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Marriage is Sacred

SOCIAL life is being endangered because the foundations upon which it is built are being shaken by immoral acts. The Christian faith urges men and women to respect the principles that guarantee the security and sacredness of the home; but unfortunately, a school of intellectuals has, in the last two or three decades, been doing its utmost to discredit those truths.

THE bearing of moral principles upon our life depends upon the answer given to the question: What is man? If man is only an animal, there is no need to concern oneself about morality. If we take up that position we shall "eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow we shall die." Such a low view of man is not consistent with commonsense, nor with the teachings of Christ. The psalmist said that man had been made a little lower than the angels. Therefore, to each man shall come a call similar to that which the foolish farmer heard: "This night thy soul shall be required of thee." It is in view of the spiritual nature of man that the moral principles holding society together have an essential, and not a mere customary, application to life.

BECAUSE a man and a wife are real spiritual persons, each must respect and appreciate the other. Then marriage will be considered a holy and sacred contract before God. Since marriage is a relationship between two persons, it is a moral sin for one to use the other as a means to an end. If a man marries with the idea of using his wife to gain self-satisfaction and the material comforts of life, he sins grievously against her and God. Marriage must be a partnership of two persons who are ready to sacrifice to build a godly home.

The marriage contract demands the mutual respect of both parties, and requires sacrifice and co-operation on the part of husband and wife if it is to be successful. Unless the man and the woman unite with that high aim, they will

err. If having entered the marriage relation, the man or the woman disregards its moral purpose and acts in a manner that ignores the personality of either party, then that person sins. It is the sinning of either one or both members of the marriage relationship that causes those conditions that lead on to divorce. Because God hates sin he condemns divorce. The divine purpose is that no person should sin against another. If within the marriage bond there is no great evil and both parties respect one another as God would have them, then there would be no divorce.

THE act that causes the breakdown of the marriage relation affects either a husband or a wife, then the children, relatives, friends and, in general, society. If that sin were more universal than it is, it would cause the complete collapse of society. Therefore, for the mutual benefit of husband, wife, and children, and for the advantage of all in society, the evil that leads to a rupture of



"Where faith and resignation join
To call the blessing down."

FEBRUARY 9, 1944

marriage must be guarded against with great vigilance.

When asked by the Pharisees, "Is it right to divorce one's wife for any reason?" Jesus pointed out that at the beginning God made a husband and a wife one flesh. The Lord then said, "What therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." That high ideal for marriage came into force at the beginning of human history. During the course of time men departed from it, and sinned. In view of the hardness of men's hearts, Moses insisted that certain regulations be observed when a man divorced his wife. Christ, however, made it clear that divorce under those Mosaic regulations was contrary to the purpose of the Lord's will as revealed at the beginning; the concession was made in view of the hardness of men's hearts.

CHRIST urged that a man must respect the person of his wife, and not treat her as chattel. If a man were to divorce his wife because she could be put to no further use—perhaps being too old or too sick, he would be sinning against the Lord's standard.

There is one exception in this law of total prohibition of divorce. If a person debases his or her self by indulging in fornication, and becoming in fact a victim of harlotry, then the innocent party is at liberty to be freed from that one who has become debased.

OUR aim ought to be not to try to find grounds to justify a divorce, but how to mend broken relationships and to restore into home-life the ideals of Christianity. If the present trend in home-life, as reflected in the increasing numbers seeking divorce, is not arrested, our social life will sink to a low level, and we shall suffer terrible consequences in the day of national judgment—if not then shall we be able to avoid the judgment seat of the Eternal? Because men are members of a society and also the "off-spring" of God, when they sin against the marriage law, they will be condemned by a deterioration of conditions in society and by the word of God.

Pb6 H. H. Hains

*Pb7 Georgetown
H. Long farewell*

Pb7 East Lambton Community

Granite Foundations of the Home

It is the duty of parents to make their children at home with holy things, W. R. Hibbert, of Victoria, announces in this stimulating article dealing with the doctrine of the home.

"AUSTRALIA to-morrow" is being moulded in Australian homes to-day. Into these homes come radio programmes, newspapers, magazines and other bearers of influence good and bad. It is the mission of the church to provide Christian influence for the homes in this land.

Our home is our house of life. God, Jesus, worship and the church should constitute the four walls. Love will brace the walls and prayer provide the rafters for the roof. So great a house needs granite foundations. The word of God is the granite rock on which the house

of life finds secure foundations. The house of life, with its foundations embedded in the word of God will stand steadfast whatever the nature and distress of the storms of life. It is God's will that the homes of our land should be fit guest-chambers for the Holy Spirit, and that through them the kingdom of God should find an outworking.

Where There's One to Love

HOME'S not merely four square walls,
Though with pictures hung and gilded;
Home is where affection calls,
Home is where shrines the heart hath bullded!
Home!—go watch the faithful dove
Sailing 'neath the heaven above us;
Home is where there's one to love;
Home is where there's one to love us.

Home's not merely roof and room;
Home needs something to endear it;
Home is where the heart can bloom,
Where there's some kind lip to cheer it.
What is home with none to meet,
None to welcome, none to greet us?
Home is sweet, and only sweet,
Where there's one we love to meet us.

—Selected.

Parent-teachers

THE term doctrine implies teaching. This exposes the great fact that parents are teachers. Human nature is prone to pass on responsibility to others. Many parents are content to send the child to Sunday school and imagine that life's spiritual provision is supplied in one hour per week. The parent's high expectation of day school is that it will provide a fitness for life. The best educational system cannot provide elements of teaching that are the parents' prerogative. This is especially true in the moral and spiritual realm. The parent-teacher is the embodiment of truths and the way of life. If truth is falsified, life's highway misdirected, and the sense of values confused, it is likely that all other teaching will not provide a sufficient corrective to make life meaningful and purposeful.

A Pattern for Living

WE are beginning to discern that our first concern is not the delinquent child, but the delinquent parent; not the prodigal boy, but the prodigal father. Magistrates have expressed the opinion that children's courts would be better termed parents' courts. The pattern for life is in the home. Parents give meaning and purpose to life. The mental set of life is gained in the home by its atmosphere and attitudes. Things that loom large in the parent's minds will loom large in the children's lives.

It is now apparent to wise parents that teaching is not a matter to be fitted into the early years, but into the first year, month, and weeks. It is in the beginnings of life that certain trends and reactions to the discipline of life are set in motion. A mother's breast and a mother's knee are the child's first school. Before the child is walking it has sensed father's method of home rule. The perplexing problems of adolescence in many instances are "chickens coming home to roost." All our deficiencies are not in food values. Parents depend on education to put the right content into life, but at times it is weak in moral content and totally devoid of spiritual significance. The corrective is with wise parent-teachers, and a more purposeful co-operation of the church with parents.

Begin at the Beginning

EVANGELISE the beginnings of life and you evangelise the whole personality. It is never too soon to teach an understanding of God. A mother's faith and reliance on God may be sensed by a child as it is caressed by a mother quietly singing a hymn or reciting a psalm. When a child observes father, its embodiment of greatness, reverently bowing to someone greater than himself, an impression is made that will never be eradicated, concerning the existence of God. The implications in the story of the child Samuel are yet to be fully realised by Christian parents and teachers. The awareness of God may be in the beginnings of life. Nurses, who care for blind babies, spend much time training the little hands to reach out and grasp things in order to develop the consciousness concerning existing things. In like fashion religion is the



training of the mind to reach out after God and know the reality of things spiritual. It is the duty of parents to make their children at home with holy things. Wide-awake parents realise that the unconscious influence on their children is far greater than any conscious influence. To be utterly sincere, to have a real faith that flavors every part of life and finds natural and easy expression in all life's details means more than anything else in the Christian nurture of children.

Relate Religion to Life

PARENTS must grow in their religious experience because it is required of them to guide emerging manhood and womanhood. Young adults will not be able to function in an adult world with a child's experience of God, yet too often young men and women are left to flounder in a larger world with wider horizons without a widening knowledge and experience of God. It is at this juncture where parents have a right to expect more help from the church. Wise teachers contribute to a sturdy growth in religion during the adolescent years. Adequate teaching concerning Jesus leads to discipleship and companionship. This companionship with Jesus will relate religion to life, and parents will be honored, God revered, human life respected and the rights of others observed. Without this companionship the social pressure and habits of the times will dictate standards; but with Jesus as friend and guide, it will be said of others as it was said of him, that he "increased in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and man."

LIGHTS OF HOME

THE night was dark as I walked alone,
Not a star on the sky's wide plain,
The wind was wild and it stormed at me
With the touch of a hurricane;
But just as I turned the corner
There was nothing more to fear,
For I saw the lamp in the window—
The lights of home were near.

—Elizabeth Evelyn Moore.

Religious Influence in the Home

By examining illustrations of Christian homes, C. B. Nance-Kivell, B.S.Litt., B.D., points out that armies of godly men and women go out from them.



TO me a home is like the mind of man, or even his body. It is as vital to our national life as the body is essential to the soul. Things or thoughts that enter it either build or destroy. As poison impairs the body, so evil emotions as hate, jealousy and dark or ugly ideas affect the mind.

Life must be guarded, for there are foes as well as friends. No less must we guard our homes, for homes can be Christian or pagan.

Consider a Few Examples

Here is a thatched cottage beside an English winding lane. In it five people live. The husband is a farm laborer. His wages (pre-war) are a little over 30/- a week. On Sundays he occupies a village pulpit in the district, and proclaims the eternal riches. You enter that house and observe the love of the parents for children and each other. The cleanliness of the place, the very ordinary furniture and the simple and inexpensive attire of all are obvious, but the Christian hearts of the people produce such cheerful countenances that one really feels it is good to be there. This is but one home that comes to mind as I recall pastoral labors in England. I have been in heaven in the cottages of the poor; yes, and in the mansions of the rich; because Christ has been enthroned in their hearts. What is true of Britain is equally true of Australia. Have you not been impressed with the acknowledgments of great men and women of their indebtedness to home influence and the religious life of mother or father or both?

Many, if not all, of the organisations and movements for the improvement of the

world acclaim religion as the contributing factor. It is also true that religion better home-life.

Study this fact by references recorded in the Bible. There we read of religion being supreme in the tents of the patriarchs, in the better type of houses later on, and then in the dwellings of the early Christians wherein divine services were conducted. And what shall we say of the cliff-dwellers in Colorado, whose mines we examined? In the centre of each habitation was a room set aside for worship.

Religion has received recognition in the magnificent homes of the gentry of England; for nearly all had their chapels and chaplains. But let us not think that only the rich enjoyed Christ at home! The cottages of the humble were entered and occupied by the Carpenter of Galilee. I cannot but believe that Robert Burns beheld the workings of Christ in his old home, for did he not write "In homes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs." Also Whittier, the melodious Quaker, recalls that farmhouse in "Snowbound" and "A Mother's Evening Prayer."

A truly Christian home is a palace of peace. There is beauty all around when there's love at home, specially Christian love. To be more concrete, let us examine seven points for all men and women to consider.

"1. A godly parentage.

"2. The parents must see clearly their responsibility to give Christian training, and must resolve to impart it.

"3. The definite dedication of their children to God.

"4. The blessing of a holy example.

"5. The benefit of a wise and godly home-government.

"6. Correct teaching with regard to the relations and duties of the children.

"7. A careful training in the personal practice of all that is taught the children, by precept and example."

Is It Not Safe to Say

there would have been no John and Charles Wesley, as we know them, if it had not been for the godly life of Susanna Wesley, their mother? She "nobly planned to warn, to comfort and command."

Again, the thousands of spiritual children due to the heart and home of General and Mrs. Booth. By reading his book, "The Training of Children," one will be convinced that, unless religion does find a true place in home-life, civilisation will collapse. And yet again—there is a great general who was born within sound of Bow Bells, who learned to read his Bible and pray at St. Mark's Vicarage, and now leads his soldiers in divine worship, reads the Bible to them and prays for them. He denounces strong drink, even says to Mr. Winston Churchill, "Sir, I am a total abstainer, a non-smoker and I am one hundred per cent. fit." He is a grandson of Dean Farrar, a son of a former bishop of Tasmania, and known as "Christian soldier No. 1 of World War 2." Who is he? None other than the recent leader of the famous "Eighth Army"—General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

Has not Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, who retired recently at Westminster, four sons in the ministry of the church? That speaks volumes for the power of religion in the home. In a paper from U.S.A. we read of four preachers and two church sisters being produced in a primitive, but Christian, shack.

Equally as essential as the sun to our houses is the Sun of Righteousness—the Light of God's word, for the home.

This then is the great question for each to decide—is our home, for ourselves as parents or children, a veritable garden of God? From Christian homes will go armies of godly men and women. It can be so; it must be so; it is up to us to make it so.

A Prayer for Parents

O GOD, enable us parents to be teachers of the balanced life to these our children.

May we guide them to be strong, but so strong as not to need to be brutal.

Enable us to help them to be gentle, sympathetic, and unselfish, but never sentimental or soft.

Help us to make them thoughtful without being morose.

May we lead them to be active without becoming superficial.

Grant that we teach them how to be happy and wisely employed when they are alone, but save them from seeking solitude in order to avoid the demands of social life.

May we guide them wisely into the delights of social fellowship, but forbid that they should come to depend entirely upon others for successful living.

Grant that our children may love their home, but not be restricted to it; that they have deep convictions, but not prejudices; that they be economical but not miserly, and generous without being spendthrifts; that they learn patience apart from indolence, and to be eager and ambitious without being rash.

May we teach them to find thee, their God, in the busy rush of life, in the movements of history, in the glories of nature, but also in the secret place of their own thoughts and hopes. Amen.—P.R.H.



It's the church that gives balance to home-life.

Called to Higher Service

Mrs. A. R. Main

DURING the quietness of the very early morning hours of Friday, January 28, 1944, Mrs. A. R. Main passed away peacefully in her sleep. Mr. and Mrs. Main had but recently moved to Lane Cove from Woolwich so that our brother could be relieved of the responsibility of being house master at the college.

During the two years that Mrs. Main has been in N.S.W. she has been much in demand as a speaker at sisters' meetings. Through her messages she has made a fine contribution to the sisters' work in the mother State.

A large and representative brotherhood gathering attended the funeral service on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 29, at Chatswood chapel and at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. The service was conducted by F. A. Youens, preacher of the Chatswood church, who was assisted at the chapel by Mrs. W. G. E. Lewis, and Dr. A. C. Crisp, Ron Wilson, P. E. Thomas, T. E. Rofe, and B. G. Corlett, and at the crematorium by H. J. Patterson and A. W. Ladbrook. Those who paid tribute to our late sister stressed the direct and indirect contribution she has made to the life of the churches. Directly, our late sister has given valued service to the congregations of which she has been a member. Indirectly she has made a contribution to the brotherhood in ways which few have realised. Successive generations of students at Glen Iris, as well as present students at Woolwich, treasure the memory of kindly interest from Mrs. Main, especially during their times of sickness. Many Australian and New Zealand mothers have been deeply grateful for the motherly care given to their sons at college by the wife of the principal. The brotherhood also owes a debt of gratitude to our late sister because of her faithfulness and devotion as a helpmeet to Principal Main. Few realise how much her discerning and sympathetic fellowship and her watchful care have meant to our brother throughout his years of great brotherhood responsibility.

A nation-wide brotherhood pays the tribute of gratitude and appreciation to the memory of a loved sister whose life's work is now over. She herself rests from her labors, but her contribution to the body of Christ and the inspiration of her devotion remain. Our prayerful and heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Main and to their children. Principal A. R. Main has often unfolded to us the spiritual treasures of the word. Now, it is our sincere wish and prayer for him that the hope of the promises of that same word, together with the gracious fellowship of the Lord and the loving sympathy of brethren in Christ, will sustain him in his time of great need. "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."—A.W.L.

□

IT was on Aug. 12, 1914, that the decision was reached to start a church at Gardiner. Two of the foundation members were Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Main. Indeed, the meeting at which the decision was made was held in their sitting room at the College of the Bible. When the Sunday school was commenced Mrs. Main became one of the first teachers, and the first decisions and baptisms recorded were of members of her class. Later, when the Women's Mission Band was organised, Mrs. Main took an active part in the work, and for a number of years occupied the presidential chair. All through the years of the church's history she has been one of the most valued of the lady visitors, and was always

welcome in the homes to which she went, for she was so gracious in her deportment. Although removed to Sydney, her interest in the church and work at Gardiner continued, her membership remaining there.

Much loved by all who knew her at Gardiner, her recent passing has come like a personal loss to them.

The deepest sympathy of the whole church goes out to Mr. Main in his sorrow and loss.—T.H.

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TO give an adequate impression of the influence exerted by our late beloved sister, Mrs. A. R. Main, on the women's work of the churches of Christ in the Victoria would be impossible. Her very real gifts of leadership and organisation were used in many phases of the work.

For a period, she served as superintendent of the Home Mission Committee of the

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*SOME day my little bark will touch
An unknown shore,
And I shall hear
A soft voice calling me by name,
And a strong hand will be outreached
To me, and I shall land without a fear,
For I have heard that voice before,
And it is dear to me.
So I shall step from out my useless bark
Into the eternal freshness
Of the morning land
Where the new day reigns eternally.*

—John Oxenham.

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Women's Conference, and later, in association with Miss N. Ellis as secretary, she did outstanding service as superintendent of mission bands. It was during her term of office that Miss Vera Blake was granted to the women as their first "living link."

Mrs. Main's wide contacts with the women of the churches made her a most useful member of the Nominating Committee. Many who later occupied the presidential chair or held other responsible office did so because of her early encouragement. She was intensely interested in the young women of the churches.

At no time was Mrs. Main president of conference, but this was according to her desire. Always Mr. Main's work as principal of the Federal College of the Bible was her first consideration, and she also felt that she could be more useful in conference work as a "free lance." At conference time, indeed, she was invaluable. Her ready wit and wise judgment, her courage and her gift of lucid statement, coupled with a natural graciousness, made her contribution to any discussion most helpful.

In a sense, Mrs. Main belonged to all our Australian churches, for she visited all States and found opportunity to stimulate the women's work in each, being most interested in the establishment of a Federal women's work.

Her gracious hospitality has been enjoyed by many from near and far; it was but another talent to be used for her Lord.

In public prayer, she had the ability given to comparatively few, to lead a congregation to the very foot of the throne of grace where one came with confidence as to a familiar Friend.

Like Enoch, our dear sister walked with God and she is not, for God has taken her

gently home. But the fragrance of her deeds lingers in many hearts and lives.—Mrs. McCann.

James Henry Yeomans

ON Jan. 10 Mr. Yeomans died after a brief illness at the age of 63 years. He will be greatly missed from the fellowship at Cottesloe, W.A. For very many years he was associated with Lake-st. church, and in more recent years with Cottesloe, where he served as a deacon for a number of years. While he was of a quiet disposition and disliked personal praise, he was a capable man in presiding and loved the more dignified services of the church. We commend his loved ones—wife, son and daughter—to the comforting care of the Father in heaven. J. K. Robinson assisted H. E. R. Steele in the private services conducted in the mortuary chapel and at Karrakatta Crematorium.—H.E.R.S.

James Gray

ON Oct. 20, 1943, James Gray, aged 20 years 4 months, of Mayfield church (N.S.W.) died at Finschaven, New Guinea. Our brother was received into fellowship on April 20, 1940, following his baptism after his confession in the mission at Georgetown, conducted by E. C. Hinrichsen and V. B. Morris. Mr. Gray enlisted on July 4 and served at Darwin, the Middle East and New Guinea. The gospel service at Mayfield on Dec. 12 was conducted in his memory; the chapel was filled with those who wished to pay their last respects to a gallant Christian gentleman. Heartfelt sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. G. Gray and their two daughters in their loss of a son and brother.—R. M. Wilson.

Mrs. J. G. Snow

IN her 71st year, Mrs. J. G. Snow died at her home in Bangalow, N.S.W., on Saturday, Jan. 22. Born in South Lismore as Mary James, she lived her whole life on the northern rivers of N.S.W. She and her husband moved to Bangalow in the year 1902, where they have lived ever since. They have been connected with the churches of Christ for more than half a century, and have been consistent and tireless in their service all of that time. Few of our preachers or conference representatives have visited the North Coast of N.S.W. without sharing the fellowship and the hospitality of the "Snows" at Bangalow. The door was ever open to church and temperance workers. An extra room added to the home about 20 years ago and used chiefly by visitors, reminded some of our preachers of a similar room built for Elisha the prophet, and the room was called the prophet's chamber. Mrs. Snow belonged to one of the pioneering families of the district. Her father, James James, known affectionately by the aborigines as "Jimmy Jimmy" or "Jimmy Two Times," used to take the royal mail by pack horse from the Richmond to the Tweed for many years, sheltering in hollow logs by night with the mail, thus protecting himself from the dingoes which were numerous. Mr. and Mrs. Snow have always been prominent in public life, as well as in church life, and the funeral conducted by Mr. Ackland, from Lismore, was attended by a very large number of friends from all over the district. Our late sister is survived by her husband, Cr. J. G. Snow, J.P., of Bangalow, by eight sons, viz., Alderman Cecil Snow, J.P. (Murwillumbah), Chester (A.I.F.), Edgar (R.A.A.F.), Leslie (Carnegie, Vic.), Harrie, J.P. (A.I.F.), Arthur (Mullumbimby), Ray (Bucca) and Stan (Sydney); also by four daughters, viz., Stella Partridge (Palm Vale), Minnie Francis (Sydney), Jessie Snow (Bangalow) and Mary Dundas (Brooklet).

The Australian Christian

Our Young People

W. R. Hibburt

THE New Zealand Churches of Christ Department of Religious Education is to be commended on its enterprise in its new publication, "Religious Education Quarterly," as a guide to Sunday school teachers and youth workers. From an article on the "church and community" we cull the following paragraphs:

The Church and Her Youth Work

There have been three main motives behind most Christian youth work. They are as follows:—

1. Youth work conducted *merely* to keep the church's young people in the church. Our youth programmes should certainly hold our young people for the church, and if they are good programmes they do hold them. But this should not be our sole reason for carrying out youth work. If it is, it only leads to "in-breeding." That is, the young people of the church keep to themselves in a "right little, tight little group." Self-righteousness, spiritual "priggery," and cliques are features of such restricted youth work. And it usually dies for want of new blood from the outside. To say the best of youth work conducted on this narrow basis, it restricts the church's service to the narrow few, the rest of the youth of the community being neglected.

2. Youth work conducted *merely* to get recruits for the church. The church should always have as her great mission the leading of young men and women to dedicate their lives to Christ and the acceptance of the Christian faith. But if her youth work is *merely* and *only* for this end, she will find herself defeating her own ends. Young people are shrewd. They see the "bait" and "shy off." Or they will come for what we have for them and throw up a hard, conscious barrier against our efforts to "church"

them. In any case the programme of such a group usually becomes too narrow and stilted in its scope to catch anybody.

3. Youth work is sheer *community service*. This type of Christian youth work sets out to provide adequate opportunities for young people to spend their leisure profitably in a wholesome environment. It is heartily sick of seeing young people wasting their time, their energies and their characters on the streets, in the "pubs" and billiard saloons, in low shows, with "S.P. bookies," and so on. It sees that youth has interests, desires, abilities, energies that need healthy expression. It realises that church halls are excellent places for this self-expression in a good environment, with understanding and capable leadership.

The Church as Community Centre

What we mean is that most churches have the facilities to enable them to become community centres for the life of youth. In these church-community centres there should be programmes broad enough in their scope to cater for all the needs and interests of youth, thus creating around the church a social group where church and unchurched youth mix freely in healthy surroundings, engaged in constructive pursuits.

YOUTH work is tough work under war conditions and modern trends invading the sanctity and security of family life. Was there ever anything great achieved without "blood and tears and sweat" . . . and a cross? All power to the churches who are game enough to tackle this matter in this our hour of greatest need.

From Week to Week

IN years past those who were considered orthodox persecuted at times those who held views that differed from theirs, as heretics. The beliefs of some of these heretics have now become orthodox; and those who are orthodox to-day tend to be intolerant toward those who differ from them. Man's intolerance of man makes countless thousands mourn. To be intolerant is to be inhuman. We fall short of the full stature of manhood when we try to hinder others expressing some idea that differs from our beliefs. Time might prove that we are wrong and they are right. While it is our duty to present the truths of the divine revelation as we understand them, we can gain nothing by hindering others giving their interpretation of the Bible. It has been pointed out that one of the causes why men are fighting to-day is to win for minorities the right to express their views. The Fascist forces in the world have attempted to conquer by suppressing those who oppose them. They fear a free expression of opinions. Such an attitude has weakened the totalitarian states, and will weaken the Christian church. Christians ought to be kindly disposed toward those who differ from them. If we hold the truth then we have nothing to fear from error, for it is the truth that makes a man free. Once an error is expressed it reveals often its weakness; and many are saved from being snared by it. If we stand on the truth, we have no need to be afraid of the expressions of men,

and can afford to be tolerant. Only those who are, consciously or unconsciously, in doubt, reveal an intolerant attitude toward those who differ from them.

* * *

IT is the policy of this journal to represent the views of the Restoration Movement. I have sought to do this in the light of the literature and history of the movement from the beginning until now. To be true to the ministry of the paper, it is necessary to have a policy that reflects the essential spirit of the Restoration Movement. Teachings and facts that are likely to encourage the acceptance of its principles are presented from time to time. It is the duty of the editor to aim at being true to the policy laid down; that means he must respect certain limits.

For readers who, in all sincerity, differ on points, the "Open Forum" is provided. Here views that are not necessarily those of the editor may be expressed. To use the blue pencil on statements inserted in that column would be a misrepresentation of the claim that it is "open." Surely we can be tolerant toward those who express views, different from our own, in this column! They are personal views, and not representative.

It is not desirable to insert statements that are personal. When someone has expressed some view, often others will repeat it in different words. I consider one expression sufficient to satisfy the claim for liberty of expression. I should like to urge again the need of using the column for constructive suggestions and those likely to advance the interests of the kingdom.

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The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

DON'T WORRY

WHEN you have done your very best,
Don't worry!
Just wait, and leave to fate the rest—
Don't worry!
Sit tight. The cares that press to-day,
With time are apt to pass away,
So turn a brave face to the fray—
Don't worry!
Time will straighten out the kink—
Don't worry!
With passing days most troubles shrink—
Why worry?
To this one question please give ear:
Does that which worried you last year
To-day as big and black appear?
Don't worry!

—Chilton Chase.

NEVER DESPAIR

"NEVER despair!" said Robert Hall, when he broke down in his first sermon. "Never despair!" said William Carey, when, leaving his shoemaker's last, he went forth to India to preach Christ. "Never despair!" said Disraeli, when, falling in one of his early speeches in the House of Commons, he sat down saying, "You will hear me some day." "Never despair!" said Stanley, when he entered the heart of the dark continent in search of Livingstone. "Never despair!" said George Moore, when, as a poor Cumberland boy, he entered London and took a humble place in a city house of business. The time would fall us to name the men who, throwing despair to the four winds of heaven, girded up the loins of their minds, and ultimately attained to affluence, honor, usefulness, and eternal reward. My brothers, be imitators of them. Set your target in the skies. See that the object you seek is such as God will approve, then commend it to heaven's blessing, and *nil desperandum*.—Selected.

Liza, the cook, answered the telephone one morning, and a cheerful voice inquired: "What number is that?"

Liza was in no mood for trifling questions and said with some asperity, "You ought to know. You called it."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—DIVINE CONSIDERATENESS

Feb. 14—Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43.

.. 15—1 Cor. 13.

.. 16—Eph. 4: 25-32.

.. 17—Phil. 4: 1-7.

.. 18—James 2: 1-9.

.. 19—John 6: 1-14.

.. 20—Jeremiah 17: 5-17; John 6: 15-21.

OUR Saviour, who by what he was and did proved himself the perfect Exemplar, desired men to accept the truth, and then, by word and deed, commend it to others. Yet, sad to say, much Christian service is spoiled because of harsh presentation or unloveliness of disposition. We should all do better work if we closely followed our Lord, not only with regard to the subject matter of his teaching, but also in his gracious manner and consideration of the feelings of his hearers. The incident of our New Testament lesson provides an excellent example of Christ's courtesy. Knowing that the multitudes were very weary, and seeing much grass there, Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now, it was just like Jesus to consider others. And no doubt, rested and fed, the people were more likely to hear and heed his great discourse upon the Bread of Life. "Truly, he that winneth souls is wise."

Here and There

The following telegram reached us on Jan. 7: Hinrichsen-Morris commenced Auburn, Sunday; good meetings.—Davis.

We regret to learn of the failing health of G. Green, of Ebbw Vale, Qld. Our brother has maintained great interest in brotherhood work over a long period.

Victorian preachers and church secretaries are asked to make regular announcement of the annual offering for Church Extension to be taken on March 5. In order to further expansion, it is most desirable that every church have a share in the offering this year.

On the "Women's World Day of Prayer," all interested are invited to unite in a world-wide fellowship of worship in the Baptist church, Collins-st., on Feb. 25, from 11 to noon and from 2 to 3.30 p.m. A girls' session will be held in reception room, Assembly Hall, 156 Collins-st., from 6.15 to 7.15 p.m.

There were good attendances at North Fitzroy, Vic., on Jan. 30. R. Enniss addressed morning service, when six young people were received into membership. Mr. and Mrs. Fields, of North Williamstown, were also welcomed. R. Enniss preached at night. The bush fire relief offering amounted to £20/5/8.

At Burnley, Victoria, R. V. Amos is conducting a mission. It is hoped that members in nearby churches will arrange to send delegations to assist in this special effort. Details will be found in an advertisement appearing in this issue.

Believing that home-life is being endangered by the pressure of modern life, we have arranged this "home-number" with the kind co-operation of others. May it be a means of bringing spiritual strength into all homes it enters. The pictures used for the blocks have been taken from journals of the American Christian Board of Publication.

The church at Edwardstown West, S.A., is thankful to Messrs. Train, Slater (Baptist), Messent, McKenzie (Bible College) for exhortations, and to A. G. Brown for gospel messages, during January. Albert Brown resigned as circuit secretary and Mr. Williams has been appointed to position. F. Cornelius has been invited to work in circuit.

At Marrickville, N.S.W., attendances at all services have been good. On Jan. 16 five stepped out in response to invitation—three to make the good confession and two to rededicate their lives. Another young girl made her decision on Jan. 23. The church has decided to rebuild the Sunday school portion of the property at the earliest opportunity.

The management and staff of the Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., regret the death of Miss Winnie Hislop, who joined the staff when F. G. Dunn was manager, about 28 years ago. During that period Miss Hislop served the company very faithfully. Though quiet and retiring in manner, she was greatly esteemed by her co-workers at the Austral.

J. W. Lewis, preacher of the church at Mildura, Vic., has enjoyed considerable success in giving spiritual help to young people in the Forces. He writes: "I am likely to be here for some time, and I should be glad if preachers of our brotherhood who know fairly well where their young people are stationed, would do two things to help me. Firstly to contact the person concerned, telling them that I, as preacher of Mildura church, am stationed with a R.A.A.F. unit, and to write to me, telling me of the presence here of the person concerned."

We were glad to note the reference in the "World Call" for December, to Principal A. L. Haddon's recently published booklets. "The Coming of the World Church" presents an able review of the church union movements that have been begun in recent years. "Union in Truth" summarises some of the essential truths taught by Thomas and Alexander Campbell.

Preparations are being made at Hamilton, Vic., for a two-weeks' special mission under leadership of Thos. Hagger. On Jan. 30 Messrs. Chivell and Mountjoy journeyed to Portland. Mr. Chivell exchanged with Baptist preacher. At evening service at Hamilton Mr. Chivell spoke, and a young married woman made the good confession. The church looks forward to the coming of A. E. Forbes who is to commence his ministry early in March.

John Christensen terminated his week-end ministry with Boonah church (Qld.) on Jan. 9. The church is grateful to him for carrying on work during intervening months without a resident minister. E. Hart commenced his ministry on Jan. 16, when Mr. Christensen welcomed him. At C.E. meeting on Jan. 20 Ken Roberts, newly appointed missionary to the aborigines at Norseman, W.A., spoke. Mrs. A. E. Green is in general hospital, Brisbane.

There was an enthusiastic aborigines' mission rally at Perth, W.A., on Jan. 18, at 8 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Whately, from Ooldea and Nadatta, S.A., have come to work on mission station in Warburton Range. They were welcomed by chairman, J. Wiltshire. C. R. Burdeu, representing Federal Aborigines' Board, spoke. The missionaries rendered duets and gave appreciated talks. A number of natives sang. Miss Ingram, a worker in the mission, also contributed to an enjoyable evening. On the morning of Jan. 23, the service was broadcast. E. R. Berry rendered a solo, and J. Keith Robinson delivered an inspiring message. At 7.30 p.m. Mr. Robinson preached.

A Christian Endeavor Society has been formed at Flinders Naval Depot. Since the inception of the society in April 1943, over 90 have been in membership. It can be readily understood that, due to so many being transferred to other places at regular intervals, the actual membership at any one time is not large. At present there are 20 active members with an average attendance of 14. Included in our membership

are a number of W.R.A.N.S. It is desired that the undersigned be notified of names and addresses of C.E. members who are now, or will be in future, entering the depot as members of the naval service.—S7161 A.B. Glasson, R. A., A.G.5, Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria; A.B. Miller, H., Mess 73, F.N.D.

The theme of the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society for Tuesday, February 29, as advertised in this issue, commends itself at once to a wide Christian public. An attractive programme is to be presented at the Town Hall. The Archbishop of Melbourne and the Commonwealth secretary, W. H. Rainey, B.A., F.R.G.S., are the speakers, and a pageant featuring the wartime work of the society will be conducted by the Archbishop. The Geelong Grammar School Choir has been engaged for the occasion. The general secretary, Mr. S. Russell Baker, is appealing for 1000 young people from the churches to fill the gallery. The meeting, at which no admittance charge will be made, begins promptly at 7.45 p.m.

"The Price of an Enduring Peace" was the subject of a conference held on Nov. 11, under the auspices of the World Day of Prayer Committee and the Women's Inter-church Council. The sub-titles discussed were: "The Price of War and Peace," "World Brotherhood," "Economic Interdependence" and "World Order." A booklet covering the subject matter which was sent out from the United States organisations is to be published in January next. The committee would commend this important theme and the material in the study book to youth groups, fellowships and kindred associations. Copies of the book, price 1/-, will be available from C.M.S. Book Room, St. Paul's Buildings, Swanston-st., and the W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Centraway, Collins-st., Melbourne.

At the midweek service on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at Prospect, S.A., A. Anderson, conference president, presided over a gathering to bid farewell to C. Schwab. Members of auxiliaries spoke of the sterling work done during his term with the church. Mr. Anderson, on behalf of the church members, presented Mr. Schwab with a clock and satchel bag. Supper was enjoyed after service, 80 being present. The services on Jan. 30 were well attended, 90 breaking bread at morning service; C. Schwab gave two inspiring farewell messages. At evening service Kevin Hudson was baptised, and received into fellowship. The choir rendered anthems and Paul Ness a solo. Prior to evening service the choir assembled to present Phil Robson with a New Testament; she has joined the W.A.A.A.F.



By T. Birkett, Leicester, England.

The City Fair

*Yet faith has never failed,
In countless hearts it lives,
Goodwill and peace seem far away,
But look! there dawns another day,
Across the sky the morning ray
An ampler promise gives.*

*For now, with vision clear,
That sees the city fair,
New hopes that far horizons fill,
Stronger than ever is the will
To build a new world fairer still
Where all may have their share.*

*Yet not by man alone
Can come that better day,
Let God be given the highest place,
Then by his love and power and grace
May come to earth's distracted race
The world for which we pray.*

News of the Churches

Tasmania

West Hobart.—Speakers at services over past fortnight have been F. T. Morgan, J. Park, J. C. Woolley and B. J. Golder. During prayer meeting on Jan. 27 a senior Bible school scholar was baptised, and received into fellowship on morning of 30th.

Nubeena.—Nice meetings were held on Jan. 9 and 16. F. T. Morgan spoke at all meetings. During his stay F. T. Morgan held several special meetings. Messrs. Barton, Burn and Burt, of the College of Bible, Glen Iris, have arrived to commence special services in this district with Nubeena and Tunnel Bay churches.

Queensland

Cooparoo.—The January meeting was held in the home of Mr. Ketelaar. A very happy evening was spent with Bruce Alcorn leading. The land for church building has been bought. Any help from brotherhood will be greatly appreciated by members of this new cause.

Gympie-Monkland.—During the absence of A. J. Fisher on holidays, H. G. Rasmussen, of Victoria, and H. J. Wiltshire, of Maryborough, conducted services on Sundays. V. T. Fittell took charge of prayer meetings. Bible schools resumed with good attendances on Jan. 30. The morning service at Gympie was broadcast on Jan. 30, Mr. Fisher preaching. The offering for aborigines' missions has reached £5. Gympie J.C.E. has resumed with good attendance.

Western Australia

Subiaco.—On Jan. 25 the Girls' Club, under leadership of Mrs. Black, commenced meetings for 1944. About 20 girls were present. At midweek prayer meeting Miss Murray, who leaves to take up work at Mt. Margaret native mission, was farewelled. J. Wiltshire spoke on behalf of the U.A.M. On Jan. 30 A. C. Olds was morning speaker. At gospel service several Service men were present. Chaplain Frazee (U.S.N.) spoke and helped all. Annual Bible school picnic was held at Peppermint Grove on Jan. 31.

GOOD PROGRESS

GROWING ATTENDANCES; SEVERAL ADDITIONS

MAYLANDS.—On Jan. 23 Mr. McRoberts preached at both meetings. An impressive baptismal service preceded the gospel meeting, three being immersed. There were 110 in attendance, including girls from country districts at annual camp, at Mrs. Digwood's home. Mrs. Harris was the soloist. On Jan. 27 Mr. Cornish, of Malayan Evangelical Mission, gave illustrated lecture. On Sunday, Jan. 30, meetings were large; two confessed Christ at gospel service, Mr. McRoberts being preacher and Miss Griffiths soloist. On Jan. 31 a very successful Sunday school picnic was held at South Beach.

Perth.—On Jan. 23 J. K. Robinson concluded a series of five talks in churches of Christ session over stations 6PR, 6TZ, at 9.30 p.m., on Sundays. Two local church papers are posted to members in Forces and to others unable to attend meetings. Forty-four Christmas gifts, with covering letters, were sent to Services personnel connected with church. Mr. Cornwell, on Jan. 26, at 7.45 p.m., gave an illustrated talk on mission work in Malaya, and showed moving pictures. On morning of Jan. 30, visitors included Mrs. Jones (Waddy Forest). J. Keith Robinson gave an instructive talk.

South Australia

Whyalla.—Mr. A. G. Thurgood, a student of Glen Iris, was speaker on Sundays, Jan. 16 and 23, at both services, when happy fellowship was enjoyed. Y.P.S.C.E. commenced again on Jan. 14 after Christmas vacation. It is hoped that manse will be completed in February.

Semaphore.—During last few weeks attendances have increased, and helpful messages have been given by Mr. Ewers. R. Samuels has been home on leave. The choir is giving faithful service under leadership of N. Bray. Tennis club and friends enjoyed a picnic at Aldgate on Jan. 31.

Stirling.—On Jan. 30 the 76th anniversary services of church were held with good attendances. G. T. Fitzgerald spoke morning and evening. On Wednesday evening, Feb. 2, at a public meeting, Mr. Fitzgerald presided; there was special singing, and A. Anderson, president of conference, was the speaker.

Flinders Park.—On Jan. 18 C.E. societies visited home of Bob Richardson, who has been confined to his bed for a number of years. On Jan. 29 they visited Eden, where aborigine children from Colebrook Home are on holidays. On Sunday morning, Jan. 23, Ron Richardson and Louis Lukehurst were received into membership, and on Jan. 30 Mrs. Cook and Basil Anderson, following their baptism on Jan. 16. The Bible school held their picnic on Jan. 31.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—At close of Mr. Hurren's address on morning of Jan. 2, an elderly lady confessed Christ, and has been baptised and received into church. On Jan. 23 Mr. Hurren preached farewell messages. Mr. A. Anderson, conference president, presided at the morning service, which was broadcast. At close of evening gospel address a lad from the Bible school confessed Christ. Choir assisted at each service. On Jan. 19 members of Mile End church joined in prayer meeting, James E. Webb giving a very helpful message. On Wednesday evening, Jan. 26, Bart. Manning conducted mid-week prayer meeting.

New South Wales

Gilgandra.—P. Retchford, who commences his ministry with the church next month, was a recent visitor; other visitors included Pte. W. Quayle. During Christmas season P. J. Pond conducted a Christmas carol evening.

Georgetown.—All services in new year have been conducted by Mr. Amos. Meetings have been splendidly attended. On Jan. 16 farewell was said to Mr. H. Long, who is returning home to Victoria to enter College of the Bible. Alan Gillies confessed Christ on Jan. 16; Darrell and Len Nelson made their decision on Jan. 23. Plans are in hand for the formation of a girls' club; there was a splendid gathering at the inaugural meeting on Jan. 27.

Canley Vale.—During Hinrichsen-Morris mission at Fairfield, E. C. Hinrichsen spoke at morning services; the evening services here were suspended in order to increase attendance at mission, three being added to church as a result. V. Parker, of the Bible College, will commence work soon. Len Thomas, who has been discharged from Army, has taken over intermediate department of Sunday school. On Australia Day the young people had a happy day at Green Valley, proceeds being in aid of S.S. funds.

Lismore.—Fellowship has been enjoyed with Cpl. Colin Bytheway, Cpl. Ron Smith, home on leave from A.I.F., and Lieut. Cottee, from Anst., Brisbane. The Endeavor Society gave a surprise party to Bruce Munro, who received a call-up for R.A.A.F. At annual meeting of Y.P.S.C.E. the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Acland; vice-presidents, Misses

A. Walker and E. Robinson; secretary, Miss L. Oakes; treasurer, Sister L. W. Wotherspoon. Bible school re-opened, and has commenced a kindergarten at East Lismore in the home of Mrs. Warne. Mrs. J. G. Snow, a faithful member of the Bangalow church, died on Jan. 22.

NEW SCHOOL

OPENING SERVICES ENCOURAGING

EAST LAMBTON.—Newly-formed school now has 23 scholars on roll. W. M. Fraser, the Georgetown superintendent, has been leading the opening services in this new venture, being ably assisted by a number of Georgetown members. Meetings are held each Lord's day at 2.45 p.m. The Progress Hall has been granted to us for this purpose.

Victoria

Newmarket.—On Jan. 11 a welcome was given to Mrs. Graham in the form of a pantry tea. On Jan. 23 Mr. Graham addressed both services. On Jan. 30 Ken Roberts, of the college, addressed morning service.

Rochester.—Evening meetings are well attended. Mr. Payne's addresses are very helpful. Mr. Grainger, of Reservoir, preached to a good congregation on Jan. 30. Church's contribution for bush fires relief was £9.

Belmont.—On Jan. 23 a helpful message was given by Mr. Watt. Visitors were present and Mr. Davey, of Thornbury, presided. A new organ has been given to the church by Mrs. Dunn. Many members have been away on holidays.

Emerald.—Last Lord's day members were glad to welcome back Geoff. W. Barnett, who took both services. Inspiring addresses and happy fellowship were enjoyed. During past half-year there have been three additions by faith and baptism.

Stawell.—Mr. Jackson took charge of all services on Jan. 23 and 30 in absence of Mr. Randall who has been bereaved of his father. Sympathy of church is extended to our brother. Several new scholars have been added to Bible school.

Hartwell.—There have been increased attendances at midweek prayer meetings. Fine gatherings hear helpful messages, from C. J. Robinson; 125 broke bread on Jan. 30. Sunday school is back to normal with 154 present on 30th. On the 6th one boy decided to follow Christ.

Dandenong.—On Jan. 23 gatherings were large at morning and evening meetings, greatly appreciated solos rendered by Miss Joan Saddler, of Moonee Ponds. At half-yearly meeting of church on 27th, the secretary reported 106 decisions, 80 being welcomed in to church.

Yarrowonga.—On Jan. 9 Vern Knucky, of Mulwala S.S., was baptised. Ladies' Guild sent £5 to Christian Guest Home. G. P. Pittman's messages strengthen all. Mr. Cellars, from N.Z. Baptist church, spoke at night on Jan. 23. Prayer meetings have been encouraging, with several young people attending.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—Meetings over past three Sundays have been up to average, C. G. Taylor speaking at all services. All auxiliaries have commenced work for new year. On Jan. 22 the I.C.E. held an evening in the home of E. McClean, the proceeds being for the College of the Bible. Visitors have included Lieut. William Davis and Sister Ruth McCullough, of the American Forces. Harold Simpson is home on leave.

The Australian Christian

Northcote.—Church gave £20 towards bush fire relief appeal. W. Huggan, home from New Guinea, spoke at well-attended C.E. meeting on Jan. 27, and Mr. McIlhagger spoke on Jan. 30. Two young people were baptised at evening service, and another made the good confession; 173 broke bread for day.

Oakleigh.—Bible school picnic was held at Edithvale on Jan. 29. On Jan. 30 W. H. Clay and F. T. Saunders were speakers, S. Neighbour being on holiday. On Feb. 6 a young man was welcomed into fellowship by S. Neighbour. W. Gale preached at gospel service. All auxiliaries have commenced work for year.

Surrey Hills.—Church gratefully acknowledges assistance from H. Barnden, S. Northeast, T. Turriff and W. F. Newham as speakers during G. J. Andrews' absence on holidays. On Jan. 30 Doug Nicholls intensified interest in the aborigine cause by an appropriate address at 11 a.m., and Mr. A. Connor ably conducted gospel service at 7 p.m.

East Malvern.—Speakers during recent months were H. Campbell, J. G. Brown, F. T. Saunders, S. Neighbour, A. Boxhall, A. Thomas, L. E. Stevens and W. J. A. Smith. C. J. Robinson introduced the first of a series of studies on New Testament personalities at fellowship meeting on Feb. 2. K. Morris was special singer. Offering for aborigines was £4/9/6.

Middle Park.—Mr. Whiting is back from vacation. Gratitude is due to Mr. Ryles, who assisted very acceptably and is continuing to help while D. Stewart is on holidays. Recent meetings have been encouraging. The quarterly combined gospel meeting with local Baptists was held on Jan. 30, when Mr. Lowson spoke. On Jan. 31 the Bible school held a picnic at Greensborough. Mrs. Kruse has been welcomed back from W.A.

Preston.—Prayer service on Jan. 27 was conducted by A. Macdonald, of the College of the Bible. Morning speaker on Jan. 31 was J. G. Brown, and at night A. Wilson. On Feb. 6 Howard Barnden, Coburg, gave an appreciated address at morning service, and R. Geyer conducted gospel service. Thanks are extended to these brethren for their help during Mr. Cambridge's illness. New officers were elected at annual meeting of the choir on Feb. 2.



HELPING OTHERS

CHURCH'S LIVE INTEREST IN WEAK CAUSES

WEST PRESTON.—Annual business meeting of church was held on Feb. 1. Reports showed church and auxiliaries were in splendid condition. All officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. Anderson who resigned office; the vacancy was filled by H. Brown. Total offerings for the year for all purposes amounted to £962/19/6. The church's interest in brotherhood activities was emphasised by the report which showed that 10/- per week has been sent to H.M. Committee to ease the financial strain of some smaller cause, and that £200 has been loaned free of interest to help other brotherhood activities. The ladies of Mission Band have sent to members in Forces a weekly letter with news of church, and a cake. The ministry of A. B. Withers is much appreciated.

Montrose.—Mr. Hindman concluded his work with church on Jan. 23, when there was a good meeting at worship service. After the meeting Mr. Hindman was presented with a monetary gift. In the evening he gave a very fine address at combined service with Methodists. Until the arrival of the new preacher, E. Fisher, of the college, supply speakers are taking services. Last Sunday Alf. White spoke well. L. Westmore took the service on Feb. 6. Sunday school is improving slightly. A set of kinder chairs has been kindly donated by the class teacher.

Ormond.—On Jan. 30 C. L. Lang spoke well morning and evening. Mrs. R. Mitchell has come home from hospital, and Mrs. W. H. Clay was present at service after being away through sickness. B. Blackwell was operated on last week, in Devon private hospital; his condition is satisfactory. The Women's Mission Band commenced its year of service on Feb. 3.

Reservoir.—All services continue to be well attended. J. Plummer addressed the church at both services on Jan. 30 while Mr. Grainger was at Rochester. An offering taken for bush fire relief amounted to £4/13/6. Midweek cottage meetings, under the leadership of Mr. Plummer, continue to grow. Mr. and Mrs. Davey and son Cliff have returned to Portland after 15 months' fellowship with church. A successful picnic was held at Heidelberg Park on Feb. 5. Mr. Grainger spoke at both meetings on Feb. 6. The open-air meetings, held prior to the gospel service each week, continue successfully.

Geelong.—Visitors during holiday period included several preachers. Annual promotions in Bible school have been made and practice for anniversary commenced. Junior and Intermediate C.E. Societies have re-commenced meetings, and Ladies' Aid Society elected officers on February 2. The offering for bush fire relief amounted to £14. On January 16 Miss Ruth Ferry was welcomed from Mildura church. P. Drayton was baptised on January 23, and received into fellowship on January 30; in the evening a married lady confessed Christ. A. Reid has been released from Forces; he and Mrs. Reid have left for their home at Curdies River. Mrs. Reid was leader of primary department in Sunday school.

Burnley.—Singers sang carols in streets and enjoyed fellowship in home of Mrs. Morris. On Dec. 26 a picture service on birth of Christ was conducted. Attendances have been maintained during holidays. Thanks are due to visiting brethren who spoke while Mr. Crisp was on holidays. Mr. Crisp commenced third year of service on Jan. 23. Sunday school picnic was held at Greensborough on 29th. Plans are in hand for Amos-Barnett mission.

Malvern-Caulfield.—F. E. Buckingham preached at both services on Jan. 30. The addresses were inspiring and helpful. Mrs. Richards passed away during week. F. B. Buckingham has arranged to leave Melbourne for Tasmania on Thursday to conduct a mission. Mrs. T. Eames, who is still in hospital, is now improving. Last Lord's day one lady was baptised. Several members visited Christian Guest Home on Jan. 29, and provided a pleasant evening.

Collingwood.—On Jan. 16 and 23, while T. Fitzgerald was on holidays, Messrs. Sandells, Bethune, Payne and Northeast, jnr., spoke. On Jan. 31 cricket club had enjoyable picnic at Mordialloc. A splendid gathering marked first combined prayer meeting of Richmond-Collingwood conference on Feb. 2, when G. Andrews, of Surrey Hills, gave a fine message illustrated by colored lantern slides. Women's Mission Band was held on Feb. 2, and on Feb. 6 the gospel service was conducted by youth of church.

Wangaratta.—During preacher's absence on holiday, W. Gale preached at both services on Jan. 16, Mr. Hardcastle (Baptist) on morning of Jan. 23, and at evening service Pte. Franks, on leave from New Guinea, gave gospel address. On Jan. 27 a farewell social was tendered to Athol Jackel. Sympathy is extended to two South Wangaratta Bible school scholars who lost their father in recent bush fire; also to parents of a lad drowned on Saturday last, a scholar of Wangaratta school.

St. Kilda.—During holidays fellowship with visitors has been enjoyed. Mrs. Dall has recovered from illness, and is able to attend morning service. In absence on holidays of Mr. Hunt, A. M. Norton and R. Thompson (Nth.

Essendon) addressed morning meetings, and L. Finger conducted gospel services. At invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Nettelbeck, the Bible school picnic was held on Jan. 29 on their farm at Spring Vale. Through a budget contributory system in 1943, probably first time, over £300 was raised by church for all purposes.



The Chapel at Reservoir.

Horsham.—After the holidays, attendances have improved, and all auxiliaries are functioning well. During absence of C. W. Jackel on holidays, the services were taken by J. Butler, F. J. Sherriff and G. Miller. The total contributions for the year to home and overseas missions amounted to £144. At the close of the gospel meeting last Lord's day two young men confessed Christ.

Gardiner.—T. Hagger, back from holidays, was speaker for both services on Jan. 23 and 30. Sympathy has been extended to A. R. Main (foundation member of Gardiner) in the loss of his wife. Reference was made at morning service by Mr. Hagger to the wonderful work done by Mrs. Main. Prayer meetings have been well attended. All auxiliaries have now resumed. During absence of Mr. Hagger at Hamilton, C. Cole (Sudan United Mission) was speaker at morning service on Feb. 6. Principal T. H. Scambler spoke at gospel service.

Prahran.—The annual business meeting of church was held on Jan. 26. All reports were encouraging. The financial report showed that £800 had been raised during the year for all purposes, over £3 a week being for work outside the local church. The meeting ended with a social half-hour. Mr. L. Wolf was elected treasurer in place of Mr. J. Byrne. F. C. Hunting, of N.S.W., presided at the Lord's table on Jan. 30. A heartfelt welcome was accorded him. Mrs. Osborne and daughters, Judith and Barbara, were welcomed into fellowship. Offering for bush fire relief £6/11/-, and for aborigines £7/7/-.

Frankston.—Meetings have been well attended with many visitors. At annual business meeting on Jan. 26, good reports from all departments showed there had been ten additions for year. On Jan. 30 J. K. Bond preached inspiring farewell sermons. After morning service a presentation of money was made to him by secretary, Mr. Hinde, who spoke of the love and esteem in which our brother is held. A Morocco bound church tune book was given to Miss Baxter. Words of appreciation and good wishes were conveyed to her by Miss N. Ellis, on behalf of W.M.B., and Miss Skellern, for Bible school. At Bible school Mr. Bond and Miss Baxter received gifts of esteem. At evening service they sang two duets. Two ladies confessed Christ, and were baptised with another who had confessed Christ the previous Sunday. There were large attendances at both services.

Preachers' Helps

"Living Clocks." By G. M. Daniels. Talks to boys and girls on clocks and other subjects. 2/6 (2/8½).

"Halt, Major Road Ahead!" Helpful talks to boys by G. L. Gandon, of Y.M.C.A., given at a holiday camp. 4/3 (4/5½).

"Through the Eye to the Heart." 100 original Object Lessons, edited by Hy. Pickering. 5/9 (6/1½).

"Views and Victories." Clear gospel articles for old and young. Hy. Pickering, 3/- (3/4½).

"Seeing the Way to Heaven," by use of eye, ear and heart. Hy. Pickering, 5/9 (6/1½).

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FOR SALE

Gympie church has over five dozen Psalms and Hymns, in useful condition, for sale at 1/- each, plus postage (2½d. each), or the lot for £3/10/-, post free, cash with order. Write to A. J. Fisher, 6 Bennett-st., Gympie, Qld.

NOTICE

FEBRUARY 16 (Wednesday).—The General Dorcas will meet in the Swanston-st. lecture hall, from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. All sisters interested in Dorcas work are invited to attend.

DEATHS

MAIN.—A tribute of love for a very dear friend, Mrs. A. R. Main, who has fallen into sleep, Jan. 28, 1944.

—J. and W. A. Strongman and family.

MANNING.—On Nov. 18, during air operations overseas, F/Sgt. W. F. J. Manning, R.A.A.F., beloved eldest son of Will and Rene Manning, dearly loved brother of Graeme, Margaret, 9 McPherson-aye., Carnegie. Ever remembered.

RICHARDS.—On Jan. 28, Sarah Jean, beloved wife of William J. Richards, "The Laurels," The Basin (formerly of Mont Albert), loved mother of Isabel (Mrs. Hugh Chandler), and loving grandma of Henry, Colin and Ellen. "Sweet peace, the gift of God's love."

IN REMEMBRANCE

A token of affectionate remembrance of Mrs. A. R. Main, who fell asleep in Jesus at Woolwich, N.S.W., on Jan. 28. Deeply mourned as a foundation member of 29 years of Gardiner church, Vic., and a faithful servant of God, who greatly assisted, and was always interested in, the work for his sake. A gracious Christian lady entered into eternal joy.

All Should Read

"Pioneering for Christian Unity in Australia and New Zealand"

This fascinating book by A. W. Stephenson, M.A., is an outline of the history of Churches of Christ in these southern lands and a study of their teachings and ideals.

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The Australian Christian

February 9, 1944

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IN MEMORIAM

AUSTIN.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Benjamin Austin, who passed away Feb. 6, 1943. "In his care."

—N. Austin.

LEE.—In loving memory of my dear grandson Kenneth (Ken), ret. M.E., died of wounds in New Guinea Jan. 30, 1943. Aged 23 years.

We bless the years we called him ours, and leave the rest with God.

—Inserted by Ma.

LONG.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Elizabeth, who passed away (suddenly), Feb. 17, 1939, also our dear father, William, who passed away on Oct. 23, 1942 (late of Bendigo). Gone but not forgotten.

—Inserted by their loving family (Sth. Yarra).

ROBBINS-LOTT.—In remembrance of our very dear niece Nellie, who went home on Feb. 13, 1941.

"How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's toil is ended,
With them shall ever be.

"We'll never say 'good-bye' in heaven,
We'll never say 'good-bye,'
In that fair land of joy and song,
We'll never say 'good-bye.'"

—Inserted by H. B. and Mrs. Robbins and family.

STALEY.—In loving memory of Edwin, my dear husband and our father, who passed to a higher life, Feb. 4, 1943.

Sweet memories will remain until we meet again.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14.—Victorian Churches of Christ 'Ladies' Choir will resume rehearsals in Swanston-st. lecture hall on Monday, Feb. 14. New members will be welcomed. Committee will meet at 7.30 sharp.

FEBRUARY 27.—11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Newmarket church of Christ anniversary services. Old members and friends welcome.

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Wed., Feb. 16, 3 p.m., subject, "A Woman Who Won a World."

Attention Eastern Churches—

Saturday, February 19, Hike to the country, and at Boronia Chapel, 8 p.m., Inspirational Youth Rally. Subject, "A Ghost at Midnight." Trains leave Flinders-st. 3.40 p.m.; alight at Bayswater. 6 p.m., basket tea. 7 p.m., Bright Youth Service.

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Welcome Meeting on Wed., Feb. 16, at 8 p.m.
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FEBRUARY 21.

PUBLIC INAUGURAL SESSION COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

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SOUTH YARRA CHURCH OF CHRIST JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS,

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Sunday, Feb. 27, Home-coming Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 29, 2.30 p.m., Ladies' Home-coming; a Reunion of Guild Members.
8 p.m., Great Thanksgiving Service.

Thursday, March 2, 6 p.m., Tea Meeting.
8 p.m., Young People's Service. Speaker, Mr. A. W. Ladbrook.

Sunday, March 5. Speakers, Mr. A. W. Ladbrook and Mr. Andrew Hughes, M.L.A.

Soloists: Miss Amelia Scarce, Mrs. Gove, Miss Winifred Lee.

To facilitate catering arrangements on both Sundays, will intending visitors kindly notify F. Lewis, 2 Denham-pl., Toorak, S.E.2, U 7525?

BACK TO THE BIBLE!

This is the theme at the Annual Public Meeting of the

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY in the MELBOURNE TOWN HALL,

TUESDAY, FEB. 29, at 7.45 p.m.

Speakers:

The Archbishop of Melbourne and Rev. W. H. Rainey, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Commonwealth Secty.).

Testaments for Troops Pageant conducted by the Archbishop (with men of the Forces participating).

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BROADCAST SERVICE

C. P. Hughes, of Collins-st. church, Hobart, will conduct the daily devotional service from 7ZR and 7NT on Feb. 10, and the morning church service to be broadcast from 7ZL on Feb. 20.

Women's Work at Diksal

MR. AND MRS. ESCOTT, who have been in India this period for over eight years, remain at their own desire, but will take a much longer period in the hills during the hot season. Considering the length of their stay, they are keeping remarkably well and able to continue an effective work. They write:

"During the year 24 villages and hamlets have been visited, also people of 34 castes have had the gospel preached to them. While some of these castes are part of the Marathi, at the same time they consider themselves separate, and are known by their own caste name. The Bible-women have, on a number of occasions, taken their lunch with them so that they

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

could, by spending all day in a village, reach those who would not be reached during a half day's work. The children's classes have been carried on during the year. On the whole, they have been well attended, though parents moving to other parts for work have taken some of our scholars. The Hindu women's gospel meeting for high caste women has also been held each week. Truly the dynamic of the Holy Spirit is needed to liberate these women from the awful bondage of fear that grips them. Fear prevents many from openly confessing Christ as Saviour. As one woman said to me, 'I have no idols in my house now and the people put names on me.'

"Our Christian women have also been a big help in sewing garments for the many poor children, of whom there are a good number about. The difficulty of buying grain for our poor folk for Christmas was ever before us, but God was good, and enabled us to buy in during November. The money had not come—in fact, had not been promised—but we bought in faith. It was well we did, otherwise there would not have been any for the needy ones. Faith was rewarded, and money came two and a half months later. Fearing an overwhelming number to come, on account of grain being scarce, we worked on another plan this year. Our Biblewomen made a note of the names of people in the village which we work who were really in need. Before Christmas we sent the grain to each village, ready tied up to give out, without having to measure in the village. The children's Christmas gifts were given during the fortnight before Christmas; only those attending classes and meetings either in the compound or on the station received gifts on Christmas Day.

"During the year, on several occasions, the Friday afternoon was spent with the Bible-women in the study of the Word, and intercession. Such times we found to be very helpful, and a strengthening of the spiritual life—a need which is realised by those who are seeking to win souls to our Lord and Saviour."

STRANGE TREK

IN the course of recent months a very remarkable movement has taken place in Central Asia. Three thousand of the Qazaq tribesmen emigrated from the Altai (Gold) Mountains, south of Siberia, and arrived at Ladakh, on the Indian frontier, on their way to Kashmir. These tribesmen are rich. They own thousands of sheep, and large flocks of goats, camels, horses and yaks. Their garments are adorned with gold buttons and lined

with silver thread, and their belts have clasps of precious metal. I have often met these people in Urumchi, where they frequently came to buy goods and to exchange their pelts for grain. It is puzzling to know what has led to this exodus across a terrible desert, and over the Himalayan ranges where many must have perished by the way.

The missionaries of the Central Asian Mission now have a unique opportunity to reach, with the gospel, people who have lived many, many months' journey away from them. The great trek may continue toward India, or it may take another direction; but meanwhile from other Indian cities comes news of the arrival of large numbers of Mongols who have left their native land and trekked south. What does it all mean?—Mildred Cable.

REAPING AT CHRISTMAS SEASON

IN addition to the three baptisms already reported from Baramati, seven more are reported from Dhond and nine from Shrigonda. No details are through yet, but there is great rejoicing on all stations. This ends a year of fruitful ministry, and the quieter days give promise of even greater victories for Christ.

MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN

FROM the Indian field we learn that all children were able to get home for the Christmas season, and very happy times were spent. After not seeing their children for many months, the Christmas season is an event in the lives of our missionaries. Gratitude has been expressed for the personal gifts to missionaries and their children.

Missionary Booklets

"MISSION FIELDS OF THE WORLD."

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Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

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

DRAMATISED GOSPEL

A RECENT correspondent does not approve of the introduction of plays into our meetings in case they should become "more like entertainments than gospel services." There are two things which should be accomplished during the service. The first and most important is the attainment of a sincere devotional atmosphere for worship, and the second is the imparting of some form of instruction which will help the congregation to depart refreshed in mind and spirit and fired with enthusiasm for the living of a more active Christian life. The expounding of the gospel in a clear, true, interesting and lasting manner goes a long way towards reaching the second objective. Modern educationists are continually stressing the value of moving pictures and drama in education. If we can appreciate and remember the gospel more satisfactorily in these forms, then surely we benefit by including them in our services.

We must ensure that under no circumstances is worship interfered with; but this will not happen if the dramatised sermon is presented in place of, and at the same time as, the usual verbal sermon. A few short pulpit remarks at the beginning and perhaps at the end can also be of considerable help. This would entail the closure of the service at a later hour, but if well done, the devotional attitude and interest of the congregation is maintained to the very end.

Your correspondent says we should "get back to the old paths." I suggest that we should be very familiar with the old paths, but keep always on the lookout for new paths leading to the same goal.—Ralph R. Clark, E. Malvern, Vic.

FAREWELL TO A. E. HURREN

On Monday evening, Jan. 24, a representative gathering met in Grote-st. chapel to farewell Mr. and Mrs. Hurren and family. Mr. Hurren has served the church for over four years, and leaves to take up the work at Balwyn, Vic. Mr. Ross Manning (elder) was chairman, and the following spoke in eulogistic terms of love and esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Hurren are held: A. Anderson, conference president; Mrs. Bartlett, Sisters' Conference; Keith Jones, Preachers' Fraternal; Mr. Watts Grimmett, S.A. C.E. Union and Council of Charitable Relief Organisations; Mr. Allbright, S.A. Alliance; Mrs. Green, Aborigines Dept.; Mr. Dixon, Young People's Dept.; W. Palmer, Choir; Mrs. De Laine, sisters of church; W. Blackeby, Bible school and young people's auxiliaries of church; E. Barnes, board of officers; and W. S. Harris, church, the latter making a presentation to Mr. Hurren of an envelope of notes. Greetings were received from General S. Price Weir, J. E. Thomas, K. A. Macnaughtan, F. Cornelius and W. J. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Hurren responded. The choir rendered two anthems. The prayers of the church follow our brother and sister in their new field.

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAMP, W.A.

Three successful camps have been held at Waterman's Bay in W.A. Eighty young people enjoyed the fellowship and inspiration of the youth camp from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. H. E. R. Steele was camp leader, assisted by I. W. Nixon and T. Bamford, with Mrs. E. J. Miles as camp mother. Great experiences were shared by all. Bible studies on Philipians and the group discussions on the beginnings, development and continued existence of the Restoration Movement revealed some deep thinking on the part of the young people, indicative of good leadership in our churches in the next decade. Swimming, hikes, socials, concerts and singing all had their place in the programme, the crowning experience being the watch-night dedication. The young people were so enthused by the camping experience that, within a week, they contributed sufficient to buy the block of land adjacent to the present camp site. The youth camp was followed by two junior camps; 81 boys in camp from Jan. 3-10, and 44 girls in camp from Jan. 11-18. These were led by T. Bamford and Mrs. E. J. Miles respectively. The girls' camp was a new venture, and proved very popular and successful. The junior camps are run more informally than the older one, and give an insight into the camping experience to the boys and girls.

ADDRESSES

E. P. Aderman, M.P., 34 Bayley-rd., Westend, New Plymouth, N.Z.

J. E. Allan (preacher Hawthorn church and secretary Victorian F.M. Committee).—12 Queen-st., Kew, E.4. Phone, Haw. 300.

F. Jackwitz (secretary Rosewood church, Qld.).—Albert-st., Rosewood.

H. J. Patterson, M.A., 57 The Point-rd., Woolwich, N.S.W.

H. Peeler, 46 Berkeley-st., Castlemaine.

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Or to J. Wiltshire, Fed. Hon. Sec.,
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So fervently does humanity cling to what nature owes it, that those who have no home will make one for themselves in vision. Those who have an evil one will soften down its many vices, and out of the scantiest affections bring forth rays of the heart to brighten their retrospect. The visitings of early home thoughts are the last that quit us.—Selected.

THOUGHT

"Let the fire burn brightly at night, and make the homestead delightful with all those little arts that parents so perfectly understand."

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Representative in Victoria: W. Gale, T. & G. Building, 147 Collins St., Melbourne, C.I.
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The Australian Christian

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February 9, 1944

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