

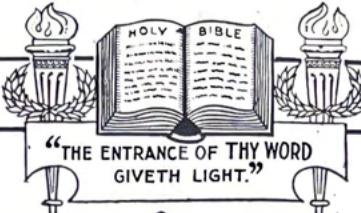
*W M Fraser*

# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Reaping the Whirlwind

WHEN we recall the great events of the year that is now closing, we are compelled to consider that we have been passing through momentous days of world-history.

At times the terrible conflict in Europe reached such a climax we really thought that one phase of World War II. was going to end before Christmas. The long-planned invasion was more successful than many dared to hope. The speedy deliverance of France and Belgium and the greater portion of Italy was sufficient to justify the hope of greater victories for the Allies. Although military leaders, who calculate military events in relation to weight of arms and number of soldiers, assured us that peace would prevail in Europe by the end of the year, it seems human calculations have been over-ruled by providential factors. We must remain humble, and must still recognise the effects of forces beyond the range of human control. Only when boasting yields to humility will there be hope for mankind. From the failures of Hitler to fulfil his claims, we ought to have learned how futile it is to boast. There are still too many in our midst who think the future can be shaped by human effort; they do not appreciate the truth that God has the final word. Not until we learn that our deeds must really be in co-operation with God's, shall we gain an enduring peace.

IN Australia, during the year, many have been enjoying material prosperity. While there have been certain shortages, no one seemed to have been in any dire need of the necessities of life; perhaps the difficulty of getting adequate housing conditions has been the greatest physical problem of people. Despite the response to large war loans, savings in banks have increased rapidly. People are enriching themselves in a time of national danger. How strange it is! Yet, with increased material security, there has not come tolerance nor good-will. Bitterness has marked the conflicts between many sections of the community. Between the Press and the Government there has been deep hostility. Miners have caused national leaders much concern. That deep distrust dividing one group from another has robbed Australia of much internal peace. Not for many years, if ever, have members of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments caused such undignified scenes in the various houses of parliament. Cruel criticisms, hurled by one member at another, have lowered at times our parliaments to the level of street mobs. It is so serious that some observers are very concerned about the future of our national institutions.

THESE developments in Australia testify to the truth of the divine principles. Only righteousness exalteth a nation, and recognition and respect for God are needful for the security of a nation. We have ignored those facts of life. Australians are reaping what they have sown. Men have been neglecting the worship of God. At first it seemed they could get on without God. In fact it appeared an advantage to cast God aside. Instead of supporting the work of the church, time could be found for the golf-course, the hills, the seaside, the garden, and the wireless. This tendency to cultivate self-interest has become popular. To support the ministry of helping others through the church, has become unpopular.

Neglect of God has encouraged this growing disrespect of man for man. What is coming upon us in Australia? Like Hosea, we see how men can sow the wind and can reap the whirlwind. Hosea saw disaster coming upon Israel. We are not prophets nor sons of prophets, but to anyone who stops to think it is clear that we Australians, too, shall perish if we do not repent.

The church has helped to contribute to this situation. Over the years a lack of conviction in the truth of God's word has been tolerated. Too often preaching about the Bible has taken the place of the message of the Bible. Instead of God's mighty "Thus saith the Lord" being thundered out, men have uttered some shibboleth. Only when men are gripped by the divine truth and experience it in their heart, like Paul, Luther, Wesley, Campbell, and Spurgeon, will the church regain its vitality.

LET the church regain its hold upon the divine word, and return to the simple truths of God, then it will become strong; division will then tend to disappear. With the development of inner unity, the church will be able to give a more effective lead to a divided nation and to a divided world. Let our past failures teach us wisdom, and let them encourage us to make the coming year happier and more peaceful for all men. If that be our conviction we shall be able to sing with Tennyson:

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

THE church as the body of Christ is one of the great conceptions of the New Testament. This figure of speech is developed and expanded into an illuminating piece of symbolism by the Apostle Paul. Paul evidently had very good reasons for putting forth this idea in writing to the assembly of Christians at Corinth. The Corinthian church at the time was sadly disrupted by conflicting elements, which greatly endangered the unity of the local congregation. Paul beseeches them that they "all speak the same thing." The situation was apparently very grave. Little contentious groups had grown up, some desiring to have Paul as their leader, others favoring the silver-tongued Apollos, and yet a third coterie urging the claims of Cephas. Of the remainder, a few determined to acknowledge none save Christ; but it seemed that the majority had been carried away by allegiance to one or other of the principal personalities who had influenced the growth of the church.

Paul challenges and confounds this unfortunate situation with such questions as, "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or are ye baptised in the name of Paul?" And then he proceeds to evolve a definite and precise train of argument, until eventually, in the twelfth chapter, he suggests the possibility of likening the church to the body of Christ. He points out that "by one spirit we are baptised into one body" (1 Cor. 12: 13), and shows how that all the members of the human body, such as the foot, the hand and the eye, have their own specific functions, yet remain in harmony and unity. Then he follows this up with the statement: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (1 Cor. 12: 27), and continues to enumerate the offices of the New Testament church, showing how apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles, and, in fact, all members, have a part to play in the unity of the whole.

#### I. THE MANY BODIES

Even a casual observer could scarcely fail to see that the church of to-day has departed considerably from the ideal of the first century. In these days there appears to be not one but many bodies, each contending for some specific set of doctrines or articles of faith, which are usually embodied in a creed. In the very early years of the Christian faith, when there was considerable disputing regarding the canon of scripture, and the authority of the New Testament writings had not been fully established as a divinely inspired basis of truth, it is quite conceivable that the creeds, as explanatory affirmations of faith and tests of membership, did have their value. In an illiterate age, when so many Christian converts were bondslaves, unable to read or write, the learning and reciting of a simple creed ("credo," I believe) possibly had beneficial effects. Unfortunately, however, as private interpretations of the Word multiplied, the creeds increased in length and incomprehensibility, until to-day they have become so involved as to be rendered dead and useless. Frequently, too, with man-made creeds, errors of private judgment crept into these documents, rendering their statements contrary to the word of truth they were originally supposed to elucidate.

There is one simple rule that effectively tests the practicability of creeds. If a creed explains the truth more simply than the Bible, dispense with the Bible. This is impossible, as there is so much essential truth in the Bible that is not included in any creed. If, however, the creed does not make the truth more plain and simple than the Bible, it is obvious that the only remedy is to discard the creed as there is no need for it. Admittedly a creedal formula may have served its purpose in the early centuries. But

# The Body of Christ

Allen G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.,

of Perth, W.A., shows how the church  
is the body of Christ, basing his help-  
ful article on 1 Corinthians 12: 27.

now that these formulæ have become diversified by the devices of men, they are really dangerous and detrimental to the faith in that they are often given a pseudo-authority equal to, if not greater than, the word itself.

The people of this generation are tired of creeds because they are meaningless. The divided church has failed to satisfy their wants, and the majority of those who might otherwise have been harnessed in the forces of righteousness have turned away in indifference. The outcome has been a multiplicity of bodies, most of them altogether lacking in the regenerating and revitalising power of the one body, the church.

#### II. THE ONE BODY

In recent years considerable confusion has been brought about on the mission field due to the denominational character of the church. When souls are re-born from the darkness of heathenism into the light of the gospel they are confronted with many apparently different brands of Christianity—all professing much the same fundamental truths, yet all differing in trivialities that the pride of man has been sadly powerless to sweep away. In the light of such a bewildering situation, Christian missionaries have found it absolutely essential that they preach the simple, unvarnished message of salvation as proclaimed by the New Testament church. If this is not done, the converted Indian, who has left the bondage of his caste system, is brought face to face with a parallel manifestation of divisive forces in the church. Therefore the great proportion of missionary societies follow out the ordinances of believer's baptism and the simple observance of the Lord's Supper divorced of their man-made trappings and in keeping with the practices as revealed in the Book of Acts. No other way is possible for, despite the pre-conceived notions of men, Paul's words still reveal the basic truth: "Now ye are the body of Christ."

Again in his letter to the Ephesians the apostle raises the same issue when he writes: "There is one body and one spirit. . . . One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4: 4, 5).

The same idea is developed in Romans 12. Christ is the Head. The church is his body. Just as the head or the brain, through

the intricacies of the sensory and motor reflexes of the nervous system controls and orders the various parts or members of the body, so that it operates as a composite whole in perfect harmony and unison, so the "mind of Christ" influences and directs his church in all its internal functions and external activities. This is the true picture of the church as revealed in the New Testament scriptures.

But men in their ignorance have hewn the body of Christ asunder, and in so doing have literally decapitated it, for a divided body cannot function under the guidance of the head. A church torn by schism is separated from the fulness and blessedness of complete co-ordination that is possible when his followers are in tune with his will.

#### III. ONE GLORIOUS BODY

In the minds of those who honestly and earnestly strive to interpret his word aright, there is the certainty that the one united body of Christ shall eventually come into its own. We have this assurance in the message of the resurrection. On that first glad Easter morning, when he arose triumphant from the tomb, he came forth to the wondering view of his disciples clothed in glory. That is, he had a glorious body. And because he overcame the grave, we too, as members of his body, the church for which he died, shall also conquer death, and shall in like manner be re-clothed and presented before the throne of the Father as his risen, glorious body. How beautifully symbolic is this thought. Our filthy rags of sin and wretchedness will disappear, and this corruptible flesh shall put on incorruption. As Paul writes so discerningly: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed. . . . For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15: 51, 53).

Clothed in righteousness—not ours, but his—we shall be one in him. This is a great mystery, the apostle tells us. It is also the great hope of his body, the church.

Surely then this should be a challenging incentive to all denominational wranglers to put away their petty party differences and unite on the common basis of his word of truth. We can only advance by returning. We can only go forward by going backward. No rosy dreams of comfortable compromise in the guise of naive suggestions of federation of churches will prove satisfactory. No compromise in the way of union of denominations is enough. The breach in the church of God can only be healed by a unity of believers. The individual is the unit. Christ concerns himself not so much with humanity in bulk; his appeal is to each individual soul. The early church won converts one by one, and this must continue to be our method also. Only a complete restoration of New Testament Christianity in all its simplicity, in all its humility, in all its sincerity, in all its charity, will bring us to the place where we can use his glorious body to glorify his name in winning others also.

#### GIVING HAPPINESS

"A word, a look of sympathy.  
A penny generously bestowed,  
A simple act of courtesy,  
A kindly influence shed abroad.  
Will from the soul lift many a load.  
These angel deeds, grand and sublime,  
Like ripples on the stormy sea,  
Sweep o'er the fretful stress of life,  
And reach into eternity."

# After the War

Stanton H. Wilson, of Launceston, Tasmania, suggests the need of applying Christian principles to life now and in the years of reconstruction.

A CHAPLAIN, trying to encourage some soldiers as they were about to go "over the top," said, "Come on, lads. Remember you're building a new world." One of them, a mere boy, stopped. "You're wrong there, padre," he said, "my job is to blow the old one to bits; it's yours to build a new world." Some of us feel we have been spoken to in this strain. Some of us know that we shall be spoken to even more plainly—after the war. The task of rebuilding a wrecked world will not be the prerogative of chaplains and ministers alone. To reconstruct now is the responsibility of every right-minded citizen.

Let us not persuade ourselves that our post-war problem is one purely of reconstruction. There is much debris to be cleared off the ground before we begin. Build we must, but first we shall need to remove every hindrance to a strong and lasting structure. It does not need a prophet's vision to know that after the war there will be a lack of those righteous restraints that make a people great. A. P. Herbert, who has the gift of expressing what other people are only thinking, says:—

"Oh, won't it be wonderful after the war.  
After the war. After the war.

We'll work for the State and we'll knock off at four.

After the war. After the war.

We won't work at all if we find it a bore,  
There won't be no rich and there won't be no pore.

The beer will be better, and quicker and more—

Why didn't we have the old war-er before?"

Read those lines and then reflect, "There is much debris to be removed before we build."

But be it understood that real reformers do not delight in carting rubbish. One dustman whom I noticed had, to announce his arrival, a cow-bell tied to the corner of his cart. There are some methods of social reform which savor strongly of rubbish carts with bells on them.

Christian reform is not characterised by caustic comment and comic caricatures; it is expressed in the Spirit of him whose coming was not to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved.

Our task as Christians is to be supremely builders of the kingdom of God on earth. This demands a courageous application of the principles of Jesus to our lives individually, circumstances notwithstanding. There must be no compromise, and that means there will be cost and criticism. How strange it is that some who will fearlessly face the cannon's fury will wither beneath a word of criticism. It seems that the forces of evil have exploited this human weakness of ours until compromise has become a characteristic sin of the Christian church. Jesus taught practical principles for every-day living, and when we as Christians humbly dare to live his way we shall find much to endure but infinitely more to enjoy.

Let us not lose heart in the task of building a better world. Remember—

"It's stage by stage to the golden age,  
The far off we seem to view it;  
But the good we crave will come to the brave  
Who seek God's will and do it."

After all, it is entirely a matter of co-operation with God, and it is marvellous what he can do if we give him our best.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling symbol."

THIS word "charity" is often translated as "love," but its true meaning in the Greek of the New Testament is more like "loving-kindness" or "brotherly love."

This is something which most of us find very hard to practise. We can indeed be charitable to our friends, and to those with whom, as the saying goes, we have much in common. The rub comes when we have to deal with people with whom we feel no affinity, people whose ideas and ways are totally different from our own, so much so that often we cannot repress a feeling of dislike and disgust when we meet them.

There are few of us who do not find it hard not to be respecters of persons, giving our preference to those whose presence soothes us with the feeling of a common bond, and on the other hand, being unfair and perhaps rather contemptuous of people who rub us up the wrong way. Yet the simple truth is that in the eyes of God all souls have an equal spiritual value. Now this is a very hard saying for most of us to accept. It means that we must try to cure ourselves of all slighting ideas about our fellow creatures—that we must try to see them, and ourselves, as God sees us all. For we know assuredly that he is no respecter of persons. So, in following out our Lord's saying, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect," we must, among other things, give our attention to this matter of loving-kindness towards our fellows. "When we have little love for our neighbor, whom we see, we are forgetting God, who is hidden from us."

If we turn from the Bible to great literature, we find the same lesson taught. In almost every case, it is only the lesser writers who lack broad charity towards their fellowmen. Shakespeare is a proverb for all-embracing charity. It is almost impossible to find any type of being in whom he could not feel a great-hearted interest. All the known facts go to prove that William Shakespeare, in his life, could meet on friendly terms all sorts and conditions of men. We often hear of "the artistic temperament," and much petulance and uncharitableness is excused because of it. Well, the greatest artists and writers seem to have been conspicuously lacking in that kind of temperament!

To come to names only less great than Shakespeare, there is Walter Scott, with the multitudes of characters he depicted with loving and humorous sympathy in his novels, and the crowds of people he welcomed so royally into his acquaintanceship in real life. There is George Eliot, so full of the milk of human kindness, taking as her motto, "To understand everything is to pardon everything." She had no patience with people who assumed superior attitudes towards any of their fellow beings. Then there is Browning, for a modern instance. And for a terrible example of uncharitableness in a great writer, Swift, whose life, and end, and books are very powerful warnings against a twisted mind and spirit.

If we grow in grace we shall, as a matter of course, grow in loving-kindness. We should grow more tolerant every day. The ideal to aim at is not to be "rubbed up the wrong way" by anybody, unless principles are at stake, for which we must stand. If we find ourselves getting more irritated by other people's ways, as the time goes by, then we may conclude that we had better halt and seek after more grace to live by.

—Selected.

## God and Gold

Dr. W. Remfry Hunt, formerly a missionary in China, but now in his American homeland, sends this two-minute sermon for consideration of Australian readers.

EMERSON says: "Love is the norm of life." Browning says: "Love is never love until it is shared." Crossing the Atlantic some time since, we were arrested by a large sign swinging into prominence over the gangway of embarkation. It was placed where every passenger could see it. It read, "Change your currency." The kingdom of heaven demands this exchange. Gold contracts. God expands. An Irishman aboard, who was a lay preacher, said, "Sure enough, there's only one letter changing the meaning of "God" and "Gold," but it makes a difference."

Hoarded wealth is counterfeit specie. The only thing that makes the Arctic zone is that all its rivers are frozen at the mouth. They backwash, and make icebergs. It is cold and dark there. So it is that the Dark Ages were the non-witnessing, non-missionary ages. The lights went out, and the candlestick of the church was removed.

There were only two men God called "fools." One said: "There is no God"; the other

amassed wealth selfishly. Both died. Listen to me! Who waits for death to distribute the entrusted wealth, held in frozen assets, and which he or she cannot distribute, or circulate, is a bankrupt. It is the law of life in action. It reads like a laboratory. It is axiomatic, philosophical, final.

"God so loved . . . that he gave"—is the epic of the redeeming grace. It is the love that lives because it is the love that gives. Its alternatives are: Use or lose, circulate or terminate, inspire or expire.

Are you listening in, my brother, my sister, you to whom God has entrusted stewardship? It is the divine lend-lease on a spiritual scale. It is yours only for a moment. Note this: Buried money is a minus not a plus!

So it is that life is a stewardship, and to recognise that is to be placed at the right angle of vision for the interpretation of everything that life possesses.

### A SMILE

"If a smile you can renew, as our journey we pursue,

Oh, the good we all can do, as the days are going by."

# Hospital Visitation in S.A.

Chas. Schwab writes on a new system to help the sick, on the passing of a very distinguished citizen, and on the long ministry at Queenstown.

PREACHERS within the metropolitan area have recently zoned their hospital visitation of patients from country churches. The system ensures a quick and constant contact with the sick who are away from their friends. The ministry to the sick in homes and hospitals is a very gracious and helpful service which is being carried out by our preachers. Many expressions of appreciation have been made by grateful patients. The success of the policy for a more effective visitation will depend to a great measure upon the co-operation of country preachers and secretaries. Such a practical scheme is worthy of a mutual effort.

## War Service

The Salvation Army has launched an appeal for £10,000 in order to maintain this State's share in the Red Shield war services. Many large contributions have been received, and there appears to be good reason for the forecast that the big objective will be reached. Many old soldiers have voluntarily said that the Salvation Army is living up to those high traditions of service which marked its work in the Boer War and in the first World War.

## A Splendid Career

Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir, who died suddenly on Nov. 14, was a very versatile Christian gentleman. Norwood and Maylands churches, Federal and State brotherhoods, have received unstinted service from our esteemed friend.

The greater portion of a column in the daily press was utilised to enumerate the various charitable organisations with which Stanley Price Weir was associated.

Excellent public tributes have been paid by leading citizens in recognition of a man whose community interests and services were phenomenal. The Premier (Mr. Playford) said that S. Price Weir was a distinguished South Australian in every way, and that his loving-

kindness in all walks of life will be remembered by his generation of returned soldiers. Few Christian men have such a remarkable record of conspicuous service in so many spheres as that which will hold our departed brother in sacred remembrance by multitudes.

## Try Again

On August 8, 1878, six brethren met, discussed a serious situation, and concluded that there appeared to be no alternative—the church at Queenstown, S.A., would have to close down. The cause commenced on Oct. 25, 1869, and on August 8, 1875, secured the services of W. H. Martin, an American evangelist who, on account of ill-health, returned to the States after about two years of ministry. The above decision followed the serious decline in the work after the departure of Mr. Martin.

Recently the same church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. Those dear old pioneers held on, they tried again, and today the church holds records which are most exemplary. W. C. Brooker is in the fortieth year of his ministry.

He was engaged for one month, three months, six months, three years, twenty years, and is now passing beyond the forty year mark. His ministry to-day is as fresh and vital as in earlier years. The breadth, depth, length and continued success of this remarkable ministry presents a staggering argument against advocates of brief periods of service. Secretaries and treasurers have been few at Queenstown, hence long service records in connection with those offices.

The recent celebrations, with large congregations and well conducted services were most inspiring.

Tabulation and preservation of church history and details of the work are not likely to be eclipsed by any other church. Almost defeated churches should consult Queenstown brethren and sisters and try again.

Price is 1/6, plus 1d. postage, and copies may be obtained from State youth departments. Supplies of code and promise cards, application for membership forms, membership badges, are also available. When ordering supplies send to young people's department of your own State.

## Queensland News-letter

THE annual report of the Queensland Temperance League reveals considerable activity and progress. Thirty new Bands of Hope were opened during the year, and 1541 new members were enrolled. This is encouraging. Many think that the course of temperance will be won by educating young people in Bands of Hope and through temperance lessons given at State schools. The special publicity campaign has been carried on with great activity. The league broadcasts weekly from fifteen radio stations throughout the State. In addition newspaper advertising has covered 7120 inches, 566 posters have been displayed, while many thousands of leaflets and other publications have been distributed. This advertising apart from salaries and office expenses costs £80 a week, but we believe it will do a vast amount of good. The drink bill of Queensland shows an increase of £1,370,143 on the previous year's expenditure. The expenditure per head is £7/6/- as against £6/0/2 for the previous twelve months.

## Jubilee at Boonah

The centenary of Boonah and the jubilee of our witness there were celebrated within a few weeks of each other. We cannot help feeling justifiable pride as we review the work at Boonah. We think with gratitude of those brethren and preachers who rode miles on horseback to pioneer the work; of those early believers living in isolation but who set up the Lord's table in their own homes and who pointed neighbors and friends to New Testament Christianity; of those who organised the church at Boonah in 1892 and supported it faithfully though it meant travelling in buggies up to twenty miles over rough roads on the Lord's day. The church at Boonah in its gifts of personnel and money has made a big contribution to our brotherhood work. Mr. Eric Hart now labors in this district described by Sir Leslie Wilson as "a home of scenic grandeur, perhaps unequalled in any other district in Australia."

## The Adolescent Problem

A boy aged fifteen applied to one of our members for a job. He was engaged at thirty shillings a week and had the opportunity of learning a trade. The first day he arrived without his working clothes. Two days later his employer received a letter from him saying that as it cost him two and ten-pence halfpenny a week for tobacco, and five shillings a week for pictures, and he would have to pay his train fare to work, there wouldn't be much left, and he wouldn't be taking the job. We talk about re-educating the youth of Germany. Some adolescents in our own country present a problem that we have scarcely begun to solve.

## Missions in the North

There is no shortage of money but a shortage of manpower for missions. A sum of £7000 towards the financing of Pacific Island mission field work has been given by South Queensland Seventh Day Adventists. In addition, £15,000 has been given in tithes by members towards financing their work in

(Turn to page 609.)

# Our Young People

V. C. Stafford.

## THE NEW HANDBOOK FOR EXPLORER CLUB LEADERS

THE Victorian Young People's Department has just published a new handbook for leaders of Explorer Boys' clubs. Handy in size, its 44 attractively illustrated pages are a veritable treasure-trove for leaders bound on a quest for the best in round-the-year club work among boys.

## Objectives and Ideals

Opening chapters are given to the statement of objectives. It is always essential—in driving a car or running a club—to know where you're going, and why. The symbolism of the Explorer Club badge is clearly set forth. It is a powerful symbol—the cross within a square and both enclosed in a circle. The cross speaks of Jesus, the great Explorer, who stood for the hard right against the easy wrong. The fourfold aim of character building—physical, intellectual, social and spiritual—is represented by the square, while the circle stands for Explorer friendship. Badge colors are also symbolic.

## Pattern and Purpose

Under this heading is gathered basic thought-material concerning boys and lead-

ers, and is necessary in giving proper shape and a "spiritual vitamin" content to a club.

## Syllabus and Programmes

Forlorn leaders viewing with dismay their vanishing stock of ideas, may refresh themselves and their programmes from the abundance of resource material which the contributors, W. R. Hibbert and W. F. Newham, have gathered from numerous sources.

## Worship

Devotional exercises form part of a healthy club activity. The boy can rise to worship if guided in the right way. What shall the worship session be? "First and foremost it must not be pedantic. Boys hate 'schoolie' methods. Give them something fresh, something interesting, something they can understand."

Worship programmes, stories for devotional periods are provided, and will make leaders wise at worship time.

## All That and This Too

Initiation ceremony, hints for leaders on camping, hikes, club procedure, awards and suggestions for a leader's library, complete a manual which should be in every club leader's hands against the 1945 session.

## The Australian Christian

Page 604

December 20, 1944

# Indian School Teacher's Report

AFTER reading Mr. Bairagi's report, we are sure the brotherhood will have a deeper appreciation of the work our Indian Christian leaders are seeking to do. Mr. Bairagi represents a new force in India, and in considering this type of co-worker, we perforce exclaim: "They must increase but we must decrease." We pray that God will raise up more Indian workers of Mr. Bairagi's stamp. This is Mr. Bairagi's first annual report. We trust it will be the forerunner of many more.

## BARAMATI SCHOOL

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have the honor to submit the following report concerning the Baramati school, for the year ended June 30, 1944.

1. The average enrolment for the year was 221 children—169 boys and 52 girls.

2. The average attendance was 190—146 boys and 44 girls.

3. 197 children sat for the annual examination, when 185 passed.

4. Twelve boys were enrolled in the vernacular final class. All sat for final exam.: nine passed.

5. 40 children had double promotion during the year, which means that each of these children did two years' work in one year.

6. Seven teachers and the wife of one appeared for first Hindu examination. All passed, most with credit.

7. The present enrolment is 244 children—190 boys and 54 girls.

Physical drill was introduced in all classes as an aid to discipline. The committee of management made a special grant over and above the ordinary school budget. This has enabled us to reintroduce cricket for boys and hockey and badminton materials for girls. We have also been able to equip the top classes with desks and benches. While some may regard this as a bit of western paraphernalia, these have really been conducive to better study as evidenced by all-round good results obtained in the annual examinations.

## Gardening Activities

The agricultural class was dropped some years ago, but gardening has been made a real part of the school curriculum. Stress is being laid on gardening, not only from the point of view of the "grow more food campaign," but for its real educative value. Working with the hands is the greatest stimulus to mental activity; gardening not only develops the motor centres of the brain, but it provides the cheapest and most productive form of physical exercise. Gardening does not require much technical skill, nor does it require much costly apparatus. It requires land, water and human labor, and there are plenty of these in the mission compound at present. Local initiative must be developed soon, so that gardening may function as any other item of the school curriculum, quite irrespective of the personality of the school manager. This activity at present is handicapped by the fact that the greater part of the school garden is at a distance from the school.

The Christian school-teacher of Baramati, India, Mr. Bairagi, presents an encouraging summary of a year's activity among his pupils.

## Hostel for Hindu Boys

A new move has been made in opening a hostel for Hindu boys. At present there are eight boys—five from our own school at Shirsuphal and three from Khanda. The project does not involve the mission in any financial responsibility. The boys are keen on study, and attend all the religious exercises. Some of them attend Sunday school, and church services on Sundays. This new venture shows that prejudice against living with Christians is breaking down. It gives us greater scope for evangelistic work among these boys removed from other influences. No institution can be really self-supporting. So this project needs support, both spiritual and material.

## Other Activities

Meetings of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have been held regularly. Quite a number of our students took part in the Scout rally held in Poona last year. There are 40 Boy Scouts and 55 Cubs, 13 Girl Guides and 16 Blue Birds. Seven war service badges were secured by our school. These badges were distributed to the recipients by Mr. Streatfield, the B.C.O., when he paid his official visit last year. Other functions included the observance of Children's day, when sweets were distributed to the children. Mr. Chowerai gave a series of religious

talks to children. Annual prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Mr. Sahastrabudhe, the secretary of the local municipality. At Christmas time the children staged Christmas dramas, with appropriate items in Marathi, Hindu and English. English has been introduced as an extra subject, at present outside the school hours. Recognition is pending the employment of a qualified teacher. The manager is still in correspondence with the department on this matter. Over 100 children are learning English, and it is hoped that within a short time they will be able to have a working knowledge of this very important language.

## Devotional

Students under supervision conduct the morning prayers at the assembly. In the scripture lessons emphasis is laid on reading the word of God. The school, I believe, is one of the best places for concentrated evangelistic work. If we want a virile Christian community we should begin with the young.

## Appreciation

In conclusion I wish to record my heartfelt gratitude to the members of Australian churches of Christ, to whose generosity the continued existence of this school is due, and assure them that their institution has a great future under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the evangelisation of the people in and around this township of Baramati.

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

# Notes on Various Topics

## Another War-time Christmas

THE sixth Christmas since the outbreak of the world war is almost upon us, and still the terrible conflict continues. Nearly nineteen and a half centuries have passed since the advent of the Prince of peace was announced as an occasion of great joy for all peoples. The angelic host told of the peace which would come to men in whom God is well pleased. Thank God, even in the midst of war we may have that peace. Do we all think of the tragedy of world war in its relation to the purpose of the coming of the Lord Jesus? How his heart must grieve over the disunion, hate and slaughter which goes on. This Christmas day we may well give ourselves to earnest prayer for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, the Prince of peace.

## Real Security

I have, of course, full sympathy with the desire to provide economic security for men and women, and free them from the fear of poverty and want when old age or sickness deprives them of employment. But for our apathy and selfishness, such security would not long wait its realisation. But there is a higher security with other conditions. As African natives told Dan Crawford, "To be better off is not to be better." It is certainly not the case that rich men excel all others—moderately circumstanced or poor so far as this world's goods are concerned—either in the goodness or the happiness of their lives. I liked a recent statement by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria that we needed other securities than economic and social. The deepest of all was security of spirit in God's love. The belief held by some people that change in the social structure would also change man was contrary to experience and fact.

## General Franco and Spain

If reports are correct, Spain is still having serious internal troubles. The severity and even brutality with which General Franco (aided by Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and the pope) displayed in the civil war, which made him dictator, will not soon be forgotten. From time to time reports of the intolerant and persecuting religious policy of Franco (described by the pope not long since as "my dearest son") have been published. When Roman Catholics have sufficient power, religious freedom goes. Witness the treatment of Protestant missions in Abyssinia after Mussolini's victory. Franco in Spain has apparently imitated his former helper. The World's Evangelical Alliance, says the London "Daily Telegraph," has laid before the British Foreign Office and circulated among members of Parliament dreadful details of charges, including the following:

"Nearly all Protestant places of worship have been closed."

"Two-thirds of the Spanish pastors, evangelists and colporteurs have been exiled, imprisoned or executed."

"Except for the Roman Catholic version, with notes, the Bible is not allowed to be printed or circulated."

"The British and Foreign Bible Society's stock of Bibles and Testaments at Madrid, comprising 110,000 books, has been confiscated."

"Children of Protestant parents are compelled to learn the Roman Catholic catechism and worship images of the Virgin."

"Attendance at Mass in many places is compulsory to secure employment."

"A young Protestant recently was sent to a concentration camp for refusal to attend Mass."

—A. R. MAIN.

# Here and There

Owing to holidays there will be no issue of the paper next week.

The mission at Bentleigh, Vic., is being well supported. On Dec. 17 four adults confessed Christ, making 37 decisions.

The concert held in Camberwell town hall on Dec. 9 by members of Eastern Suburban churches, Melbourne, proved to be a success. All items were enjoyed.

L. E. Snow, preacher of church at Carnegie, Vic., has qualified for the Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Melbourne. We congratulate Mr. Snow on the successful completion of his course.

The Federal Foreign Mission Board, State F.M. Committees and missionaries on all fields record their deep appreciation of the sympathy and co-operation of the brotherhood, and pray for them a Merry Christmas and a new year of happiness and Christian fellowship.

F. T. Saunders advises that at the week-end the annual offering for the Federal College of the Bible had reached the sum of £1351/1/8. Two States—Queensland and Tasmania—have passed the amount given in 1943 offering. Several church offerings have yet to be reported.

The Board of Management of the College of the Bible is happy to announce that Mrs. Alan Price has accepted the invitation to become matron of the Ladies' Hostel from the beginning of the new year. Her experience as a missionary in India will add to her personal qualities in this responsible post.

Sunday school teachers at Toowoomba, Qld., received great stimulus when, at concluding anniversary service on Dec. 10, there were five decisions following H. E. Greenwood's evening message. This year children voted that they would forego prizes and send money to aborigines mission in W.A. Over £12 is being forwarded, and part of this money is being used by missionaries to provide Christmas treat for the children. Letters of acknowledgment and thanks from Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, Miss Roxburgh and a little dark scholar were featured in afternoon programme.

S. Russell Baker gave a splendid address at the morning service at North Fitzroy, Vic., on Dec. 10. Reference was made to the passing of Mrs. William Bagley, an old-time member of the church and sister of Mrs. John Tinkler, of Hampton. H. B. Robbins preached at night to a good congregation. R. L. Williams was with church at both services on Dec. 17, and gave inspiring addresses. Edward Fisher, lately immersed, was received into church membership in morning and Miss Johnston was immersed at the close of evening service. At 5 o'clock ladies of Women's Mission Band entertained Christian Friendship Circle at a Christmas tea; about 50 young people enjoyed the function.

On Dec. 2 a referendum was held in Newcastle (N.S.W.) concerning Sunday sport. A special committee was set up by the United Churches Association to deal with the matter, and R. V. Amos, of Georgetown, was appointed secretary. An intensive campaign was carried on, including press, radio and theatre advertising. Three separate folders were printed and sent to every home in the district. On polling day Christian workers attended every booth with "Vote No" cards. Electors were urged to vote for all men who upheld the Christian Sunday. As a result there was almost a 3000 majority against Sunday sport, and 16 of the 21 aldermen appointed honor the Lord's day. A spirit of thanksgiving has prevailed in the churches.

Recently a spiritual awakening campaign was conducted by Newcastle (N.S.W.) "United Churches Association." Meetings were held Monday to Friday at 7.45 p.m. in the City Hall, and on Sunday afternoon a youth rally

was held at 3.45, and in the evening an after-church rally was conducted at 8.30. Speakers were Hugh Paton (Presbyterian), John Bryant (Congregational), G. Wheen, M.A. (Methodist), F. A. Youens (church of Christ), Chas. Duncan (Salvation Army), and Joshua Robertson, M.A. (Baptist). The speaker at youth rally was R. H. Gordon, of S.E.C. On Thursday night R. V. Amos (preacher of Georgetown church) presided, and items were presented by a men's quartette from Georgetown, and Miss Joyce Saunders. Times of spiritual refreshment were enjoyed.

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## Not What I Ask

NOT what I ask, Lord, but what thou'lt give,  
Thou knowest best!  
Wilt supply my need each day I live,  
Therein I rest.  
Not what I ask, Lord, my earthly claims,  
Are so much dross;  
Things of earth that hold me, as in chains,  
Just end in loss.

Not what I ask, Lord, earthly demands,  
Are not thy way.  
This I know—"my times are in thy hands,"  
And safe alway.  
Not all I ask, Lord, my wants are fraught,  
With vain desire,  
But I would, in every deed and thought,  
More grace acquire.

Not all I ask! Kneeling at thy throne,  
I want so much!  
Thou dost know the needs of all thine own,  
Providing such.  
And hast said to ask. I ask thee hear  
My humble call,  
To find, when I to thee draw near,  
Thou'rt "all in all."

Not what I ask, Lord, for what am I?  
Earthware frail!  
Teach me to reach, in prayer, on high,  
Within the veil—  
E'en as I ask, Lord, thy mighty hand  
Holds much in store,  
And thou canst give, Lord, at thy command,  
"Abundantly more."

—J. Schofield.

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## CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

THERE are two events which have taken on an annual character; first, the women's gathering at the Home, when each church presents its contribution to the appeal, was held at the Home on Saturday, Dec. 8. There was a good attendance. Mrs. C. Gill presided, and greetings were brought by the conference president, E. L. Williams; the Women's Conference president, Mrs. Jefferys; the chairman of the Social Service Department, F. J. Funston; and the matron of the Home, Mrs. Ross. The amounts contributed totalled £640. It is expected that this will be considerably increased when the final offering is made. The doxology was almost spontaneous. Afternoon tea provides an opportunity for fellowship. Northcote and Moreland topped the offerings by churches with £40 and £38. The staff and guests of the Home contributed £14. This was presented by Mrs. Rowse aged 95. The finest individual effort, however, was that of Mrs. Gill, who raised £70. The hospital is brought nearer to us by this combined effort, and it is intended to proceed with it as soon as permission is obtained and manpower and materials are available. The second event was a concert by the Churches of Christ Ladies' Choir, under the leadership of Miss E. Pittman.

This was held in the Swanston-st. chapel on Dec. 11. Again a good attendance was registered, and as a result it is expected that over £20 will be netted. The concert was of a high order; items and artists were well received. The choir rendered mostly Christmas carols which were well chosen and finely rendered. Guest artists were Joan Sadler, soprano; Fanny Scarbrook, violinist; Miss Windsor Cox, elocutionist; and Robert Hardy, tenor. F. J. Funston expressed the thanks of committee to Miss Pittman, the choir and artists, and paid tribute to the generous spirit which prompted them to give their services so freely to benevolent enterprises.—W. H. Clay.

## 'THIS, MY SON'

THERE were quite a number of them. Tanned soldiers, evidently just returned from "up north" on the train; even so I could not help but notice him especially. Tanned, big, strong, typical of men who have been through battle, this man with the boyish face stood out amongst his mates. At his stop, as the tram moved off, I noticed a happy smile spread across his face and wondered. Then I saw her, too; with shining face and trembling arms running towards him, quickly engulfed in strong and loving arms. The soldier was home for Christmas—no longer a soldier, but her boy. It was a beautiful sight—hardly describable. Surely the suspense of travel, and the longings of the mother heart were worth it all—for that glorious moment when reality dawned in happy re-union!—F. Thornton, Y.M.C.A. Welfare Officer.

## THE BIBLE IN SHAKESPEARE

A NUMBER of years ago there lived a Shakespearian antiquarian by the name of Burgess who took the trouble to go through the thirty-seven or more plays of the Bard of Avon and cull all the Bible quotations and references to be found in them. Mr. Burgess had a large volume by the time he finished his labors. The book was later published under the title, "The Bible in Shakespeare," and there is a copy in our private library. When we reflect that the King James version of the scriptures was not put out until 1611, while Shakespeare died in 1616 and wrote almost all of his plays prior to 1610, we can understand the significance of this elaborate acquaintance with the Bible. The author of "Hamlet" probably used the translations of Tyndale or Coverdale, and possibly the Duay or Roman Catholic version of the text. In any case, Shakespeare knew his Bible better than the vast majority of present-day preachers. What the plays would have been without this intimate association with the Book of books, no one can say. Literary critics of the present day, who frequently sneer at the idea of studying the Bible, and who too often manifest a lamentable lack of acquaintance with its pages, should ponder this most obvious fact in the career of the greatest of all English poets. Without the Bible there would have been no Shakespeare worthy of the name. Perhaps the reason why inspiration seems to lag so pronouncedly in the field of literature to-day is because it lacks the Biblical background which made Shakespeare and Milton and Burns what they were.—Dr. F. D. Kershner, in "The Christian Evangelist."

AUSTRAL GRADED LESSONS are prepared for Churches of Christ by experienced writers. The wide use of these teachers' and scholars' helps proves that they are an important factor in our work amongst the young. Full particulars gladly supplied.—Austral Co., 528, 530 Elizabeth-st.,

# News of the Churches

## Queensland

**Mackay.**—P. Brock, late of Ipswich, has been welcomed into the church and appointed to officers' board. On Nov. 26 and Dec. 3, Chap. DeVaur, of Ohio (U.S.A.), gave appreciated gospel messages. During past weeks fellowship has been enjoyed with numerous brethren from overseas. Church finance is well maintained, and church has asked the Home Mission Committee to reduce H.M. subsidy. A successful breaking-up social of Women's Mission Band was held on Dec. 6 with a good number present.

**Maryborough.**—Attendances on Nov. 26 were good. Sunday school held a special afternoon session with very good attendance. Attendances were slightly above average on Dec. 3. On Dec. 1 a Christmas tree combined with distribution of anniversary prizes was held with record attendance. A successful "Australian afternoon" was held on Nov. 30, when £5/11/6 was raised toward church funds. The church welcomed the Thornton family from Roma into fellowship. Mr. Dallinger has resigned as preacher of church, having received a call to Townsville.

## South Australia

**Victor Harbour.**—Recently June Schumacher confessed Christ. On Dec. 10 Mr. and Mrs. Appleby were received into fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. Manning have returned from a holiday at Mt. Barker. Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCulloch, of C.I.M., with other local brethren, helped in services during preacher's absence. Special services are being conducted during Christmas season.

**Prospect.**—Members of church and choir assembled at a social evening on Dec. 7 in honor of Geoff Conigrove and Daphne Page, who were married on Dec. 9. A. E. Brown officiating. Services on Dec. 10 were well attended. A. E. Brown spoke morning and evening, and H. Bradshaw at afternoon session. Fellowship was enjoyed with Sgts. K. Brokensha and G. Dixon (on leave), and visitors throughout the day. Kindergarten held Christmas party on evening of Dec. 9. Juniors held a picnic at Botanical Gardens.

**Murray Bridge.**—There were improved attendances on Dec. 3, when Lin. C. Fitzgerald exhorted church, Arthur Coote and Colin Mitchell led helpful cottage meetings at homes of D. C. Dix and G. B. Gruhl. There was one addition, Mrs. R. R. Reu, by letter from Balaklava, on Dec. 10, with two children for Bible school. Miss Gwen Jones, W.A.A.F., on leave, was at communion. Aged Mrs. Hunter, of Milang, has left local hospital. N. G. Noble was speaker morning and night. December soloists were Doug. Butler and Mrs. Gordon Wilson. C.E. Christmas box to the Morialta Children's Home, was provided on Dec. 13.

**Strathalbyn.**—On Nov. 12 J. Butler was speaker, and M. Millard, on leave, ably spoke at both meetings on Nov. 19; at night Mr. Willing sang a solo. R. Anderson (also on leave) spoke morning and night on Nov. 26. Mr. Magor's addresses were appreciated on Dec. 3. Bible school children were given a Christmas tree on Dec. 8; items by scholars were enjoyed. At this meeting words of appreciation of work of Mrs. H. Manning were spoken, and a presentation made. Our sister, who was church organist, is leaving for Sydney. On Dec. 10 Mr. Wilson spoke in morning, referring to the late Mrs. G. Cross; Mrs. S. Bartlett sang. Mr. Wilson addressed night meeting, when Mrs. Garwood was soloist.

**York.**—Bible school gave Children's Day exercise for foreign missions in a commendable manner on evening of Nov. 26; offering was £4/7/- For cot fund, Minda and Morialta Homes, scholars contributed £5/6/-. On Dec. 10 the church had fellowship with Mrs. W. G. Oram. G. Rootes gave the address. A. A. Stein was received by letter from Grotelst. Geo. Wilson conducted evening service. A kitchen evening to Joan Valadares was held on Dec. 7, on eve of her marriage to Harold Buck, which took place in chapel on Dec. 11, Mr. Rootes officiating. A musical evening by students of Mrs. L. V. Mathews, assisted by several artists, was held in chapel on Dec. 12. Proceeds (about £5) are in aid of proposed churches of Christ old folks' home.

**Stirling.**—Bible school anniversary services were held on Nov. 26. In morning W. F. Nankivell gave a message of dedication to teachers. In afternoon special singing was given by scholars under leadership of Ron. Pitkin, and Mr. Nankivell gave a talk to the children. In evening Mr. Fitzgerald spoke to a good congregation. On Nov. 27 the young people received their prizes and entered into games at a social evening. Young people's fellowship meetings have been encouraging. On Saturday its members had entered a hike, followed with games at Long Gully Park. Services are maintained. The work of Mr. Fitzgerald is appreciated. Members both at Stirling and Aldgate Valley feel severe loss in the home-call of W. G. Oram, who was always ready to fill vacancies. He was also elder and assistant secretary. Deepest sympathy goes to his wife and relatives.

## Western Australia

**Fremantle.**—At annual church business meeting on Nov. 30, the recommendation of official board that C. H. Hunt be re-engaged under an indefinite engagement, on expiration of present engagement, was endorsed. Doreas and Church Aid has had a very successful year giving help to War Comforts Organisation, which has sent 54 boxes, parcels and gifts to Service personnel. Among monies donated by women have been £8 to H.M., £8 to F.M., £5 to aborigines fund, and £11 to local renovations fund. C.F.A. membership now stands at 46. Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Taylor are on holiday in East.

**Perth.**—A Christmas tree gift evening on Dec. 9 for aborigines mission was enjoyed. Items were given by various youth societies. J. Wiltshire, secretary of Federal Aborigines Mission Board, gave an inspiring message. On morning of Dec. 10 members heard with deep sorrow of sudden home-call of C. A. G. Payne. A talk by J. K. Robinson fitted the special occasion, which was Church Union Sunday. At 7.30 p.m. a duet was rendered by E. R. Berry and A. B. Povey. Mr. Robinson illustrated message with a chart. Doreas Society and Women's Auxiliary prayer committee had an "at home" afternoon on Dec. 12.

## New South Wales

**Wollongong.**—Dec. 3 was notable for the large number breaking bread, 117 partaking for day. On following Sunday two young people responded to Mr. Stirling's gospel invitation. Among visitors in recent weeks have been Don Verco, of Bordertown, S.A., and Mr. and Mrs. Herman from Queensland.

**Canterbury-Earlwood.**—Meetings on 9th were splendid. S. Stevens (Enmore) was speaker in morning, and our own preacher in evening, when building was packed. A delightful evening was spent on Dec. 8, when the much-loved kindergarten superintendent, Miss I. Thomson, was honored prior to her marriage to Lloyd Jones. Ron Goldstein has donated a

copy of the New Testament to each of this year's converts.

**Hornsby.**—After one year's ministry with the church, T. Hallop leaves to take up duties with Y.M.C.A. in Military Forces. He had previously served two years with A.I.F. At a farewell evening members presented him with a wallet of notes. Mrs. Hallop is already in Queensland, and she also received a gift. Under leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Hallop the church has grown spiritually and their going is regretted.

**Paddington.**—R. Wilson has entered into full-time ministry with church. On Dec. 1 there was good attendance at breaking of bread. Mr. Hallop, of Y.M.C.A., was speaker. Members of Forces were welcomed. Local division of St. John Ambulance attended gospel service conducted by Mr. Wilson, who gave a fine address. A trio was sung by the Misses Reilly and a solo by R. Jones. Auxiliaries have been preparing for Christmas cheer. A successful afternoon was held at home of Mrs. A. Larcombe, in interest of home missions. Mrs. W. J. Lewis gave a fine address.

**Georgetown.**—On Nov. 19 Mr. Amos spoke at 11 a.m., and Mr. Fraser at 7 p.m. Services have been well maintained. On Nov. 25 the first temple day was held. Chapel was open all day, and auxiliaries met throughout day in devotional periods. In evening a worship service was held. The day's offering was £53. R. V. Amos conducted all services on Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and 10. On Dec. 1 the boys' club celebrated first anniversary. Ladies' guild had final meeting for 1944 on Dec. 6. At mid-week service (Dec. 6) John Moran, on vacation from Bible college, gave the address, and at close Mrs. Bell was baptised. On Dec. 10 Mr. Bell, home on leave, was baptised during morning service, and welcomed into fellowship in company with his wife. On Dec. 14 girls' club held a successful concert.

**Albury.**—Annual business session on Oct. 26 opened with prayer service. Reports were good to listen to. Treasurer's was very encouraging—largest credit balance for many years. Bible school has shown great interest in Faithful Fishermen campaign. Reports from all auxiliaries were delightful—Senior and Junior Endeavor, Girls' Club, Boys' Club, Ladies' Guild. An encouraging report was received from Lavington Sunday school. Morning and evening services have shown wonderful improvement. The past year has been one of progress, happy fellowship and co-operation. Members are thankful for such wonderful understanding and sincere workers as Mr. and Mrs. Edwards. Additions by baptism, six. Sunday school examination was a great success.

## Victoria

**Carnegie.**—With splendid attendances on Dec. 17 Christmas services were held. Four young folk were baptised at evening meeting. Intermediate C.E. provided Christmas tea and concert for Christian Guest Home on Dec. 16.

**Red Hill.**—L.A.C. Ron Holmes has returned to duty. On Dec. 3 Miss A. Downing was well enough to attend worship meeting. Mrs. A. Salmon has had a painful accident, but is now restored to fellowship. Miss Fletcher, Indian missionary, gave a lantern address on Dec. 10.

**Oakleigh.**—S. Neighbour was speaker at both services on Dec. 17, choir and soloists presenting Christmas music at evening service. Youth work is in a healthy condition, 193 being present at Bible school on Dec. 10. Kindergarten Christmas party on Dec. 16 was well attended.

**Lower Heytesbury.**—The church appreciates gift of handsome communion trays presented when B. Feary, of Ballarat, spoke at Lower Heytesbury and later at Curdies. The wife of the secretary confessed Christ at recent Victorious Life Campaign held in Warrnambool chapel, and was baptised the same night.

**Emerald.**—On morning of Dec. 10, G. L. Murray exhorted church. 11 attended. At evening service 34 heard an address by G. L. Murray.

**Castlemaine.**—On Dec. 16 the marriage of Miss Doris Normington to Andrew G. Johnston took place in chapel, the ceremony being performed by C. E. Curtis. Ken Hall, who had his leg broken at the foundry, is showing good recovery.

**Hamilton.**—The church expressed pleasure at the return of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes from Melbourne. A choir has been formed and has been preparing for Christmas services. Attendances at midweek services are improving. On evening of Dec. 8, the Women's Mission Band held a successful sale of gifts. Building fund will benefit considerably.

**North Williamstown.**—On Dec. 5 Bible class and Girls' Fellowship combined in a social evening to farewell Laurie and Delmar Morgan. The church was addressed on Dec. 10 by J. E. Searle. In evening 150 gathered in a memorial service to late J. E. Thomas, conducted by Alex Cameron. Kindergarten, on afternoon of Dec. 2 held an enjoyable picnic.

**Ormond.**—W. W. McDowell is giving good messages to the church. C.E. had social on Dec. 11 to conclude the year. Cricket club has done well, having won six matches and lost one. Mrs. Patterson is in New Melbourne Hospital and getting on well. Mrs. Lacey is in Prince Henry Hospital. Mrs. Ring was at meeting on Dec. 17. F. Ring is home on leave. The work is going along well.

**Middle Park.**—The church is grateful to Messrs. Baird, C. Burt, Cremen, A. Thomas and A. E. White for occupying the pulpit while the church awaits a preacher. Two Bible school scholars have been received into fellowship by baptism. B. J. Whittaker (late R.A.A.F.), who made his decision at the Hinrichsen-Morris mission at Bentleigh, was baptised on Dec. 10 and welcomed into membership. Members of Phi Beta Pi entertained their mothers at a Christmas social on Dec. 11.

**Northcote.**—On Dec. 3 Chaplain-General A. Brooke spoke at gospel service and Reg. Enniss addressed evening service on Dec. 10. A Christmas tree party was held on Dec. 9, when 70 kinders received gifts; 50 parents were also present. 48 parcels and canteen orders have been sent to men in Services. Members of church have contributed £40 to Guest Home hospital fund. On Dec. 13 K.S.P. had a social. 169 broke bread for day on Dec. 17 and 136 attended gospel meeting.

**East Kew.**—Bible school has gained twenty new scholars during Faithful Fishermen campaign. Auxiliaries are concluding the year with special functions. On Dec. 10 T. O. Turriff spoke in morning and F. M. Combridge at night in absence of Mr. Candy, whose elder daughter is in Fairfield Hospital. Reports show that she is improving. Christmas services were conducted on Dec. 17. At night a Christmas message was preached with aid of lantern and slides. After-church fellowship was held in chapel, and concluded with a cup of tea. Mr. Dobyn, who has been in hospital, is back at services.

**Prahran.**—Meetings during present month have been fairly well attended, and R. E. Burns has been speaker at all services. S.S. picnic was held at Cheltenham on Dec. 2. On Dec. 12 S.S. scholars and teachers entertained South Yarra school (who won recent competition between the two schools) at a social evening. C.E. society held a Christmas evening for elderly members and friends of church, each guest receiving a little gift. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Vallence and Mr. Smith, who have suffered bereavements. In absence of Mr. Burns at other meetings, prayer meetings have been conducted by Mr. Bolduan. The church is grateful to Mrs. Mann and Horace Lee for assistance during absence of morning organist.

**West Preston.**—Splendid meetings have continued at all services during past few weeks. A. B. Withers has been speaker at services with exception of 17th, when G. Barnett addressed morning service. The Y.P.S.C.E. recently held their meeting in home of Mrs. Holden, when a time of happy fellowship was enjoyed. On 16th the annual kindergarten party and Christmas tree were held. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lang who made and donated major portion of gifts, and to Mr. and Mrs. Buckley who decorated many of the toys. Later in evening members of junior school were entertained. On 17th scholars of intermediate school had tea prior to gospel service, when a special Christmas service was held; A. B. Withers was speaker.

**Carlton (Lygon-st.).**—On Dec. 11, at a social evening, toys made by the Girls' Club were handed to superintendent of Bible school for distribution to kinders at Christmas treat on



Children of the Gardenvale Bible School.

Dec. 16, when a happy time was spent with parents. On Dec. 17 C. G. Taylor spoke at both services. Mrs. Taylor was received into membership, also Mr. and Mrs. Mottram. At evening service choir rendered Christmas anthems, and two solos by Mrs. C. G. Taylor were enjoyed. K. W. Barton was recipient of a small token on his departure to his homeland for a brief holiday. A large party of young people from church went to the Carlton Home in afternoon and conducted a Christmas carol service, which was greatly enjoyed. G. Berry and H. L. Lee have been elected to diaconate.

**Brunswick.**—On Dec. 11 the Endeavorers invited members to a Christmas treat in the form of a minstrel concert. On afternoon of Dec. 16, kinders were presented with toys, a large number of parents being present. On morning of Dec. 17, S. Prentice gave a Christmas address. At close of evening service all were invited to a cup of tea, at which thanks were given to S. Prentice, A. White and J. Roberts for special addresses the last few Sunday evenings. Mrs. Pick, from Devonport, Tas., has been a visitor for several weeks. On the approaching marriage of Miss M. Jones a presentation was made to her.

**Bendigo.**—At birthday meeting of ladies' auxiliary, 100 were present. Mrs. Wright, late of Korea, was speaker, and offering went to Guest Home appeal. On Nov. 30 the ladies' auxiliary entertained all sisters 70 years and over; 10 of the 16 invited were present. Words of appreciation of their faithfulness and service were expressed, and each was presented with a posy. Mrs. Lowther spoke on China. A social afternoon at home of Mrs. R. Weise, Kangaroo Flat, on Dec. 7, closed Ladies' auxiliary work for year. Their special effort this year was manse fund, which is now £85. On occasion of 78th anniversary of church a pleasant Sunday afternoon was held. Guest speaker was Robert Ewing, C.M.G. Birthday offering brings building fund offering to

£200 for year. Girls' Good Companions' Club led by Mrs. Briggs, and intermediate boys of Sunday school led by Mr. Duus, on Dec. 8 displayed a splendid collection of toys they had produced for kindergarten Christmas tree. The usual Christmas tree was held on Dec. 14. District C.E. Union efficiency competitions are proving a great stimulus to all societies. Y.P.S.C.E. gave a Christmas treat in the form of a tea, followed by a Christmas programme, to inmates of Blind Home on Dec. 9. Alan Bartlett, R.A.A.F., has been welcomed home on leave. Mrs. and Miss Keats have been received by transfer from Lygon-st. Mrs. Costin, Mrs. Zelius and Mrs. Briggs have spent several weeks in hospital and are making good progress. Mr. Mathieson is in his third year of service with church. His messages and visitation are appreciated. Recently he was honored by being appointed president of Bendigo ministers' fraternal.

**Gardenvale.**—The 21st anniversary services of Bible school were held on December 3 and 10, meetings being splendidly attended. Speakers were F. Buckingham, L. Brooker, B. Huntsman, E. Cleland, E. C. Hinrichsen and J. Bond. Prizes were distributed on Dec. 10. C. Gadge, assisted by choir and orchestra, led the singing. Anniversary celebrations were concluded by a pictorial lecture given by C. Lang, entitled "Under the Big Trees." During past 12 months 14 have been added to Bible school, 15 to J.C.E., and a girls' club of 19 members has been formed. The girls' club has made a quantity of soft toys for Richmond Free Kindergarten.

**Dandenong.**—A delegation paid a visit to Bentleigh mission on Dec. 14. Attendances have been good at S.S., which broke up on Dec. 17 for four weeks' recess. Meetings continue in good heart under guidance of Will Marshall. On evening of Dec. 10 Ron Crooke was soloist. At evening meeting on 17th, Frank Barrot rendered a message in song.

**Camberwell.**—Communion service on Dec. 17 was well attended. J. Abercrombie preached; 110 broke bread during day. In evening special Christmas carols were rendered by choir, and G. Ogden, U.S.A. missionary to India, told a most enlightening story of growth of some phases of Christian missionary work. Over 100 were present and £5/2/- was subscribed for the native work being conducted. In afternoon Bible school presented a specially prepared illustrated Christmas message.

**Frankston.**—On Dec. 3 T. Hagger spoke at both services. A lady confessed Christ. On Dec. 10 church anniversary services were held. At 11 a.m. C. B. Nance-Kivell, and at 3 p.m. R. L. Williams, were speakers. Their addresses were appreciated. At afternoon session the annual thankoffering was received, which amounted to £90. It is expected that £100 will be reached. At 7.30 p.m. T. Hagger preached powerfully to a congregation which filled chapel. Four young people from Moorooduc accepted Christ. Many visitors were present, including Mrs. Jeffery, president women's conference. Val Wolf and E. Morris rendered delightful solos. On Dec. 13 a musical and elocutionary programme was enjoyed. Those taking part were Misses Greig and Kilgour, Messrs. Cuddy, Wells and Master

F. Hahn. This was followed by a devotional session, when B. J. Cambridge gave a fine address. Supper was served. On Dec. 7 a happy afternoon was enjoyed, when the Women's Mission Band arranged a meeting for mothers of Bible school scholars. Mrs. Cartmel gave a splendid address; Mrs. Fowler sang beautifully.

**Footscray.**—Ladies' Aid held special Christmas meeting on Dec. 12. Y.P.S.C.E. conducted a round-table discussion, led by D. C. Ritchie on Dec. 13. Kinder Christmas trees were held at Raleigh-st. and Maidstone Hall on afternoon of Dec. 16, and scholars' social in evening. A special Christmas service was held on Dec. 17 at gospel meeting. Appropriate hymns and anthems were rendered by the choir under leadership of W. Easton, with D. C. Ritchie as preacher.

**Melbourne (Swanston-st.).**—On morning of Nov. 26, members of the General Dorcas were present when C. B. Nance-Kivell spoke. At morning service on Dec. 10, Chaplain-General Allen Brooke gave the address. Morning speaker on Dec. 17 was Dr. A. J. Saunders, of India. Other services have been addressed by Mr. Nance-Kivell, with average attendances. Extensive excerpts from "Messiah" were rendered by choir on evening of Dec. 17, with H. T. S. Brown as conductor. Soloists were: Elsie Morison (soprano), Lex Raichnie (contralto), Robert Hardy (tenor), and Newstead Rush (bass). Mrs. E. Tweddell was organist and Miss Myrtle Liddy pianist. There was a large congregation. Recent offering for home missions has reached £47.

**Swan Hill.**—Meetings during November were fairly well attended. On Dec. 1 I.C.E. held a successful break-up social. Dec. 3 marked commencement of second year of Mr. Walmsley's ministry. Bible school anniversary services were held on Dec. 3. C. Cole was visiting speaker, and there were excellent attendances (56 morning, 90 afternoon, 87 evening). At worship service the right hand of fellowship was extended to Mr. and Mrs. R. Jermyn, Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnott, Allan Staley and Howard Stewart. At conclusion of Mr. Coles' address seven young people from Bible school made the good confession. Mr. and Mrs. G. Chislett and Sunday school from Boundary Bend, 55 miles away, were present morning and afternoon. A happy time was spent at anniversary tea and social on Dec. 4. Women's Mission Band has raised £5 for Christian Guest Home hospital.

**Ascot Vale.**—On Dec. 13 a Christmas party was given by Miss Rivett. A service was held in school hall. Children then went into kinder hall where a nice supper was laid first for children then adults. After supper each received a gift. In all 83 gifts were given. Mrs. McCallum and Mrs. Duncan worked hard all day to make the party a success. Dec. 17 was temple day, and "every member present." The offering amounted to £127. Women's Auxiliary held fine meeting for 1944 on Dec. 12. £20 was raised for church temple day, and £12/12/- for Oakleigh Guest Home temple day. The kindergarten held Christmas tree party on Dec. 9. Mr. McConchie, of Bambra-rd., Caulfield, was Father Christmas. On evening of Dec. 9 the ladies of Mission Band and Auxiliary gave an evening and presentation to Mrs. Marshall.

**Essendon.**—On Dec. 9 A. Moroney delivered a fine message. At gospel meeting on Dec. 9, W. E. Jackel conducted a baptismal service at which a young lady was immersed. Officers conducted a working bee on Dec. 8 and improved grounds surrounding chapel. On Dec. 8 a large party from "Fellowship of Witness" held a picnic on banks of Yarra at Warrandyte and in evening conducted an open-air meet-

ing in town. Fellowship was enjoyed with A. Moss on Dec. 17 who was on leave. Letters of appreciation have been received from brethren in Services to whom canteen orders have been sent. Val Penmore was received into fellowship at morning meeting on Dec. 17 by W. Jackel. At gospel meeting a Christmas service was conducted by Mr. Jackel and illustrated by lantern slides. Choir, under Mr. Forbes, rendered appropriate anthems. Special services arranged for last quarter of year have proved a great success. Attendances have been high. Mr. Jackel is doing a good work.

**Parkdale.**—At the Christmas party for kinders, 56 children received presents on Dec. 16. Services on Dec. 17 were well attended. J. M. Gilmour is improving in health. Choir has given appreciated help at gospel services.

**Bentleigh.**—On Dec. 9 a Christmas treat was held at chapel for kindergarten and cradle roll children. Father Christmas was present, each child receiving a present. Afternoon tea was served to mothers by ladies; an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

**East Malvern.**—Following upon decision day conducted by L. E. Snow, of Carnegie, at Bible school on Dec. 10, Donald Ryall was baptised on Dec. 17. Part of a house bought in June is being prepared for church and Bible school use. Attendances at all regular meetings show steady improvement. The willing help of visiting speakers is much appreciated. Members of the Sunshine Circle, by a recent Christmas gift bazaar, raised more than £100 clear. The offering for home missions was £5/16/6.

## Tasmania

**Hobart (Collins-st.).**—On Dec. 3, at fellowship tea, Capt. Robinson gave an interesting talk to young people. Young women helped at gospel service. Five were baptised and received into fellowship. On Dec. 13 a Christmas tea was given to folk sixty-five and over. A happy time was spent. Mrs. Foster, over 80, recited; Mrs. James sang a solo.

## QUEENSLAND NEWS LETTER

(Continued from page 604)

South Queensland, and during the year two new churches have been built.

The Methodists report higher revenue for missions, and in addition their New South Wales conference has promised £500 for developmental work in Queensland for the next five years. Our Federal and State committees might take the cue.

But the Methodists find that their home and overseas missions are hampered for lack of workers. They are calling for 500 young men and women to volunteer for mission work. "There is no finer investment for Christian young men and women of Australia than service in building up the spiritual life of the peoples of the Pacific Islands," said Mr. H. M. Weller.—P. C. D. Alcorn.

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Wanted to purchase, small cottage, moderately priced, on terms. Sydney suburb. Illawarra line preferred.—Mrs. R. Morris, 23 Plimsoll-st., Belmore, N.S.W. Cpl. Morris R., Medical Section, R.A.A.F., Camden, N.S.W.

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V10581 Chaplain C. Young, Camp Staff Office, Enoggera, Qld.

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## Devotional Books

"The Morning Message." Selections for Daily Meditation, by Dr. Campbell Morgan, 6/7 (6/11½).

"Thus Saith the Lord," G. F. Tibbitts, 11/3 (11/9½).

"The Master's Touch and Other Poems," E. G. Cherry, 5/- (5/3½).

"My Utmost for His Highest," Oswald Chambers, 10/- (10/4½).

"The Golden Highway," Lionel B. Fletcher, 8/3 (8/6½).

"The Morning Watch." Attractive booklet of devotional readings, 9d. (10½d.).

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## TO LET

Large F.B.S. room between beach and station, Parkdale, vacant Jan. 5.—"Room," c/o Austral.

## IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON.—In loving memory of my dear husband "Louis," who was called home on Dec. 22, 1943. Loving memories.

—Mabel.

COOK.—In loving memory of my husband, James, who passed away at Geelong, Dec. 18, 1938. Ever remembered by his loving wife and family.

No more they walk with us life's weary way,

No more they help to cheer the passing days,

But in the land where tears are wiped away,  
They wait our coming at the gates of day.

McPHERSON.—In loving memory of our dear May, who passed away just two years ago to-day, Dec. 24.

Not just to-day, but every day, in silence we remember.

—Inserted by her sister and brother-in-law, Isabella and Harold Mottram.

## RED HILL CHURCH. HOMECOMING DAY.

A welcome is extended to former members and others to attend a homecoming day on Jan. 28, 1945. Former preachers speaking are Chaplain H. A. G. Clark, M.A., and A. H. Pratt; also Mrs. Clark will address a women's meeting in afternoon.

## BROADCAST SERVICE.

Sunday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m., through national 5AN-CK, from Maylands, S.A. President, A. Anderson; preacher, K. A. Jones.

## 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.

# The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

## THE WAYS

TO every man there openeth  
A way, and ways, and a way.  
And the high soul climbs the high way,  
And the low soul gropes the low;  
And in between, on the misty flats,  
The rest drift to and fro,  
But to every man there openeth  
A high way, and a low.  
And every man decideth  
The way his soul shall go.

—J. Oxenham.

## SWALLOW THEIR PRAYERS

THE Japanese wear wide sleeves to their garments, in which they have six or eight pockets. In these they carry a great variety of articles. Among other things, they usually have a number of prayer amulets, written by the priests on sheets of delicate rice-paper. When in any distress of mind or body these prayers are swallowed like a pill.

It would not be surprising if these amulets found a large sale if introduced into this country. There are many Christians who would relish some such convenient method of conducting their devotions.

If they could only swallow their prayers instead of having to spend time to say them, how nice it would be!

## LESSON APPLIED

"Eh!" said Sandy to the minister, "it was a powerful discourse on 'Thrift' ye preached the sabbath."

"Ah'm glad ye were able to profit," said the minister.

"Profit! Why, mon, I would have pit my saxpence into the plate without a thought if it had not been for your providential words. They saved me fourpence there and then!"

## The Family Altar

TOPIC.—"THE FIRST AND THE LAST"

- Dec. 25—John 1: 1-18.
- " 26—Eph. 1: 1-14.
- " 27—Eph. 1: 15-23.
- " 28—Col. 1: 9-23.
- " 29—Col. 1: 24-29.
- " 30—Rev. 22: 1-9.
- " 31—Psa. 65; Rev. 22: 10-22.

A BRIEF summary of the main theme of holy scripture is given in the closing chapter of the book of Revelation. Attention is called to the "Lamb of God," our "Alpha and Omega," who gives his final invitation and last announcement concerning his re-appearance. He says that he is "the first and the last," and we are thus reminded that the Bible is the book of a Person, Jesus Christ our Lord. "In the beginning was the Word," and at the end we hear his voice, whilst throughout the whole of the scriptures we read of the wondrous scheme of redemption, wrought out for a lost world by him who is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, our all-sufficient Saviour; the "head of his body, the church"; "the author and finisher of our faith"; "the first and the last."

## United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

W. H. Clay

U.N.R.R.A. is pronounced "UNRA." We are going to hear more of this organisation in the near future. The nations surviving this war are planning to bring relief to the allied nations whose countries have been devastated and many millions of pounds have already been pledged.

The Australian Council of U.N.R.R.A. has recommended that the Australian Government commit itself to a contribution of £12,000,000. The magnitude of the organisation surpasses anything previously known. America, the United Kingdom and the Dominions are preparing to move immediately the war ends. Steps will be taken to relieve some nations as soon as the European situation improves.

Representatives of forty-four nations have signed the agreement. The world has not previously seen such a practical demonstration of international benevolence and concern on the part of the strong for the weak and the rich for the poor, and U.N.R.R.A. augurs well for the coming of the better day when guarantees shall be given of freedom from fear and freedom from want. It is only to be expected that the religious world would be moved to have a part in the plans. Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews are represented. The Australian Council presided over by Dr. Evatt, the Minister for External Affairs, is composed of representatives of all sections of the church, the British Medical Association, and welfare organisations. It is expected that many hundreds of appointments will be made, many of which will be for overseas. We are confident that churches of Christ will enter enthusiastically into this Christ-like service, and will make sacrifices for this redemptive work not less than they have made for war service. All State social service committees will represent the various conferences. It is estimated that from 50 to 100 million people must be fed, clothed, housed and given medical attention. Many of these will die before succour can reach them. Discrimination is bound to be made in favor of the allied nations; with this there can be no disagreement. What is in store for enemy nations is too dreadful to contemplate.

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# Obituary

## Mrs. Rose Drewitt

AFTER many months of weakness and years of faithfulness our sister, Mrs. Rose Drewitt, has been called to her blessed reward. Coming to Mildura, Vic., in the early nineties, our sister soon became interested in the plea of the churches of Christ, and was one of the first converts during the Harward-Pittman mission held in that city. During her younger days, she was very active in all departments of the church's activity, and spared not herself in the interests of the kingdom of God and those who needed a helping hand and a word of encouragement. To the very last moments of her devoted life her simple faith was an inspiration to all who knew her. By the preachers who have been privileged to labor at Mildura, her kindness, sympathy, cheerful disposition and intense love for God and her church, will always be remembered. Our sister loved to be at the Lord's table, and believed that to be absent when in good health was to have betrayed a trust committed by Christ. Our sister is survived by her devoted husband and three grown-up children and many grandchildren. We commend them all to God, with the prayer that as the memory of our sister lingers on all who knew her may love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ with the same fervent spirit and heart-felt devotion.—J.W.L.

## Paul Hermann Roediger

THE church at Northam, W.A., with deep sorrow, but with a sure hope, records the passing to be with Christ, of P. H. Roediger, on Oct. 27, 1944. Born at Gawler, S.A., on Feb. 1, 1885, he was but a few months short of 60 years at time of his homecall. In early life Balaklava became the place of residence. Here, at 22 years of age, he was buried with Christ in baptism by E. T. Ball. His Christian experience was marked by diligence in service and unwavering loyalty to his Lord. Married on Oct. 2, 1907, to Miss M. S. Rosenberg, their union was blessed of God in the birth of two daughters and four sons—Selma (Mrs. G. H. Martin), Constance (Mrs. G. D. Carslake), Eric and Claude, P's.O.W. in Japanese hands; Keith, with the R.A.A.F. in England; and Raymond, directing the business of Roediger Bros., Northam. All are faithful members of the church. Coming to Western Australia in 1924, our late brother for 20 years was associated with Northam church; and by his unassuming but cheerful disposition and faithful service, added enrichment to her life. His passing renders vacant the office of an elder and church secretary. Through many months of increasing weakness he suffered little or no pain, and died at home. Right to the end the Lord's day found him present at the table of remembrance. The funeral services, both in the church and at the graveside, were largely attended by all sections of the community, and were indeed a marked tribute of respect and affection. James Gordon, assisted by Chaplain F. M. Fewster, officiated. To Mrs. Roediger and family the church extends deep and sincere sympathy. "He turneth the shadow of death into the morning."—J.G.

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Page 611

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## Most Momentous Event

THE early Christian felt that he was in touch with the most momentous of all events, that the ascent of a Caesar to his throne was a trivial incident in a world whose centre was the birth of a little child for whom there was no room in the inn. And to believe in the divinity of Christ to-day is to make the same affirmation amid all that is stirring about us; it is to recapture this sense of human history as interrupted by the coming of Christ, so that it has all to begin over again—from him! It is to believe that the fate of men and nations turns not on any of those issues which bulk so huge in their eyes, but in whether they accept or reject Jesus Christ.—Dr. E. L. Allen, University of Durham.

They who make the earthly life of Jesus real to themselves find their souls possessed by love and veneration for the Prince of men. A fountain of living water is unsealed in them. . . . Keep we our heads as high as we can; they shall be bowed at the last.—J. Middleton Murry.

### THOUGHT

"God was in Christ reconciling the  
world unto himself."

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