeu. We know how serious was her illness. Few people have done so much in so little time for the churches in this State as these two. They have left us (temporarily, we trust), and we miss them.

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth.—There is every prospect of clearing debt on church property during 1945. The C.E. society visited Perth Methodist society on Nov. 20, and conducted meeting. On morning of Nov. 26, the service was broadcast. Address by J. Keith Robinson was enjoyed. At 7.30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Carter were among visitors.

Maylands.—Meetings for November were well attended, average being 64 morning, 87 evening, breaking of bread 73 for day. Nov. 21 was home mission field day. R. J. Duckett exhorted. On Nov. 26 A. A. McRoberts was away at Brookton, and Albany Bell preached. L. C. Peacock (conference president) was evening preacher; the soloist was Mrs. Cosh. Mrs. Dean was able to be present after her accident; Ron Michael, from Wiluna, was a welcome visitor. Women's guild handed treasurer £48/2/6, being proceeds of talent effort for building of a manse. Guild is sending parcels to members in Services. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Buzza and Mrs. Hill in passing of loved ones.

Queenland

Brisbane (Ann-st.)—On Nov. 19 Mr. Hunting preached at both services. In evening four were baptised; they were received into fellowship on Nov. 26. Services have been well maintained, averages for month being 178 morning, 114 in evening. Men's fellowship is going well. On Nov. 26 Mr. Nichols preached at both services. Annual Bible school demonstration was held in afternoon. Several members in Forces have been home on leave. Mrs. Cromwell, who met with an accident recently, is now well again. W. Mills, who was in hospital, is also home again. Sgt. Spencer, U.S.A., was soloist at evening service. Miss Jean Warne was married to Clarence J. Kublick, U.S.A.

South Australia

Norwood.—Bible school picnic was held at Kensington Gardens. Mr. Allbright, of the S.A. Temperance Alliance, was speaker at morning service on Nov. 12. A. J. Ingham was speaker at gospel service. A recognition service was held on Nov. 19 for Mrs. Rudd and S. Price-Weir, who were both very old members of Norwood. Debt reduction offering now amounts to £449. Ten new scholars have been welcomed to Bible school in recent weeks.

Prospect.—Bright services were enjoyed on Nov. 19. A. E. Brown exhorted church at morning and evening services; there were good attendances at all services. P. R. Baker addressed Bible class at afternoon session. Bible school scholars broadcast from 5AD on Sunday afternoon. P.B.P. and K.S.P. chapters held a combined evening to raise funds to send gifts to members in Forces. At ladies' guild meeting, Miss Dale, of Sudan Mission, spoke. Services on Lord's day, Nov. 26, were conducted by A. E. Brown; there were good attendances. Mrs. Bartlett, of Morialta Children's Home, addressed Bible class. Phil Thompson and Max Bunyon were present on leave. News has been received that Allan Garland is now a P.O.W. in Borneo. Bible school work is good.

Tumby Bay.—Successful Bible school anniversary services were held on Nov. 12. Singing of children led by R. Nankivell was appreciated by large attendances at both services. Inspiring illustrated addresses were given by H. G. Norris. On Nov. 14 items were given by S.S. scholars and prizes distributed, seven scholars gaining 100 per cent.

attendance. On Nov. 26 fellowship with Mr. Cox, of Whyalla, was enjoyed. C.E. is in good heart and has sent 23 Christmas parcels to members in Forces.

Murray Bridge.—Flight Sgt. Norman F. Page is reported to be a prisoner of war in Germany. N. G. Noble's special addresses are appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Gibson have been transferred to Balaklava after nine years of valued fellowship. A gift of appreciation was presented to them. A. E. Talbot and Mrs. Alex. Page are recovering from serious illnesses. Support is growing for conference centenary aim—£5000—with Colin Mitchell as local secretary-treasurer. Ladies' guild sewing service at hospital is appreciated.



CHURCH MISSION.

THANKOFFERING REACHED £213.

FORESTVILLE.—Church was pleased to have the services of J. E. Webb, of Mile End, as missionary, and of A. E. Mauger, of Nailsworth, as song leader, in a special series of meetings from Nov. 12 to 24. These were well attended by members and also by a number of non-members. Mr. Webb's addresses were followed with a great deal of interest. The twenty-fifth anniversary of church was celebrated on Nov. 26. Foundation members were present. The first pastor of church, F. Hollams, gave morning address. A thank-offering of £213 to reduce building debt was received. In afternoon S.S. arranged a special service. There was a splendid gathering at evening meeting, when Mr. Hammer gave an inspiring message.

Croydon.—A beautiful service of dedication was held on Nov. 12 for officers and teachers of school. Officers and teachers gave a complimentary social on Nov. 20 to superintendent and several teachers who found it necessary to resign. F. T. Bartlett is new Bible school superintendent. S. E. Riches, of Mission to Lepers, gave an address on night of Nov. 26. An offering of £7 was received for this mission. Choir is functioning well. Mrs. Ross Graham is back assisting choir after long illness. Church and auxiliaries are maintaining good work in district.

Henley Beach.—Mr. Butler, conference president, presided at morning service on Nov. 19 and Mr. Schwab addressed church. Temple day on Nov. 25 resulted in £38 being raised. There were splendid meetings on Nov. 26, Mr. Baker preaching at both services. Membership roll was read at morning service, and there was a large attendance. 63 were present at evening service, when Mrs. Maunder, Miss Ludwig and Mr. Baker sang solos. Ladies' guild concluded year's activity with a social gathering on Nov. 29. Church sympathises with Mrs. Baker, who is laid aside by sickness. Mrs. Jack Norris, Mr. Barbary and John Pearce are well again after serious illnesses.

Hindmarsh.—The reunion of the men's Bible class on Nov. 26 was an outstanding success. About 130 assembled for afternoon service. H. M. Lushey, M.A., Dip.Ed., brought a thought-provoking message. At the tea table greetings were read, and messages of a reminiscent character were given. A men's choir sang at evening service, and J. E. Shipway preached. Arthur Brooker, president of class, presided. Solos were rendered by J. Holden and Ray Goldsworthy, and a male quartette party sang. The day was one of very happy fellowship. Sympathy is expressed to Chas. Parsons and family in passing of wife and mother after 63 years of membership. Sympathy also is

offered to Miss Reeves and Mrs. Whitney in passing of a sister.

Kadina.—Repeat S.S. anniversary service was held on Nov. 5, the speaker being M. Lawrie. Scholars under C. E. Larcombe rendered special singing. Mr. Larcombe has trained and conducted children's singing at Kadina for about 30 years. S. E. Riches spoke at morning service on Nov. 12 in interests of Mission to Lepers. Mr. Lawrie preached morning and evening on Nov. 19. Y.P.S.C.E. held anniversary over week-end, Nov. 25, 26. Tea was held on Nov. 25 at 5 p.m., followed by rally. State president of Union, R. Kitchen, spoke. Endeavors took part in morning service of 26th. A duet was rendered by Misses Bartlett, of Mile End. Mr. Bowes spoke to children. Mr. Kitchen preached. Ladies' guild held final meeting for 1944 on Nov. 30.

Queenstown.—Attendances at services are keeping up. A new lighting system has been installed in chapel and lecture hall, through generosity of several brethren. J.C.E. continues to have well-attended meetings. On Nov. 15 a large number of mothers of children on cradle roll were entertained by leader, Mrs. Purdie. At "sisters bright hour" the following day, Miss Spurr (missionary-elect for Bolivia) gave a helpful message and solo. Girls' club made a successful effort on Nov. 25 and raised £30, to be distributed between Morialta Children's Home and Christmas cheer fund. A. Foote, president of Bible class, with Mrs. Foote, tendered a social evening to members of class and to school executive. Mr. Brooker and others congratulated donors on occasion of their silver wedding.

Maylands.—On evening of Nov. 19 Mr. Durdin was speaker, and on Nov. 26 A. Anderson was speaker at both services. Attendances at both morning and evening services have been well maintained. Mrs. Wills has resigned from leadership of choir. Miss Vi. White has been appointed leader. The girls' club annual demonstration was given on Nov. 21 and 23 to crowded houses; it was also repeated a third time in Payneham Methodist church hall in aid of Australian Comforts Fund. Temple day offering now stands at £341. The passing of S. Price-Weir is a distinct loss to church, and sympathy goes out to bereaved. A fine service was held in chapel on day of funeral. K. Jones conducted service. On morning of Nov. 19 Mr. Jones was speaker. Annual meeting of men's brotherhood was held on Nov. 24, when H. Jones was elected president. During month the brotherhood visited Maylands Methodist Men's Brotherhood.

New South Wales

Seven Hills.—S.S. anniversary service held on evening of Nov. 26 was well attended. N.S.W. youth director, R. Greenhalgh, gave an illustrated address which was appreciated. Children, who were trained by H. Colbourne, rendered several fine choral items.

Canley Vale.—A concert arranged by the Thomas family was held on Nov. 25. An excellent programme was rendered. Offering was for church building fund. A. Morris, of Fairfield, was visiting speaker on 26th; Mr. Parker conducted gospel service. Bi-monthly fellowship tea preceded service. Mrs. Len Thomas has joined S.S. teaching staff.

Broken Hill (Wolftram-st.)—The annual rally of C.E. societies were held on Nov. 11. A good company of Endeavors gathered for tea and evening rally. A helpful message was given by Mr. Alcock, of Presbyterian church. The gospel service on 12th was conducted by Endeavors. Young converts' training class completed first term of studies.

The Australian Christian

Lismore.—President of N.S.W. conference paid a visit recently, and spoke at gospel service. At close of monthly meeting held in home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Davis, £21 was raised towards Endeavor's fund to send Christmas parcels to members in the Forces; funds were also raised at a social held in home of Mrs. C. Gray. S.S. is practising for anniversary. Ladies' guild held successful afternoon at home of Mrs. E. C. Savill. Fellowship has been enjoyed with B. Stevens, R. and L. Newton and H. Taber, home on leave, and J. Furlonger, from Brisbane.

Bexley North.—On Nov. 14, at Bible school demonstration, building was crowded with 400 persons. An excellent programme included items by J.C.E., senior girls and kindergarten. On Nov. 19 B. G. Corlett, of Belmore, preached and on Nov. 26 R. Greenhalgh spoke at morning service, and J. Henderson preached gospel, Miss H. Toyer being soloist. A. Sier was received in by transfer from Auburn. Women's fellowship anniversary was very successful, when Mrs. G. E. Burns presented a message, over 80 women being present.

Taree.—On Nov. 12 A. W. Billingham conducted worship service, whilst Adj. G. R. Meyers, of local Salvation Army, spoke at night. On Nov. 19 Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Meyers, of Newcastle, were welcome visitors, and messages given by Mr. Meyers, both at Taree and Wingham, were helpful. E. J. Saxby spoke on morning of Nov. 26; at night a united meeting was held with Baptists in Baptist chapel. Mrs. Jessie Edwards, a devoted Christian and a member of congregation for 57 years, died on Nov. 23. At funeral service A. W. Billingham, assisted by E. J. Saxby, paid a tribute to her memory.

Victoria

Balwyn.—Home mission offering was £30/4/1 as compared with last year's, £21/17/8. Splendid attendances during day; 135 broke bread. Mr. and Mrs. Austin expect to leave for New Zealand for several months.

Mont Albert.—On Dec. 3 S.S. held anniversary. G. J. Andrews spoke in afternoon and Mr. Quirk in evening. Miss Joan Mott sang. Kindergarten quartette party also sang. 75 were present at evening service.

Ascot Vale.—Women's auxiliary held its 7th birthday on Nov. 10. Miss Kirby was soloist and Mrs. Cole elocutionist. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. Burt, of Devonport, Tasmania. The chapel was decorated by friends of Miss Dorothy McCallum, who was married to Douglas Burt on Nov. 25.

Preston.—On Nov. 26, F. Combridge, East Kew, preached morning and evening. B. J. Combridge has now returned from holidays and spoke at both services on Dec. 3. Church regrets loss by death of Mrs. A. Davis, who passed away on Dec. 1. Although advanced in years she was a faithful member of choir.

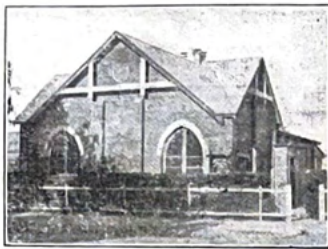
Newmarket.—On Nov. 26 Mr. Graham addressed both services. Ladies' guild held Christmas party on Nov. 28. On Dec. 2 Bible school picnic was held at Blackburn. On Dec. 3 Mr. Warne, of East Kew, presided, and R. T. Pittman was speaker on occasion of Mr. Graham commencing his full-time ministry with church.

Footscray.—Church gratefully acknowledges anonymous donation of £1 posted to preacher for H.M. offering. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes and W. Gale addressed Ladies' Aid on Nov. 21. H. Watson conducted services on Nov. 26, in absence of D. C. Ritchie at Ballarat. Gordon-st. Baptist C.E. conducted meeting on Nov. 29. Leslie Kaye and Miss J. A. Balcom were married on Dec. 2. Much sickness prevails among members.

Brighton.—Home coming services on Nov. 26 were well attended. Fellowship with over fifty visitors, among whom was A. E. Forbes, morning speaker, was enjoyed. At Joy Society's anniversary in afternoon, C. Lang spoke of work among Australian aborigines. W. Baird at gospel meeting concluded four weeks of services. Mr. Holland is in Alfred Hospital.

Emerald.—Last Lord's day splendid congregations attended both services for F. B. Alcorn's final addresses. At morning service Mrs. Macpherson and her daughter, Mrs. Hicks, were welcomed into membership, following baptism the previous Lord's day. Mr. Alcorn has completed two years' ministry, during which membership has been doubled, mainly by faith and baptism.

Shepparton.—On Nov. 26 Mr. Hargreaves spoke at morning service. Endeavor society conducted gospel meeting. Special singing was



The Chapel at Shepparton.

rendered and testimonies were given. There were several Air Force visitors. Mr. Mott, from Swan Hill, was present. On Friday night young people's triangle club held a social.

Collingwood.—Reunion services were very enjoyable. J. C. F. Pittman addressed gospel service. Supper was supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Scott. Mrs. Scott was presented with a Bible from Sunday school as a token of appreciation of her long service as teacher. The series of lantern slides shown to school proved very helpful. On Dec. 3 a parade of cricket club was held; members took part in service. Home mission offering amounted to £3.

East Kew.—Well-attended morning and evening meetings have been encouraging during recent weeks. Quarterly K.S.P. service was conducted on Nov. 26, T. Warne preaching. In evening a united after-church fellowship was held in North Balwyn Baptist chapel. P.B.P. visited State Parliament on Nov. 22. Flight. Lieut. D. McDougall is recovering after his experience of 31 hours drifting in Bass Strait. Home mission offering to date is £14/6/6.

Dandenong.—Attendances at both morning and evening meetings have been good, Mr. Marshall bringing helpful messages. At morning meeting of Nov. 26, 7 were welcomed, and in evening three were baptised. Two men were baptised at midweek service, and three were welcomed in on Dec. 3. Sunday school has commenced to practise for anniversary. Mr. Marshall will continue as full-time preacher for an indefinite period, with increased salary.

Stawell.—Mr. Ryles, of college, was preacher on Nov. 12. Anniversary was held on Nov. 19. Mr. Randall was preacher and gave splendid messages. Singing by children was enjoyed. On Nov. 20 children were given a tea; after singing by scholars prizes were given. All enjoyed a happy time of fellowship. Mr. Bullimore, of college, was preacher on Nov. 26. An open-air prayer meeting was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Stokes on Nov. 22; 21 were present.

Northcote.—Ladies' class held successful afternoon on Nov. 15, when Miss Smith, of Social Service, was speaker. During November A. R. Main, E. McIlhagger, W. Gale and E. L. Williams brought helpful messages. Average attendances for month were: at communion, 166; evening service, 124; Bible school, 165. Home mission offering reached £52. During

year £50 has been contributed through duplex envelopes for home missions. Mr. Atkin has commenced his ninth year of ministry.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—Chapel was filled by relatives and friends on Dec. 2 to witness marriage of C. G. Taylor and Miss Amelia Scaree, the building being decorated by the ladies. T. Hagger officiated. Miss Muriel Cheek was soloist and ladies' choir rendered two items. There were good meetings on Dec. 3; S. R. Baker preached in morning, C. J. Robinson spoke to Bible class, and K. Barton at night. Among visitors were M. Bell, of W.A., and Mr. Bradshaw, of Prospect, S.A. Home mission offering reached £32.

Echuca.—Interesting and well-attended services have been held during November. Mr. Robinson, of Hartwell, spoke at S.S. anniversary, when nearly a hundred scholars and teachers sang. A crowded service was held at night, and on following evening scholars gave an excellent concert, during which prizes were distributed. A. Dow, of A.I.F., was present. Ladies spent a very happy afternoon at Mrs. Horne's on Nov. 16, when over £4 was raised for church purposes. Bible school had an enjoyable social evening on Nov. 23. Mr. Nicholson, of Local Option Alliance, spoke at evening service on Nov. 26.

North Williamstown.—The church and brotherhood have suffered a severe loss at home call of J. E. Thomas on evening of Nov. 27. Our brother, but for his resignation through ill-health, would have completed his sixth year of service this month. At gospel service conducted by W. Bensley on Nov. 26, four young sisters took their stand for Christ. On Wednesday many members attended Lygon-st. chapel to pay tribute to a great preacher and a fine friend. In evening president and vice-president of conference inducted J. E. Searle in a special service. Services on Dec. 3 were conducted by J. E. Searle. At conclusion of an inspiring gospel address one made good confession. On Dec. 2 girls' fellowship held sale of work. Proceeds reached £30.

Essendon.—At morning service on Nov. 12 Mr. Brown, from Ascot Vale, was president, and many visitors were present, including Mr. and Mrs. Burt, from Tasmania. On Nov. 19, at gospel meeting, a special address was given by Mr. Mathewson. On Nov. 25 a gift day was held; chapel was open from 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., and at 8 p.m. a thanksgiving service was held. £180 was received from various auxiliaries and members from special efforts during year. On Dec. 3 a crowded congregation of 175 was present at a family service arranged by Mr. Jackel. A highly successful floral afternoon was held by ladies on Nov. 9 to raise funds for church building. Home mission offering reached £20.

North Fitzroy.—Attendances and interest in all departments are being maintained. During past three weeks morning speakers have been H. Swain, F. Lee and V. Foster. F. T. Saunders preached on Nov. 19 and 26, and T. H. Westwood on Dec. 3. At close of evening service on Dec. 3, a young man was immersed into Christ. Our aged sister, Mrs. Kendall, passed into rest on Nov. 29. H. Swain officiated at home and graveside. Offering for home missions reached £22/8/6. Additional amount already forwarded for duplex envelopes reached £20. Monthly P.S.A. was held on Dec. 3, the speaker being Sir Herbert Olney, who spoke on a good foundation essential for a new order. Sundowners male quartette rendered a number of concerted songs.

Reservoir.—Mr. Grainger delivered farewell messages on Nov. 26. After gospel meeting a song service was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Trathen. On Dec. 2 a social was held to farewell Mr. and Mrs. Grainger who are going in new year to work at Devonport, Tas. Tribute was paid to guests by Messrs. Combridge (Preston), Withers and Brown (West Preston), Smith (East Preston) and Plummer

(Reservoir). Secretary, Mr. Trathen, on behalf of church members, made a presentation. His remarks were supported by Mr. Johnson, treasurer. Mr. McInnes made a presentation on behalf of Y.P.S.C.E. G. Hing was chairman. On Dec. 3 J. Plummer was morning speaker; in evening a combined choral Christmas service was held at Presbyterian church.

Parkdale.—After a release from preaching duties for two months, A. W. Stephenson spoke at both services on Dec. 3. G. A. Grainger, of Reservoir, addressed young worshippers' league. Offering for home missions reached £16/13/-, being a record. J. M. Gilmour is making progress. Mrs. W. Smith is still ill.

South Melbourne.—A special meeting to farewell D. D. Stewart and G. Whiting, who have closed ministry with South Melbourne-Middle Park circuit, was held in South Melbourne chapel on Nov. 24. Speakers were Mr. Wright, Preachers' Fraternal; Mr. Wrigley, Congregational church, and Mr. Lowson, Baptist church. Middle Park secretary, H. Annetts; A. Hartvigsen, Middle Park school supt.; and South Melbourne secretary, D. F. Morgan, in making presentations, also spoke briefly in commendation of faithful work over four years with Mr. Stewart and two years with Mr. Whiting. Mrs. Stewart was recipient of a gift from Women's Mission Band and Miss Ina Stewart from school and Phi Beta Pi club. Soloists were Miss Dot McCallum, Tom Collis and A. Hartvigsen. R. Burns, vice-president of South Central conference group, presided. After responses by Messrs. Stewart and Whiting a time of fellowship and supper closed a happy evening.

North Essendon.—On Nov. 19 J. K. Bond concluded his ministry, and after gospel service members and friends met in hall to say farewell. On this day Mr. Ritchie, of Footscray, preached at morning service; the Malvern Girls' choir and Malvern Concert Orchestra provided musical items at gospel service. A thank-offering for year's blessings amounted to £38/10/-. On Nov. 26 H. Long, of college, took both services capably, and on Dec. 3 Mr. Thompson and R. Bullimore (college) helped church. Young people are busy making toys for Christmas treat. An afternoon, held by Mission Band, raised £5 for Christian Guest Home. On Dec. 2 a combined picnic of four Sunday schools of district (Newmarket, Ascot Vale, Essendon and North Essendon) was held at Blackburn Park. Mrs. Tucker is progressing favorably after serious operation. Christmas parcels have been sent to all who are in Services. Ladies' Guild was thanked for providing parcels for Service personnel during year.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—There was a fine attendance of young people at gospel service on Nov. 25 for church parade of youth auxiliaries; many young people assisted in service. 158 broke bread on Dec. 3, H. M. Clipstone's messages at both services being appreciated. One young woman made good confession after gospel invitation. A. J. Saunders spoke at men's fellowship tea in afternoon. Bible school continues to make steady progress with house competition, attendance of 253 being recorded on Dec. 3. Resignation of Miss A. Jermyn as kindergarten superintendent after 25 years of service has been accepted with regret. She will be succeeded by Miss Dorothy Smart. Picnic to Parkdale on Nov. 11 was a marked success. I.C.E. reached attendance record of 38 on Nov. 18 in its campaign to reach half century mark. W. Gale addressed church on Nov. 18 in interests of home missions, and Mr. Robinson was received into membership by faith and obedience. Fellowship has been enjoyed with A. Miller, G. Collings, J. Padey and B. McIntyre, home on leave. H.M. offering to date is £24.

WANTED

Wanted woman over 45 years as companion and help in home of four adults, in beach suburb. Write to "Companion," c/o this office.

Lady to accompany family to country, 14 days, Christmas. Would be required to do cooking. Further particulars ring WM2286.

HOUSEKEEPER.

Applications are invited for the positions of Housekeepers (2) at the College of the Bible. Standard remuneration.

Applications closing by Dec. 31, 1944, to be sent to F. T. Saunders, secretary, Elm-rd., Glen Iris, Vic.

BIRTHS

BARRETT (nee Sharp).—To Walter and Laura Barrett, Tara, Qld., a wee daughter on Nov. 26. Both well.

MULLER (nee Roach).—At Guilford, Camberwell, on Nov. 28, to Lil and Ron—a son (John William).

REED.—On Nov. 22, to May and Arthur—a son (Kenneth Clifford).

DEATH

THOMAS.—A tribute of love and affection to a beloved pastor and friend, J. E. Thomas. A great and lowly Christian.

—Inserted by officers and members, North Williamstown church.

THOMAS.—In affectionate memory of Pastor Jas. E. Thomas—ever an understanding and loyal friend and brother.

"Thrice happy now, that my soul can say:
'I live, because he has passed my way.'"
—J.I.M.

IN MEMORIAM

BERRY.—In fond and loving memory of our dear and only son Stan (R.A.A.F.), who gave his life on Dec. 6, 1943. Loved grandson of Mrs. Pettifer.

The most wonderful son the world could hold. Never forgotten. He died that we might live.

—Inserted by his loving parents.

BERRY (on active service).—In loving memory of my only dear brother Stan (R.A.A.F.), who gave his life on Dec. 6, 1943.

"God holds the key of all unknown,
And I am glad.

If other hands should hold the key,
Or if he trusted it to me,
I might be sad."

Precious memories.

—Dorothy.

BERRY.—In loving remembrance of Flight Sgt. Stanley George, reported missing in air operations abroad on Dec. 6, 1943; loved friend of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Phillips, Dorothy and Audrey, Fairfield.

COMBRIDGE, J. R.—In loving memory, called home Dec. 4, 1934.

—Inserted by his loving wife and daughters.

COMING EVENTS

DEC. 10 (Sunday).—19th anniversary of church at Clifford-st. (formerly Minchin-st.), Torrensville, S.A. Former members are heartily welcomed. News of early years of church will be appreciated.

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Dec. 10.—Collision of Beliefs in Central Africa.
—Mr. Chas. Cole, Sec. Sudan United Mission.

Dec. 17.—Planning Christian Education.
Mr. Rex Mathias, Director Council for Christian Education in Schools.

FRANKSTON,

(Dandenong-rd. and Beach-st.).

12th ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CHURCH,

and 3rd. of Opening of Chapel.

LORD'S DAY, DEC. 10 and WED., DEC. 13.

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.

Wednesday—Programme of music and elocution. Address by B. J. Combridge.

Everybody made welcome!

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on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1944,
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Celebration at the Home. All are invited.

GARDENVALE BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY
DECEMBER 10—

3 p.m., E. C. Hinrichsen. 7 p.m., J. K. Bond.

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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PRINTING is a very important part of AUSTRAL activities.

Looking Toward Centenary

Ethelbert Davis, our N.S.W. correspondent, reports on historic events, on the church and its critics, and on the progress of country churches in his State.

A WEEK or two ago a friend gave me Volume number three of "The Christian Messenger," published in England by James Wallis. It contains the monthly numbers of the magazine for 1847. What is of particular interest to us in Australia is a letter to James Wallis dated Nov. 30, 1846, in which reference was made to Thomas Jackson, the pioneer of the Restoration Movement in New Zealand. Jackson had arrived at Nelson in 1844, and after a short time had founded a church of fourteen members. In 1845 he had established a church in Auckland.

The letter to which we refer said that the church was few in numbers, but that members were determined to persevere in the strength of the Lord. "The truth is mighty and will prevail." To many those historical references are particularly interesting in view of the fact that in 1946 the churches of Christ in Australia will be celebrating their centenary. The Federal conference to be held in Adelaide in 1946 will be known as the "Centenary Conference."

The Church

Chaplain G. Stuart Watts, one-time editor of the Anglican "Church Standard," and a well-known social reform advocate, has had some harsh things to say about the church. In an article in the "Sunday Sun," he said: "It is not easy for me to write this because of many hallowed and happy associations. For years I have cherished the hope that the church might take the lead in the mighty progressive movements of the day. I confess that hope is well-nigh dead. The church, like other institutions, exists mainly to further its own interests. What tortures me almost beyond endurance is the preoccupation of pious people with trivialities and the callous insensitiveness to the plight of the poor and the disinherited."

Then Mr. Watts says, "She opposed social reforms with the same ruthless ferocity with which she put down opposition to her dogmatic teaching. The record of every church is stained with crimes against liberty and justice."

We mention Mr. Watts' outburst for three things: First, to take the opportunity of saying that his sweeping generalities prove nothing. But in trying to prove his generalisations, he refers to one in particular. "Franco," he reminds us, "will attend church and eat an hearty breakfast after witnessing the murder of scores of his co-religionists whose only crime was that they supported the properly-elected people's government." Surely everyone knows that it is not true that "every church is stained with crimes against liberty and justice." There is only one religious organisation against which such a charge can be made and Franco is one of its tools.

Second, we notice Mr. Watts' outburst to take the opportunity of saying that it is not true that the church is not "interested in the plight of the poor and disinherited." The great majority of the churches are made up of the common people and the poor, for it is still true that not "many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called." Almost all the efforts for the better-

ment of "the poor" have had their origin in Christianity for which the church stands. And the fact that "a Christian dignitary to whom I was pouring out my heart one day about the profits reaped from sub-standard terraces eagerly said, 'There is no doubt about the profits. . . I bought a terrace of houses in what you would call one of the worst slums in Sydney, and within a short time I sold it and realised a cool thousand on my deal,' " only proves that there was one individual in one of the churches made a deal in slum property, and not that the whole church is in the business.

Third, we mention the outburst to take the opportunity of saying with double emphasis that it is about time that preachers and church leaders—yes, and church members generally, ceased hitting the church, and ceased their negative criticisms. The church has not failed, is not failing, and will not fail, until God himself erases from his own book the words of his Son, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

A Strong Country Church

A fortnight ago we travelled a round thousand miles to enjoy the fellowship of the Inverell church in the celebration of the Bible school anniversary. Inverell is now one of the strongest of our country churches in New South Wales.

Under the leadership of L. Burgin, a splendid church is being built up in that prosperous town. The church has a fine building in a central site, and is free of debt. At some of the anniversary meetings the attendances reached two and three hundred—an evidence of the standing the church now has in the community. Perhaps the most outstanding and promising feature of the work is the group of over fifty keen and talented young people who are loyally supporting the church.

The Church at Lismore

The town of Lismore has recently celebrated its centenary. Owing to war conditions the celebrations were devoid of the usual functions of such occasions. The "Northern Star" newspaper of October 18 gave a large number of write-ups on the origin and development of the town which now has over 14,000 inhabitants. On the religious side the paper said, "The fact that Lismore is known as 'the town of churches' is due to the energy and foresight of the clergymen of the last century, who followed closely behind the early pioneering settlers, and were unsparing in their efforts to tend to the needs of their little flocks."

Writing of church of Christ, which started in Lismore on July 27, 1884, the paper said, "The church of Christ in Lismore has an unusual history. It has been established for sixty years. In 1884 Mr. John Newby, from

the Manning River, visited the Richmond and called a meeting at Bungawalbyn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stewart. Later that year Mr. Geo. Day, of Sydney, visited Lismore and organised regular meetings for worship which were held in the "upper room" over the Crusade Printing Works in Woodlark-st. The present premises of the church on the corner of Magellan and Keen-sts. were secured in 1920, and the present modern temple was erected several years later."

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Co-operative Housing

W. H. Clay, of Social Service Department,
writes of building societies and of the Christian
Guest Home.

THE Victorian Government has presented a bill to Parliament which provides for co-operative societies of not less than twenty members, all of whom shall be shareholders, in a scheme to finance the purchase of a house for each. The government will guarantee societies, and proposes to advance up to 90 per cent. of the total cost. The value of the house will be according to the number of shares held by the member, up to £1500. The proposal makes the private ownership of a house possible to almost every man who is in receipt of a decent wage.

The Social Service Department desires to hear from such as would like to join a society, members or friends, in any part of the State, with a view to taking advantage of the provisions of the bill. Particulars will be sent on application.

Christian Guest Home

The women's auxiliary of the Social Service Department will finalise their effort to raise £1000 for the proposed hospital in association with the Home on Saturday, Dec. 9. The need for a hospital is increasingly manifest. One guest, who is deserving of the best that the churches can do, has had to be removed to a private hospital. Not only has this involved the committee in considerable expense, but the removal has caused considerable pain to all concerned. The women of the churches deserve our highest praise for the splendid way in which they press the claims of the Home.

The Churches of Christ Ladies' Choir also is making a special effort to help the Hospital Fund, and they propose to make it an annual event. On Monday, Dec. 11, in the Swanston-st. church, the choir, assisted by guest artists, will provide a high class concert, tickets for which are 1/6.

Miss Normington, of Castlemaine, who has given service at the Home for the past six months and was very greatly loved by both staff and guests, has left to be married. Miss Campbell, who underwent an operation, seeing the urgent need of help in the Home, has returned to us but is far from well. She expects to leave us for an extended period. This leaves the Home very short-staffed, and we urgently appeal to any who could help, either casually or permanently, to come to our aid. Women over 45 years of age need not obtain a manpower permit. A cook and a help are urgently needed.

The women of the churches continue to make appreciative visits to the Home. Coburg sisters spent a very happy day at the Home, and left it the richer for their visit in both money and fellowship. West Preston Mission Band also visited the Home last week, and the personal contact with staff and guests, as well as the tokens of love they left, made the occasion a very happy one. Mrs. McGregor, as convener, has arranged monthly visits throughout the year, and we owe her our most sincere gratitude.

The committee has purchased over 40 tons of foot length firewood, which gives the promise of warmth for next winter. Some of our preachers spent a day splitting and stacking, but there is still much to do. Mr. Hayes, of Oakleigh church, is a most faithful honorary worker in the garden, and we are much indebted to him for a very fine prospective harvest of vegetables.

The C.E. societies, led by Carnegie society, will make their annual Christmas visit on Saturday, Dec. 16. Every Christmas since the

touch of the festive season to the Home. Miss Winnie Lee, convener, has maintained a monthly service throughout the year, and her services are greatly appreciated.

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so-called intellectuals, is really absurd. Nothing
could be more certain than that men's
beliefs about ultimate things profoundly affect
their lives and actions. One would imagine
that we have had more than enough object
lessons to convince even the most woolly-
minded people. We live in a world which is
being brought near to destruction by the clash
of dogmas. We can see before our eyes the
results on whole populations of the propagation
of beliefs. . . . What is the best way to
combat these false and pernicious dogmas?
Not by striving to cast loose from all dogmas,
for the history of the past quarter of a cen-
tury proves that men must have some beliefs
about the world and about values if they are
to live with zest and hope, but by asserting
the true dogmas, which, properly understood,
include all that is of permanent worth in the
pseudo-religious. We must hold fast then to
the Christian faith. . . . It is the business
of the Christian, particularly in these days,
when a world-wide spiritual battle is joined,
to understand his faith, to develop its meaning,
to bring it to life in his mind, so that it may
have a fresh impact on the minds of his con-
temporaries. We should be like the good
scribe, spoken of by Jesus, who brings out of
his store things old and new.—Dr. W. R.
Matthews, "Following Christ."

THOUGHT

People seldom improve when they
have no model but themselves to
copy.
—O. Goldsmith.

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