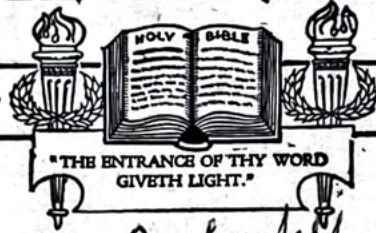


Foster

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*P90 Roy Greenleaf
Youth Director*

*PA3 Main family
Thanks*

Man's Behaviour and Future



MAN is a complex creature whose origin can be traced back to God. His soul,

"Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar."

Even if "clouds of glory" once surrounded him, while he is treading now the pilgrim's path through the material world in which he finds himself, he

must submit, in a measure, to the demands of the body.

THERE is in an overseas museum a small piece of metal that is held to the base of a glass case by a silk thread. At the top of the case there is a strong magnet that draws the metal upwards. Not being able to free itself from the silk thread, the metal is held as a prisoner in mid-air. There is a sense in which man is held captive somewhere between heaven and earth. Because his being is aglow with a divine spark, man cannot remain content for ever with the decaying fruits of the material world. If, however, the call of the spirit urges him to soar to worlds unknown, the demands of the flesh will sooner or later send him back to the plough or anvil.

During the history of the church there have been periods when groups of Christians have attempted to escape from the life of the flesh by leaving society and living in isolation. Their efforts to find peace by denying the body its requirements ended in failure. Unsatisfied desires found an outlet in dreams that disturbed the peace of sleep. Dismayed by their failure to reach the realms of heaven by self-denial, they declared it was Satan who prevented them gaining their goal. Even if Satan had some part, their foolish attitude toward life provided him with a good opportunity to use his wiles. It is evident that man must be realistic enough to see that the body makes a demand upon him, and that he cannot, while in this life, escape from it altogether and find a complete refuge in the realm of the spirit. Idealism must be tempered by realism.

THERE are some who have considered man as a material creature; they have attempted to ignore the spiritual requirements of man. In Russia a gigantic experiment was initiated by men who had been influenced by the materialistic philosophy of Karl Marx. Religion was to be driven from modern society just as witchcraft has been banished from this scientific age. Men were to live by bread alone and by the efforts of their own hands. It was an effort to set at nought the spirit within the living man. Despite a nation-wide effort that experiment to build up a God-less society has failed. Although Russia succeeded in making advances in science and en-

gineering, her efforts to stamp out religion were unsuccessful, for it has been found that materialism must be tempered by idealism. A sane view of life will neither disregard the body nor the spirit. We must accept the reality of both, and aim at reconciling the conflict that their varying demands bring into life.

Paul found himself facing the same problem: "Left to myself," he wrote (Moffatt's translation), "I serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin."

WE tend to over-emphasise either (1) the spiritual, or (2) the material aspect of man when we consider him in his relationship to history and the future. If we over stress the idealistic, or spiritual, side in man, we shall view his achievements and future with fervent optimism. On the other hand, if we consider the material and scientific discoveries as stepping stones leading to a new order on earth, in which men will live in peace and prosperity as conquerors of nature's power, we shall be impressed by that utopian picture of world-brotherhood which H. G. Wells has painted in the final chapter of his "Outline of History." Only when we overlook the materialistic element in man's nature shall we allow ourselves to be deluded by idealistic visions of to-morrow. The grand optimism of thirty years ago has been smashed by two real, tragic wars in which the scientific achievements of man have been used to destroy life and art.

At present there is the tendency to dwell overmuch upon the material aspect of man and to be pessimistic and gloomy about the future. Human beings are prone to swing to extremes. We are tending to ignore just now the nobler side of man, and are becoming fearful of to-morrow. Yesterday we were foolishly too idealistic, but to-day we are unnecessarily too realistic. Just as religion is emerging out of the revolutionary condition in Russia, triumphant; so we may expect that, because man is a spiritual being; he will not be totally immersed in the tragic events of the material world of to-morrow, and be lost.

BECAUSE man is both material and spiritual we must maintain a balanced view of him. We should neither be too optimistic nor too pessimistic about his behaviour and future.

However, we are not left without real hope so far as the eternal future of man is concerned. When Paul found himself a prisoner in this mortal life with no way of escape from its natural dilemma, he cried, "Miserable wretch that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" He answered his own question by saying, "God will!" How can he do it?—"through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Paul could see hope for man when the dilemma in which



(Continued on page 82)

Step by Step

A. J. Rogers, serving in the Forces somewhere
in Australia, writes of the need of walking
constantly with Christ.

WHEN we pause to consider the stupendous task that confronted us when we were forced to declare our hostility toward Japan, we realise that tremendous progress has been achieved in building up strength to cope with the situation.

Such has not been accomplished in a day, but we have progressed step by step, meeting and overcoming obstacles, organising our resources to the best possible advantage, increasing our war-work to step up production, and training men in all the various departments of the Forces. It has been a hard road, demanding great perseverance.

Whatever sphere we investigate we find similar progress. From the time the steam engine was invented even unto this present day when giant locomotives roar along the lines, step by step men with a purpose have been working for the improvement of their work. When we make a survey of the medical profession we find a wonderful standard of efficiency; it was not always like this. Progress has been made by gifted men, who through continual concentration have made discoveries that now work for the relief and cure of disease and sickness. So in whatever sphere, whether it be wireless, electricity or mechanics, we see progress toward the perfect article being made step by step.

The life of a Christian goes through such a process. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews conveys such a thought when he exhorts us in these words, "Let us go on unto perfection." A sinner does not become a saint overnight, for from the time of his conversion until he leaves this present life, there is a step by step experience being wrought out in his life. As in the life of our nation during this crisis, so in his life he will meet with obstacles, temptations and disappointments; but for all these things, if he wishes to reach his goal, he must be faithful and must continue in the face of sin and adversity.

The Christian life is a progressive revelation. There is always something we can learn about it, some experience for us that will mellow and sweeten our lives. Even out of some great disappointment or failure there has come a lesson that has given us a greater understanding of the teachings of Christ.

Paul speaks of the manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. As we find ourselves in possession of such fruits, we take a step nearer to the perfect life as found in Christ. It is by these fruits we set a Christian example; for they enable us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Such a life can only be ours if we persist in seeking first the kingdom of God, and if we overcome the fiery darts of the wicked one, by studying the word of life.

It is very easy for a man to swim with the current, but let one turn and swim against it, and then a man must fight and use all his strength. As Christians we must be prepared to fight, if we wish to go on unto perfection and gain eternal life with Christ.

The apostle James was a very practical disciple, and understood well the virtues that mark the life of a Christian. In his epistle



he tells us to "count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations." It is only as we yield to temptation that it becomes sin. Therefore let us meet and overcome it. The Christian life is not easy and calls for the best. Paul tells us "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The moment we become a Christian satanic powers are hurled against us. Therefore we must fight and make manifest the fruits of the Spirit, if we are to become perfect and reach our goal. There are

no half measures; Christ said we are either for him or against him. We cannot serve God and mammon. The more we overcome, the stronger our lives will be and the richer our experience. There must be a step by step progress toward perfection.

The poet has well said, "Life is real, life is earnest." Christ is life and we know that life through him links us to God, the Father. So let us live that we may truly re-present that life to our fellow men, and step by step go on unto perfection.

The Place of Worship

LOVE built this shrine, these hallowed walls
uprose
To give seclusion from the hurrying throng,
From tumult of the street, complaint and
wrong,
From rivalry and strife, from taunt of foes—

If foes thou hast. On silent feet come
in,
Bow low in penitence. Whoe'er thou art
Thou, too, hast sinned. Uplift in prayer thy
heart.

Thy father's blessing waiteth. Read within

This holy place, in pictured light portrayed,
The characters of worthies who, for years
Long past, still speak the message here
displayed

In universal language not to fade.

Leave then thy burden, all thy cares and
fears,

Faith, hope and love are thine, for thou hast
prayed.

—Selected.

Our Village Partington

Writing of the strange behaviour of a dog, J. I.

Mudford, of Victoria, presents a story with a moral.

A QUIET fellow in normal times is Bobs, our local canine celebrity; and yet there are times when, being almost entirely innocent of animal psychology, I find him a strange problem indeed.

Look at him when, for example, the turncock of the Board of Works comes to the street-hydrant at Burwood tram terminus, and turns on the water, to sweeten life for us by cleansing the streets of our village!

Skilfully the worker turns on the hydrant. Out gushes the water, like the spouting of a geyser; when lol from nowhere, as it often seems, comes at top speed Bobs the Battler. Swiftly he sizes up the situation, and straightway, with much gnashing of teeth, hurls himself into the rushing waters. Thrown to the roadway by their force, he follows them some 30 feet down the gutter, and places his body in their course. Nothing daunted by failure, he returns to the source of the waters, and hurls himself fiercely into them again, with the same result as before. Recovering, he chases the stream some 60 feet along the street, and vainly endeavors to throw back the enemy.

So continues the performance, which always gathers a crowd of our local natives, until the officer of the M.M.B.W. is satisfied that his work is accomplished. Delighted, if I have read the canine intelligence aright, Bobs vanishes far more unobtrusively than he had

come. The foe has been conquered. Alone he has done it. All is well. Bobs is invisible—till next time!

And the object of this spectacular performance of a fox-terrier dog? Is it cleanliness? or display? Probably neither: dogs of this variety do not as a rule take kindly to water. Bobs seems obsessed with the idea of pushing back this force that makes for so-called progress. To us, that which he opposes is a cleansing agency and a desirable ally; to him, perhaps, an enemy coming in the form of a flood.

In 1831, when the House of Lords rejected the First Reform Bill, Sydney Smith, the celebrated wit, retold the story of the famous Mrs. Partington. In the midst of a great storm, which flooded her house at Sidmouth, this good dame, it is said, fought vigorously with the aid of her kitchen mop—to force back the waters of the Atlantic!

Bobs is our village Partington. He is full of good intentions, and yet we hardly expect him to succeed in his self-imposed, heroic enterprise.

I have been young, and now am a little autumnal, yet have I not seen village-minded reactionaries, or even ecclesiastical obstructionists, achieve much by their opposition to the forces that make for sweetness, betterment and true progress.

Discounting Claim for Spiritualism

R. Raymond, of W.A., reports discussions on Sir Ernest Fisk's claim and on crime among aborigines.

THOSE of us who can recall without difficulty the troubled days of the first great world war, will remember the influence spiritualism (so-called) had on the lives of many people. Bereaved ones were encouraged to think it possible to get into communication with their departed, and many experimented to their great hurt. When this war started this was one aspect of it that some of us dreaded. We have had little to worry about on that score up to the present time. I speak only of W.A. Now comes Sir Ernest Fisk, of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd., telling us that the spirits of the dead inhabit the ionised ether, and that communication with them is possible. My interest in the statement of Sir Ernest at the moment is only to report, with a great deal of pleasure, the reply given in this State by Dr. S. E. Williams, physics lecturer at the W.A. University. He described the conviction expressed by Sir Ernest as "nonsensical and misleading." "It should be remembered that Sir Ernest is not a scientist, but a company director. His firm employs scientists, some of whom have been trained in W.A. I am sure these scientists would say the same as I do about the evidence for spirits inhabiting the ionosphere, with the properties of which they are very closely concerned." We may not be able to appreciate the scientific arguments advanced by Dr. Williams, but we are able to acquiesce in his statement "that it is unfortunate that prominent public men should raise false hopes in the minds of people suffering personal tragedies as the result of the war, and doubly unfortunate that they should use such nonsensical and misleading statements about scientific technique to support what could at the best be called wishful thinking."

Aborigines

Crime among aborigines in this State has increased 100 per cent. during each of the last three years, and 50 per cent. of that increase is directly attributable to the effects of liquor supplied to them in contravention of the Native Administration Act. This statement is made on the authority of the Commissioner of Native Affairs. The Commis-

sioner was asking the magistrate to impose a heavy deterrent penalty on a middle aged laborer charged with supplying liquor to natives. The magistrate refused to be hard on the natives before him, who were charged with receiving the drink. It was useless, he said, asking him to be severe on people who, after all, were members of the race who originally owned this country.

Mrs. H. C. Miller (Western Australian authoress, Mary Durack, of "Walkabout" fame), speaking at the Modern Women's Club luncheon in Perth, said the Native Administration Act that provided for the native's childhood had kept him a child, and would keep him such to the end of his days if nothing were done to render the Act not merely protective, but progressive. The speaker said that any anthropologist would agree that the native was not, as the present Act presupposed, less capable of being taught to stand on his own feet and direct his own destiny than the average white person. Discussing the future of the aborigines Mrs. Miller said they have a life to live, and it is up to us to say what sort of a life it is to be. "We must teach the native to stand on his own feet as a cripple child must be taught to walk without crutches. We must speak for him, but only until he has become articulate. Then he must speak for himself."

K. Roberts has arrived in W.A. He and Miss Joan Saunders were married at Kalgoorlie on February 5. After a little holiday Mr. and Mrs. Roberts will proceed to the work at Norseman. It is too early for me to write of a function to be held in Perth in a week's time. I can say, however, that arrangements are being made by the State Aborigine's Mission Committee for a reception to be given to the bride and bridegroom. It is arranged that at this meeting a wedding presentation will be made. The whole brotherhood extends its good wishes to the missionaries.

Reports received the day after the taking of the Federal offering for aborigines mission work indicate a good response by churches in Western Australia.

educational evangelism (both youth and adult); adaptations of summer and winter schools as a means of contact with thinking non-church folk; cells of Christian deliberation; literature; use of films, slides and other appeals to the eye; training for personal evangelism; children's missions; three weeks' missions; exchange missions; week-end inspirational drives; co-operation in Christian order weeks, and advances in new housing areas with Sunday schools as the spearhead of attack.

For 1946 the executive plans, if possible, to get a mission party into the field for the whole year. Meanwhile negotiations and preparation are going on, including an appeal for £10,000 for evangelism.

The executive and the Department of Religious Education are co-operating on all matters pertaining to evangelism that impinge on the Sunday school, the youth group, the family and adult Christian education.

Royal Commission on Alcohol

At the last election members of all parties agreed that there was urgent need for such a commission to be set up. Since then the national party caucus has made representations to the government to act in this matter immediately. Most of the churches at their conferences and synods have also been bringing pressure to bear on the government. The latest appeal for immediate action has come from the Anglicans. Public bodies of all kinds have expressed themselves similarly. It appears now that the government will not lose time in setting up this commission for which there seems to be universal desire.

Move for President

Godfrey Pretwell, much-loved president of our conference, has resigned from the Wanganui church after over eight years of fruitful service there. He is to minister to the church in Palmerston North, one of the strategic centres of our work in New Zealand. Lyndon Usmar has resigned from Palmerston North to take up war work as part-time chaplain to the Forces and part-time Y.M.C.A. field worker. Mr. Usmar has served in three of our churches, West Lynn, Gisborne and Palmerston North, and for two years he was general secretary of our brotherhood. We can ill afford to lose him from the ranks of the ministry.

Man's Behaviour and Future

(Continued from front page.)

he lives is destroyed by that divine act described as the resurrection; that is, when the mortal body becomes immortal and the corruptible, incorruptible. That divine event will affect the whole of creation as well as man's mortal frame. "We know," Paul said, "the entire creation sighs and throbs with pain; and not only so, but even we ourselves, who have the Spirit as a foretaste of the future, even we sigh deeply to ourselves as we wait for the redemption of the body that means our full sonship."

SUMMER MOONLIGHT

SUMMER moonlight filled with
Longing and vague desire.
White slender fingers of light
Filter through leafy bowers.

Summer moonlight filled with
Longing and vague desire.
Gleaming stars weave a spell
Of witchery; wherever we are.

—Albert Walton Speaks.

Inter-Church Youth Work in N.Z.

THE annual conference of full-time Christian youth workers has just been held at the Frederic Wallis House, Wellington. Up till recently this conference was purely for fellowship and interchange of ideas. But at the 1943 conference initial steps were taken for the formation of a Dominion co-ordinating body for Christian youth work. At the 1944 conference completed plans were ready. This had entailed much hard work on the part of the committee that had been working on these plans all the year, and much consultation between church youth departments and the National Council of Churches. So now we have in New Zealand the Youth Committee of the National Council of Churches whose function is to promote co-operation among the constituent bodies, and to co-ordinate their work in agreed activities, each constituent organisation retaining at the same time its freedom and its responsibility for loyalty to its own church or organisation. Constituent bodies are as follows: Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, members of churches of Christ, Congregationalists, Salvation Army, Friends, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Student Christian Movement, Girls' Life Brig-

Our New Zealand correspondent, G. R. Strirling, writes of new developments in youth work; a new programme for evangelism, and a Royal Commission on alcohol.

ade, Boys' Brigade, Scouts, and Nurses' Christian Union. The first chairman is Cliff T. Symons, M.A., B.D., Senior Youth Director of the Methodist church, formerly a South Australian.

Executive States Its Policy for Evangelism

The general executive of churches of Christ over here has been working hard on the huge bundle of material sent in from all parts of the Dominion in answer to their questionnaire on evangelism. On the basis of the information received, they have stated their policy for the next three years. For 1944 and 1945 they plan for a vigorous period of local evangelism and strengthening of the home front. Their plans in this direction include witness weeks (a bulletin of information concerning such weeks has been sent to all churches);

The Sacrificial Life

Leader.—

"As we meet and touch each day
The many travellers on our way,
Let every such brief contact be
A glorious, helpful ministry;
The contact of the soil and seed,
Each giving to the other's need,
Each helping on the other's best,
And blessing each, as well as blest."

Silent Meditation.

Prayer.—"Our God we heartily thank thee for all thy goodness to us, body and soul. We want thy guidance and direction in all we do. Let thy wisdom counsel us, thy hand lead us, and thine arm support us. We put ourselves into thy hands. Breathe into our souls holy and heavenly desires. Conform us to thine own image. Make us like our Saviour. Enable us in some measure to live here on earth as he lived, and to act in all things as he would have acted. For his sake we ask this. Amen."

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 141; Sankey, 896.

Bible Reading.—Matthew 16: 21-26.

Solo.

Devotional Talk.—

The Sacrificial Life

WHEN we speak of a sacrificial life, our thoughts immediately turn to our Saviour of whom Isaiah prophesied, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53: 6).

Of the first thirty years we are told nothing in the scriptures about him living a life of self-sacrifice, but many legends have sprung up concerning these years, and some beautiful imaginative stories have been written. We know that the boy Jesus, who said to his mother when twelve years of age, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" had then laid the foundation for it.

In the intervening years between twelve and thirty, we can imagine the boy and young man expressing his love to his mother and members of his family by many self-sacrificing efforts. Legend has it that Joseph died, and Jesus as the eldest became the support of Mary and her family, and that it was not until his brothers and sisters grew up that he could begin his public ministry. If this is true, how well our Lord must sympathise with those whose hopes have been thwarted because of love prompting such sacrifice.

There have been accounts of unselfish people who, at a moment of great exultation or need, will even sacrifice their lives. But for the Christ to deliberately set his face towards Jerusalem, to suffer many things from the religious people of his own race, from the civil authorities and military personnel, even to be tempted by one of his disciples, and still go on as the perfect Sacrifice for the sins of the world, clearly shows us that he understands the joys and the heartbreaks of any sacrificial life.

Let us pray:

For homes where loved ones have paid the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

For those who give up fond hopes and live sacrificially because of the needs of loved ones.

For those who sacrifice their home ties to share the gospel message with others.

For those who sacrifice time, money and talent for the uplift of mankind.

Leader.—"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Lord's Prayer.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 145; Sankey, 128.

Business Session.

Home Missionary Notes.

Overseas Letter.

Prayers from Audience.

Talk.—"Paraguay—a Protestant Mission in a Roman Catholic Country."

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, 345; Sankey, 1070.

Benediction.—"May the Lord lead us when we go, and keep us when we sleep. May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen."

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE *

Mrs. Pollard, who was one of the two delegates from Western Australia, "The Australian Conference of Women for Victory in War and Victory in Peace," which was held in Sydney from Nov. 19 to 20, sends us the following report. We regret it was just too late for the last issue of the Women's Page, but we know there are many who will be glad to read about it even at this later date.

OVER 200 representative women attended the different sessions of conference, which was under the guidance of Mrs. Jessie Street. Seventy-seven organisations, including 14 trades unions, were represented by delegates from all States. Mrs. H. V. Evatt, wife of the Federal Attorney-General, spoke on "Houses Fit to Live In"; Dr. Hilda Bull on "Measures to Promote Maternal, Adolescent, and Infant Health"; and other experts on subjects mainly concerning the status of women, and reconstruction. Miss McCorkindale, W.C.T.U. organiser, told the conference that they were witnessing the birth of a new civilisation. Men and women were not units of industry, but human beings. She advocated kindergartens in every centre, the aim to be a child centre every half-mile radius; a primary school every two mile radius; a community centre to every 10,000 people. Better conditions for women, equality of status, and no discrimination in respect of the responsibilities and rights of men and women as citizens, were stressed. Women should be eligible for appointments, and to qualify to hold any position, and given the opportunity to hold any public office, and to take an active part in all administrative and legislative bodies. To win the right to vote it took the women of England 97 years of hard struggle. Millions of women suffered bitter injustices through unfair sex discriminations, and yet did not bestir themselves to enquire into the causes for which enlightened women fought. Hitherto the work of most women's organisations has been handicapped by the apathy of large numbers of the membership, and the failure to make a serious effort to understand social questions. Equality of status for women is not a selfish sectarian aim; its achievement will lift the life of our society to a level of

human dignity and development never before attained. If the Christian women of the Commonwealth rise to their responsibilities and become keenly interested in lifting the social welfare of the community, great things will be accomplished. Cultural and religious opportunities, and a higher moral standard, should have priority in all post-war planning.

FROM THE STATE EXECUTIVES

Victoria

AT the first meeting for the year, held on Feb. 4, the president, Mrs. Waterman, was in the chair. Devotional session was led by Mrs. M. Morrison, assisted by Mrs. W. Hibbert as soloist. A very helpful address, suitable for these times, was given by Mrs. G. Mitchell.

After the reading of a letter from Miss Joan Saunders, of Norseman, it was decided to take a retiring offering, proceeds to be wired to Miss Saunders as a wedding gift.

Suitable reference was made to two of our past leaders, Mrs. A. R. Main and Mrs. Way, who have been called to higher service.

The total gift money for the Oakleigh Guest Home is now £779/15/9.

New South Wales

THE speaker on Feb. 4 was Mrs. Weir, who told of social work being done in the city of Sydney by a number of Christian women.

Preparations are in hand for the jubilee, which will be celebrated on April 9. A special jubilee offering is being undertaken by the women of the churches, to buy ground for a young people's camp and to prepare an outdoor sanctuary for worship.

Mrs. Palmer, the recording secretary, is giving honorary service as librarian to the children's library in one of the community centres of Sydney in which Christian women are seeking to help the residents of crowded districts to gain wider perspectives of life.

South Australia

AFTER a short recess the sisters' auxiliary met at Grote-st. on Thursday, Feb. 3, when Mrs. Webb presided over the devotional half-hour, and Mrs. Bartlett over the business session.

On Feb. 25 the Women's World Day of Prayer will be observed in the Flinders-st. Baptist church, Adelaide.

Queensland

THE quarterly reports of various committees, received on Dec. 2, showed great activity and progress in all departments. Record of ferings and visitations were recorded.

MRS. MAIN

THE women's work in our churches suffered a great loss in the death of Mrs. A. R. Main. She was an able speaker and much sought after at women's conference gatherings. She was a charming hostess as the principal's wife at the Federal College of the Bible and later at Woolwich, N.S.W. Mrs. Main had a pleasing personality, and she was never dominated by her surroundings. Her thinking and approach to life were independent and kindly. She will be greatly missed by her husband, family and grandchildren and a host of friends, and also by the many who loved to hear her speak. She did not belong to one State, for her influence was widespread throughout the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATIONS

THE women of all States express best wishes to their living link at Norseman mission, who married Mr. Ken Roberts on Feb. 5. We hope Mr. and Mrs. Roberts will enjoy long life and happiness, and that their work among the aborigines will be blessed. Miss Roxburgh writes that there was much excitement at the children's dormitory over the wedding.

□

We remind women of the
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FEBRUARY 25.

Notes on Current Topics

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

Spiritual Regeneration

FEBRUARY 13 was observed as "Baptist World Alliance Sunday." In the course of a sermon suited to the occasion, Mr. W. L. Jarvis, of Central Baptist Church, Sydney, said that often in history God had achieved some high purpose in circumstances which caused the unthinking to assume that he was neither present nor active. He cited as a striking proof of this the recent phenomenal spread of Christianity in Russia. Mr. Jarvis was reported as saying: "In the Baptist fellowship alone there had been an increase from 2,000,000 certified members to more than 5,000,000 within the past 20 years." He also stated that there was a decided movement throughout the world towards a return to the simplicities of the Christian faith as revealed in the New Testament. He referred to the report of the plea for united church services in Coventry Cathedral as a heartening sign. The following paragraph from the interesting sermon should appeal to all our readers: "The 18,000,000 members of the Baptist World Alliance will pray and work with Christians of other churches for the spread of Christ's message. All must be uncompromisingly and unshakably loyal to the gospel of Christ, and its application to present and pressing problems. The Christian faith declares that social reconstruction is absolutely impossible except by way of spiritual regeneration."

A Moral Order and the World's Needs

I feel less competent than some to draw up a detailed programme of a new world order. The high principles of Christianity need to be applied. I like the following statement from the Round Table Conference at Princeton,

U.S.A.:—"The Christian church believes and declares to the world that there is a moral order which is fundamental and eternal, and that if mankind is to escape chaos and recurrent war, social and political institutions must be brought into conformity with this moral order. This moral order is the will of God, the Creator of mankind. Basic in it are the law of justice and the principle that man should love his neighbor as himself. . . . The Christian church itself is potentially the chief instrument of world order. The desperate needs of the people are for moral and spiritual light, for release from fear, for faith and courage, for forgiveness and the grace to forgive. It is the responsibility of the church to meet those needs."

Rationing Troubles

We have some curious problems and difficulties in connection with rationing in Australia, but none so strange as are reported from India. It is said that a vigorous protest will be made against the refusal of the Bengal Government to include daily offerings to Hindu deities in the new rice rationing plan. At one temple 84 pounds of rice are daily cooked as an offering to the temple goddess. Superstition and idolatry still have a tremendous hold on millions of our fellows. We should, by earnest missionary effort, seek to remove the reproach which this fact is to the church. It is good to serve a God and Father who dwells not in temples made with hands and who is not dependent upon human provisions. Alas, so few, even in Australia, know and serve him as they should.

A. R. Mann.

Victorian Girls' Fellowship

W. R. Hibburt

AN earnest attempt has been made in Victoria to grade and co-ordinate the activities catering for girls of early, middle and late adolescence. The first and second degree Good Companions cater for early and middle adolescence, while the Girls' Fellowship is offering a programme and activities around the interests of the older girls. The fellowship aims to unite the girls of our churches and undertakes representation on all inter-church girls' work.

The new approach of the Girls' Fellowship to their work is not yet fully appreciated, and so they request the use of this column for the purpose of

CALLING THE GIRLS OF VICTORIA

GIRLS! Do you know of our new fellowship centre at church of Christ, Rathdown-st., Carlton, and of our 1944 programme, which caters for varied interests as follow: Study Group, Outdoor Group, Arts and Crafts Group, Folk Games Group?

Study Group. Convener: Miss R. Clark.

A preliminary meeting has been held, and we are commencing at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 1944, to study the book, "Christ's Way of Living" and the "Findings of the Princeton Conference."

Girls' groups of other bodies are making this their common study during the next few months, and this study will be followed by a united girls' demonstration in May.

Outdoor Group. Convener: Miss J. Hancock.

Our first outing was to Sandringham on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 5, when girls from various churches were present and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. Next outing will

be on Saturday, March 4, and the meeting-place is the sweets kiosk, under the clocks, Flinders-st. station, at 1.30 p.m.

Arts and Crafts. Convener: Miss M. Thompson.

We have a demonstrator who is teaching us to make felt gloves, slippers, flowers, toys, etc. Felt material may also be purchased. This is especially interesting work in these days of rationing. Come to our next arts and crafts group which meets on Thursday, Mar. 16, 8 p.m.

Folk Games Group. Convener: Miss E. Scambler.

This will commence on Friday, March 10. If you want enjoyable recreation—with a difference—this is the group for you.

All groups, except the outdoor group, meet at the fellowship centre, at church of Christ, Rathdown-st., Carlton. Group fees, 6d. per month.

HANDCRAFT COMPETITION. For all girls connected with our country churches. To be held in Melbourne in conjunction with Easter conference, 1944.

Junior and Senior Sections for Handknitting. Garments. Fancywork. Novelties.

Also an Essay Competition (Junior and senior).

If you have not already heard of this competition do not fail to write straight away for particulars to Miss M. Buckingham, 40 Emma-st., Caulfield, S.E.8. Entries should be posted to Miss Buckingham on or before Mar. 1.

Fellowship president—Miss A. Thompson, 28 Central Park-rd., East Malvern, S.E.5. Fellowship secretary—Miss E. Scambler, York-rd., Glen Iris, S.E.6.

EPITAPHS ON SOME FACES

MANY people are walking tombstones. Written on face and form is the visible epitaph of a grace or a goodness which died and was buried in their lives. In the hard lines of a face one reads: "Here generosity departed years ago." Another countenance, with its sensual heaviness, tells, so that all may see: "Purity came to an untimely death in me." A woman's face, in the look of pettishness or bad temper fixed there, announces: "All pleasantness departed this life when the first burdens and discouragements began to come."

Indeed, it were possible, if one chose so to do, to go through a city street as old-fashioned folk used to visit cemeteries, and spend our time reading the epitaphs written in the tombstone faces we pass there. Life was meant for life. Men must fight against making spiritual graveyards of themselves. The old command, "Therefore choose life," we must apply not only to the heavenly life of a resurrection day, but so as to urge men away from the death and burial of their souls in their bodies.

We must be guided by it, so that our lives may not become cemeteries of dead hopes, dead gifts and dead graces. Rather, in the words of the patriarchal benediction, may our lives become as "a fruitful field which the Lord hath blessed."

Hear the word which says: "I came that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly."—"Sunday School Times."

ON THE SAFE SIDE

Smith.—"Well, I gave it to that fellow straight, I can tell you. He is twice as big as I am, too, but I told him exactly what I thought of his rascally conduct, and I called him all the names in the dictionary and a lot of others as well."

Jones.—"And didn't he try to hit you?"

"No, he didn't; and when he tried to answer me back I just hung up the telephone receiver and walked away."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—CHRIST'S DEFENCE OF ALLEGED SABBATH-BREAKING

Feb. 28—Mark 2: 23-28.

" 29—Luke 6: 1-11.

Mar. 1—Luke 13: 10-17.

" 2—John 7: 14-24.

" 3—John 9: 1-14.

" 4—John 5: 1-9.

" 5—Exodus 16: 11-21; John 6: 1-21.

THE reason why the Jews charged both the man cured at Bethesda and our Lord who performed the miracle with breaking the sabbath was because they were unwilling to acknowledge him as Lord of the sabbath, who came not to destroy but to fulfil the law. What was humanly illegal was lawful because it was of divine appointment, for the will of the Lord transcends every conceivable man-made law. Jesus presents a crushing reply to his critics by reminding them that his Father, who ordered a rest-day for man, never ceases to work; whilst in the case of the cured man, no better answer to the charge of violating the sabbath law is conceivable than that which he gave, "He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk."

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Here and There

R. Greenhalgh, whose ministry at Paddington, N.S.W., has been much appreciated, has been appointed the new director of youth by the N.S.W. Young People's Department.

Opening sessions of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, have been conducted. Next week we hope to report the welcome tea and demonstration planned for Monday night, Feb. 21.

A young people's camp has been conducted at Hall's Gap, in the Grampians, by the Victorian Young People's Department during the past few days. We expect to hear of happy times experienced.

W. S. Lowe, preacher of the church at Ponsonby-rd., Auckland, has passed with honors the examination in the School of History, qualifying him for the M.A. degree in the University of New Zealand.

F. H. Hunting has accepted the invitation of the Ann-st. church, Brisbane, to serve as preacher. Mr. Hunting has been youth director in N.S.W. for some years, and his "happy hour" campaigns among young people have been very successful.

On Sunday, March 5, at 9.15 p.m., a recorded talk by J. H. Oldam, editor of "The Christian Newsletter" and secretary of the International Missionary Council, will be broadcast in the alternative programme, the title of the address being "Christian Humanism."

We learn that the Western Australian churches have purchased the site for their brotherhood centre at a cost of £1900. The total amount so far subscribed by the brethren has reached £1384. We congratulate the W.A. churches on their splendid effort.

R. H. Maxwell, who has served us as agent at Marrickville church, N.S.W., for a period of four years, worked up the subscription list from 23 subscribers to 43. He finds it necessary now to pass over the work to a new agent, Mr. L. Thomas. We thank Mr. Maxwell for his efforts on behalf of the paper.

In all Victorian churches the annual offering for church extension work will be taken on the first Sunday in March. It is very important that gifts small and large be made for this work. Large funds will be needed after the war to meet the growing needs of our brotherhood in the matter of buildings.

An anonymous friend has kindly sent us a copy of the memorial card printed on the death of Stephen Cheek, who died of typhoid fever at Warwick, Queensland, February 17, 1883, aged 31. We are always interested in records of past workers. Recently there came to the office for safe keeping a scrap-book compiled by J. A. Hamill, one of our earnest evangelists of earlier days.

The Hinrichsen-Morris mission at Auburn, N.S.W., was developing splendidly; attendances increasing every night. But on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 15, a wind storm destroyed the tent. The service that evening was held in the open air with every available seat occupied. The mission is to be continued in the church building. The prayers of the whole brotherhood are requested.

"The Rechabite" for February contains the interesting statement that "it is surprising to note the number of 'tonics' advertised. Generally, a tonic is a medicine which gives tone or vigor to the system. Tonic wines are so called because the sellers claim they act as tonics. Actually they don't, for the simple reason that the active principle of the wine or alleged tonic is alcohol—or proof spirit—which it contains, and the strength of which is, by law, stated on the label. The alcohol does not act as a tonic, but the partaker thereof 'thinks' it does. The alcohol acts as a sedative, in that it paralyses the nerve control. Alcohol is a narcotic which acts instantly on

the higher faculties of the brain. The taker of a tonic wine is not taking a true medicine, but a liquid containing a drug—alcohol—which partly paralyses his nerve control and the anæsthetic effect so obtained makes him think he feels better, because he has less feeling or discomfort than he had before drinking!"

We regret to learn that Mrs. W. A. Jones passed away at Narragin, W.A., on Feb. 15. She had been ill for a considerable time. Mrs. Jones was for many years associated with churches of Christ in Western and South Australia. We extend sympathy to the family, amongst whom are K. A. Jones, preacher of Maylands church, S.A.; Mrs. S. G. Taylor, Fremantle, W.A.; Mrs. G. T. Fitzgerald, Stirling, S.A., and Mrs. W. J. Thomson, Long Plains, S.A.

The Queensland Temperance League announces a competition for short radio plays (seven minutes' playing time), dealing with the advantages of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors or the danger and folly of drinking such liquors. Entries will close on May 31, 1944. Entry forms, with full conditions of the competition, may be obtained from the campaign secretary, Queensland Temperance League, 318 Edward-st., Brisbane, Qld. Prizes: First, £10; second, £5; third, £3. In addition to the above prizes, £1/1/- will be paid for every play accepted by the league.

It will be of special interest to our country readers to learn that portion of the public demonstration of the British and Foreign Bible

Society, in the Melbourne Town Hall, on Tuesday, February 29, is to be broadcast by 3LO. The occasion promises to be an outstanding one in the Society's history. Visitors from the five States and Tasmania, attending the Commonwealth council meeting, will be present at the rally. The meeting begins promptly at 7.45 p.m.

"The resistance of Christianity to Nazism throughout Europe has always been one of the strongest obstacles that the Germans have had to face. For here they are met with open challenge. In every other way resistance is clandestine and secret. Underground newspapers printed in cellars, groups listening in secret to the foreign radio. But the church has a voice and a pulpit. To use them may mean death or persecution, but the church is the one place left in Europe in which a brave man can get up openly and denounce Nazism to a public audience."—Department of Information.

Support Strategic Evangelism

AN APPEAL TO SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

HOME mission work is vital. Unless the church is maintained and developed in the home base, other work will suffer. South Australian churches are being asked for the sum of £1500 on March 5. We trust that this amount will be secured so that the Home Mission Committee will be able to press on with its plans. The splendid work accomplished at Whyalla, S.A., is an example of what could be done in other centres.

From Week to Week

THE tragic bushfires that have swept over parts of Gippsland, Vic., and into the open cut of the Yallourn coalfields, have seriously interfered with the State Electricity Commission's supply of power to Melbourne. Only on certain days can printers use the power, and it has been necessary for me to close this issue earlier than usual so that they may complete their work on the usual day of publication. The readiness of the men to work late into the night so that the paper may come out on time is appreciated.

READERS will be glad to learn that R. T. Pittman's book, "Words and Their Ways," is selling well in Britain. The publishers have printed a second edition to meet the demand. It is pleasing to note that this work of a lecturer of the Federal College of the Bible is being received so well.

EVEN in a war in which people are forced to fight for their very existence, there comes a time when war's evil nature is revealed. There are many who hate it, and only with great reluctance take up arms. They find themselves faced with two evils, either to suffer the loss of homeland and liberty or to engage in the horrid task of fighting. The allied nations were placed in the situation where they had to fight or lose their home and liberty. The British people selected what they considered the lesser of two evils. Once committed to the task, we find ourselves engaged in duties that are hateful to us. It is impossible to find pleasure in them or to justify them; that is when we consider them apart from the whole tragic situation. The British peoples are facing up to a difficult problem. As a people we can still allow our conscience to trouble us. We are never happy if we think we are engaged in a work that destroys what we value. That must ever be put down to our credit whatever our misdeeds may be. While we keep conscience

alive there is hope for the future. That brings me to what I desire to mention specifically. Last week in sessions of the British Parliament, the question concerning the justification of bombing civilians and works of art was discussed. Such acts were not justified by the speakers. They were recognised as evil and could only be permitted in the light of the whole tragedy that war brings. The fact that such a question could be debated, and that men could condemn the practice in the midst of the war, is something for which we can be thankful. There are lands where such discussions could not occur. We must be grateful for our deliverance from those powers that hold sway there.

War is a symptom. The disease that causes the symptom is the greater evil. It is foolish to ignore the causes of war in our efforts to banish it from the world. In other words, there are greater evils than the evil we call war. Our attack must be directed against those evils that are in our land and in others, if we are to bring world peace nearer.

THE Christian church has been busy investigating the causes of war, and "a commission to study the bases of a just and durable peace" has issued a statement on the findings of leaders who met at Princeton, U.S.A., in July, 1943. In the opening paragraph we read: "The Christian church believes and declares to the world that 'there is a moral order which is fundamental and eternal,' and that 'if mankind is to escape chaos and recurrent war, social and political institutions must be brought into conformity with this moral order.' This moral order is the will of God, the Creator of mankind. Basic in it are the law of justice and the principle that man should love his neighbor as himself."

News of the Churches

New South Wales

Mortdale.—During college vacation Jack Hindman, from Glen Iris, gave valuable assistance in building up the work in church and Bible school. Messages on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, when increased attendances were present, were much appreciated.

Canley Vale.—Annual church business meeting was held on Feb. 12. All officers were re-elected for coming year. Reports from the various auxiliaries indicated a successful year's work. The church was glad to welcome V. Parker, who commenced his ministry on Feb. 13. Three new members, recently baptised, were received into fellowship.

Auburn.—No reports of the work of the church have appeared for many months owing to the fact that the reporter, Geo. Gray, met with a serious accident, which will incapacitate him for months yet. The work has been most encouraging, and the preacher, Ethelbert Davis, recently commenced his seventh year with the church. The mission is claiming the whole interest at the present time.

Paddington.—At breaking of bread on Feb. 13 there was a good attendance, and Mr. Greenhalgh gave the message. Women's Fellowship had an interesting afternoon on Feb. 8. Miss Parr, missionary from China, gave a fine address. There was a special effort made for funds for orphans of China, over £3 being realised. A fine spiritual prayer meeting was held on Feb. 10 for period 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Various leaders conducted several sessions, the main theme being revival.



PROGRESSIVE PLAN

SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL EVANGELISM

WOLLONGONG.—A special campaign for a year of progress in all departments of work has been launched, Mr. Stirling particularly appealing for every effort to win 50 souls for Christ. On Jan. 30 two young men made the good confession, and the following week an elderly lady. The latter is the mother of Mrs. Tacey, and the two young men were led to the meetings by a young man baptised himself but a few months ago. These three were baptised on Feb. 13.

Tasmania

Hobart (Collins-st.).—During C. P. Hughes' vacation the platform has been occupied by Messrs. B. J. Golder, Golley, N. J. Warmbrunn, G. Foot and the conference president, F. J. Morgan, under whose preaching a lad (M. Atwell) made the good confession. Mid-week services have been addressed by G. Foot, R. Bullimore and H. English. On Feb. 9, at close of prayer meeting, R. Bullimore was farewelled by a representative gathering of church members prior to his leaving for College of the Bible at Glen Iris.

South Australia

Ungarra.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Feb. 6, when helpful addresses were given by C. B. Cartmel in morning and H. G. Norris in evening. Attendances were good. W. Gordon was speaker at morning meeting on Feb. 13. The sum of £10 was handed to Mr. Cartmel, before his departure, as a token of appreciation by the church of his services during his vacation.

Forestville.—A young woman confessed Christ at gospel meeting on Feb. 6, and was baptised on following Lord's day. Good attendances have been noted recently with respect to Young Worshipers' League. There was a large gathering of scholars and friends at annual picnic of Bible school, held at North Brighton on Feb. 5. Arrangements for sports events were in hands of Bible class.

Prospect.—Combined K.S.P. and P.B.P. entertained Mr. and Mrs. Brown. Mr. Brown conducted midweek service, and services on Feb. 13 were addressed by him. There were good attendances. Fellowship with A. Burns and K. Catheray, home on leave, was enjoyed. K.S.P. 2nd Degree held bi-monthly meeting and election of officers with good attendance. Bible school has commenced new scholar drive with good response.

Long Plains.—Frequent Sunday evening after-church sings have been enjoyed at the manse. Members of church sent 39 bags of grain to Protestant Children's Home. A boys' "Mus-sonic" club has been formed. Young people had tea at chapel on 13th, Howard Packer giving a talk on C.E. work. A visit from A. Anderson was appreciated. Long Plains and Avon held S.S. picnic at Parram Beach. Avon is commencing a young people's community night. Papers to be read at C.E. have been received from Merv. Jenkins and Murray Daniels, both of A.I.F. Reg. Tubly, R.A.A.F., was a recent visitor.

Aldgate Valley.—Kindergarten, under leadership of Miss J. Norris, held a Christmas tree party on Dec. 15. On Dec. 18 Miss Norris was married to Mr. George Davis, G. T. Fitzgerald officiating. A presentation was made on behalf of S.S. teachers in appreciation of her work as superintendent. Junior Endeavorers held a Christmas meeting on Dec. 19 in the form of a Christmas tree. Gifts of groceries, jam, etc., were brought and afterwards donated to Morialta Protestant Children's Home. Dorcas sisters made Christmas cakes (approximately 15), which were also sent to the home. The Mission to Lepers representative, S. E. Riches, gave two splendid addresses on Dec. 26, in evening with aid of lantern. An offering was taken for this work, and a donation was made on behalf of J.C.E. of 10/-. Juniors have also contributed to Chaplains' Fund, 15/-. and to Dhond Hospital, £2. Good attendance is maintained at worship services, and the messages of G. T. Fitzgerald are enjoyed. Cpl. Bill Moss has been home on leave and has since returned to his unit. The church has appreciated messages from L. Fitzgerald, W. G. Oram and J. P. Hoyle.

Victoria

Ascot Vale.—All auxiliaries commenced work for year. Sunday school picnic was held at the Zoo. Church sympathises with Mrs. Greenwood in the loss of her husband. Mrs. Stirling is still laid aside. Mr. Bensley has been engaged by the church for twelve months.

Port Fairy.—Besides visiting members T. V. Weir gave an inspiring message at evening service on Feb. 10. An exceptionally good number attended, many members from Warrnambool helping in song service. B. Feary, of Ballarat, presided at morning services on Feb. 6 and 13, his messages being very acceptable.

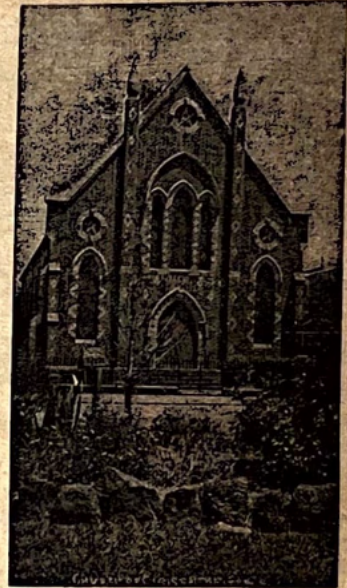
Shepparton.—L. Dudley, of Y.M.C.A., took morning service on Feb. 13 and Mr. Hargreaves preached at night. Visitors included Sister Simpson and H. Simpson, on leave from New Guinea, also Ron Lang, of Ormond, who sang a solo at after-church fellowship. The church has been saddened by the loss of Cliff Jones, R.A.A.F., accidentally killed in England.

Carnegie.—During recent absence of L. E. Snow in N.S.W., H. Miller, W. Clay, T. H. Scambler, H. Thompson and E. F. Ryall spoke helpfully. Mr. Snow addressed the church on Feb. 6. All have been saddened by news of

death on active service of Walter Manning; part of the service on Sunday, 13th, was conducted in his memory, there being 172 present.

Emerald.—On Feb. 16 W. Gale took both services, assisted by G. W. Barnett. In morning a large congregation listened to an inspiring address, and at close a special meeting of the official board was held to welcome Mr. Gale, who on behalf of the board presented a propelling pencil to Mr. Barnett as a 21st birthday present, and as an expression of appreciation of his temporary ministry during Mr. Alcorn's absence. At evening service chapel was packed almost to capacity for Mr. Gale's interesting lantern service.

North Fitzroy.—At Women's Mission Band meeting on Feb. 9, there was a satisfactory attendance and office-bearers were elected for year. During past year just on £40 was contributed for all purposes. R. Ennis addressed the church on Feb. 12 and preached at night. Offering for aborigines mission amounted to £9/18/2. The church is pleased to have H. Swain and family back after assisting the work at North Essendon for two months.



North Fitzroy Chapel.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—Meetings have been well attended during past few weeks. Mr. Graham's ministry is much appreciated. At conclusion of gospel address on Jan. 30, a senior scholar, Joan Coad, decided for Christ. Sunday school picnic was held at gardens on Jan. 31. Meetings on Feb. 13 were well attended. Mr. Pfeifer and A. Graham gave helpful addresses.

St. Arnaud.—On Jan. 9 Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jackel, of Horsham, were welcomed to services. Mr. Jackel addressed morning meeting, and E. Randall, of Stawell, was speaker at gospel service. On Feb. 8 a social evening was held to say farewell to C. Fletcher, prior to his entering the college. Members presented him with a monetary gift in appreciation of service rendered to church.

Drumcondra.—Recently two young ladies from Bible school were baptised. On Feb. 6 Bible school, with an attendance of 58, had largest gathering for five years; scholars made a donation of 30/- towards aborigines mission appeal. Church attendances are well maintained. Musical evening at home of Mrs. Meyers resulted in a donation of £7/2/- being sent from church to bush-fire relief appeal. Annual meeting was held on Feb. 8. The following were appointed: elder, A. McKay; deacons, D. McLure, D. Douglas, E. Barnett, H. Douglas, A. Cutchie, M. Hore, R. Tattersall; deaconesses, Sisters Haines, Hore, Meyers, Russell. Fellowship with many visitors has been enjoyed. On Feb. 13 Mr. Tattersall spoke at morning service.

Queensland

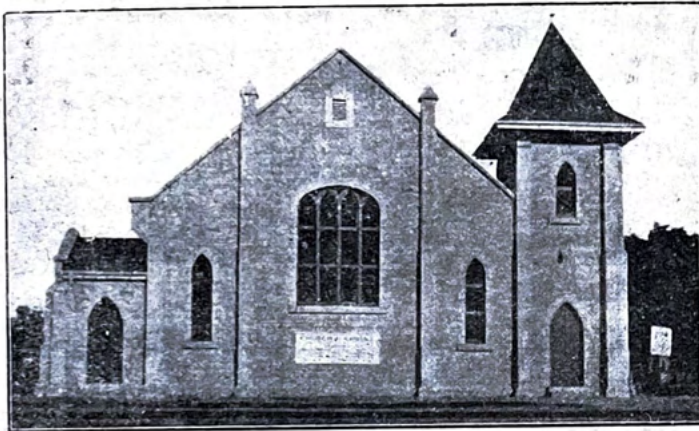
Ma Ma Creek.—Meeting well attended on Feb. 13. Visitors were welcomed. Revision of roll shows 57 active members and 16 on supplementary roll. Aboriginal offering, £13/5/-. Four men attended a working bee on Feb. 12 and cut away grass from around chapel.

Bundaberg.—Annual meeting was held on Feb. 10. Reports showed that all auxiliaries were working well. Officers elected for year are: Elders, J. Asmus, F. Presswood and A. B. Clark; deacons, W. Deoberitz, J. Wissman, V. Cedergreen, J. Petersen, W. Proudley and S. Jorgensen; secretary, S. Jorgensen; treasurer, W. Deoberitz; deaconesses, Mesdames G. Deoberitz, S. Deoberitz, M. Pohle and E. Roberts; Bible school superintendents, A. B. Clark (town school), V. Cedergreen (Thabeban), and Mrs. W. Proudley, kindergarten; organist, Miss Beryl Nielsen. Mrs. Linsdell resigned as kindergarten superintendent owing to her departure for Bingera. She had been superintendent since be-

celebrated at a social gathering on Jan. 25, at which many past and present members joined in felicitations concerning past blessings and good wishes for future. On Jan. 30 Mr. Burdeu, of Maylands, gave a helpful talk upon foundation principles of the church of Christ. Junior C.E. has made an offering of nearly £3 to work among aborigines. Mrs. Scholey is in Fremantle Hospital suffering from an injury to her back. Mr. and Mrs. R. Manning have removed to Kalamunda, thus severing very active participation in church life of Fremantle.

Christians and Reform

IS it permissible for Christians to make their contribution to social reform? The answer came clearly and firmly from the Archbishop of Canterbury at Tunbridge Wells: "It is not permissible, it is obligatory."



The Chapel at Bundaberg.

ginning of kindergarten many years ago, and had given loyal service. Church treasurer's report showed a good credit balance. Graham Owens, of Albion, home on leave from New Guinea, has been a visitor. Mrs. Howard Evans is ill in hospital. The health of aged Sister Laurisen is very poor. Many letters of appreciation have been received from church boys and girls on active service acknowledging receipt of canteen orders sent as a gift at Christmas time. Mrs. Clark, wife of the preacher, is away on a rest holiday with her mother, Mrs. Cole, of Mount Whitestone.

Toowoomba.—Attendances and offerings maintain a high average. There has been a weekly average of 121 during past month at Lord's table. During this time six have been added to church—one by faith and baptism, two by transfer, and three as baptised believers. Appreciation comment has been received by Mr. Boettcher from local and distant folk concerning his weekly and broadcast messages. At annual church business meeting the following were elected to board: A. G. Elliott, F. J. Winter, H. Bashford, T. Simpson, E. G. Risson, C. Gray, H. Lowe and K. Mitchell. Plans were formulated for a progressive work this year. Mr. Boettcher has been elected secretary and treasurer of Toowoomba Ministers' Fraternal, which includes all Protestant churches. Young People's Fellowship, recently formed, is adopting an aggressive policy for future work.

Western Australia

Fremantle.—A number of visitors have been enjoying fellowship with the church. F. Verco (R.A.A.F.) and Edgar Cooper (R.A.N.) have been home on leave. A happy event has been the marriage of Miss L. Vanstan (youngest daughter of F. Vanstan) to Ellis Peake. Another happy occasion was the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thomson, which was

"Voluntary giving," said the archbishop, "is the act of free choice of an outstanding character. How can we use our influence so that affairs dispose towards the gospel of Christ?" The end of the war would leave the victorious nations in the position of immense power. There would be great temptations to use that power, at least to some degree, selfishly. We shall be very tired and may not want to make more efforts, but shrink from further sacrifice. And we might be tempted, although trying to meet the more obvious needs of the world in the devastated areas, to exploit that situation for our own advantage. If we do, we shall lead human history on the way to another catastrophe. There is one way of safety, and there is no reason why we should not enter it—the way of love, which is to keep in mind what was conceived to be the purpose of God who made himself known to us in Christ. Let that be the guide of our political and personal conduct."—Selected.

BUSHFIRE RELIEF FUND

THE Victorian Social Service Committee advises that approximately £400 is in hand from churches of Christ in Victoria for distribution amongst sufferers from the effects of the disastrous bushfires which have occurred in many parts of the State.

The committee is desirous of obtaining information from churches with regard to losses by members of churches. Information of other specific cases of need caused by the fire would also be appreciated. The committee will, in the first instance, consider cases within the "household of faith."—Will H. Clay, secretary.

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.)

SACRED FILMS

I HAVE read with interest the writings concerning the use of sacred films for Sunday services, and I would like to support those who favor the idea. I know of a genuine case of conversion of a young man who, on seeing the picture of the Lord on the cross, a picture taken from that famous "King of Kings" film, decided to give his heart to God and live for him. Whilst I do not favor Christians patronising all the modern picture shows, it is true that God can sometimes use these means, as in this instance, for the extension of his kingdom; and with truly consecrated servants of God in control, who knows what good can be accomplished by the sacred film?—(Mrs.) E. G. Rose, Dimboola, Vic.

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING

IT seems to me that if some of the hints to religious broadcasters, referred to in your paper recently, are too slavishly followed, the effectiveness of these services will not be increased. Is it not more important for a minister to "speak the truth in love" than to worry about whether his words cut across the prejudices of someone who may be listening in? Did not Paul say, "If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"? Should a preacher of the gospel be like the victim of ancient English justice, condemned to tread a hesitating path, blindfolded and barefooted, among red-hot plowshares strewn about? Again, why should a man's words be only "colored" by his fundamental beliefs? Should not these beliefs be the root and core of his message?—W. G. Gordon, Ungarra, S.A.

ADDRESSES

V. G. Boettcher (preacher Toowoomba church, Qld.)—"Lyntor," 113 Ruthven-st., Toowoomba. 'Phone 1436.

Albert E. Brown (preacher Prospect church, S.A.)—Church of Christ, Prospect-rd., Prospect, or 5 Rochester-ave., Reade Park, S.A. 'Phone, U6584.

F. Cornelius, 12 Samson-ave., Cottonville, S.A.

S. Jenner (preacher of Wagga church)—89 Fox-st., Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

H. Peeler (secretary of Castlemaine church).—46 Berkeley-st., Castlemaine, Vic.

F. J. Winter (secretary Toowoomba church, Qld.)—208 Long-st., Toowoomba. 'Phone 511.

D. L. Woolf (preacher Motueka church).—C/o A. H. Brown, Courtenay-st., Motueka, N.Z.

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THANKS

So many conference committees, churches, women's mission bands and societies, as well as other Christian friends, have sent messages of loving sympathy to us that it will be impossible to send to all the letters of grateful acknowledgment which we should desire. We thank them all, and wish to express our great appreciation of their Christian sympathy, affectionate remembrance, beautiful tributes and assurances of prayer. We wish publicly to acknowledge the very great kindness of Dr. A. C. Crisp, which will never be forgotten. The Lord called our loved one in her sleep, and with her all is well. We, too, strengthened by the prayers of our many friends, confide in his love and trust his promises.—A. R. Main, Douglas and Lillian Main, 41 Donaldson-st., Port Kembla, N.S.W.

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IN MEMORIAM

BOETTCHER.—In loving remembrance of our dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Johanna Boettcher, who fell asleep in Jesus, Feb. 27, 1943.

"She is safe in her Father's house above,
In the place prepared by her Saviour's love:
To depart from a world of sin and strife,
And to be with Jesus—yes, this is LIFE."
—Inserted by her loving son, daughter-in-law and grandsons, Mr. and Mrs. V. G. Boettcher, Ken, Vivian and Noel.

BURNS.—In sweet remembrance of the one so dearly beloved, our dear mother (Frances Marian), who was called home Feb. 13, 1941.

We bless the years we called her ours,
And leave the rest to God.
—Inserted by her loving family—Dave, Blanche and Jim.

CHEEK.—In loving memory of Stephen Cheek, who died of typhoid fever at Warwick, Qld., on Feb. 17, 1883, aged 31. "With Christ, which is far better."
—Inserted by one of his converts.

SHARPE.—In loving memory of William Augustus Sharpe, of 18 Medway-st., Box Hill, who was called home on Feb. 17, 1940.

Over the river faces I see,
Loved ones in glory are watching for me.
—Inserted by H. Sharpe and family.

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The Australian Christian

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 25.—Bentleigh Bible school anniversary services, 3 p.m. Speaker, L. E. Brooker; evening, 7 p.m., J. Anderson. Mar. 5, 3 p.m., J. Anderson; and 7 p.m., W. R. Hibbert. Bright singing.

MARCH 3.—Swanston-st., 2 p.m., Victorian Women's Conference Executive will meet. Leader of devotions, Mrs. Reg. Clark. Speaker, Mr. L. H. Hollins, M.L.A.

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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. Ladbroke.

Sunday, March 5. Speakers, Mr. A. W. Ladbroke 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

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

Chairman: The Archbishop of Melbourne.

Speakers:

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Soloists—Miss Mary Miller and Mr. Cecil Atkinson.

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Ancient China Speaks To-day

China is destined to be a great power in coming days. The moral teachings of her scholars have been appreciated in the past, but to-day she is in need of the teachings of Christ.

THE two most essential things for man living upon this earth are food and clothes. Let us consider, therefore, whence both food and clothes come. Suppose people ceased to cultivate the fields, there would be no grain, and how could men then get food? If people refused to raise cotton, there would be no cloth, and consequently people would be unable to clothe themselves. If, on the contrary, men cultivate all over the empire every kind of grain, everyone as much as he requires for his food, there will be no more starvelings. If all the women, all over the empire, spin cotton, as much as they need for their clothing, nobody will suffer any longer from cold. Therefore, in times of old, the emperors thought that agriculture and weaving deserved their greatest care. At each spring-time the emperor personally ploughed the ground. The empress herself reared silkworms. Now, if the emperor and the empress fear not to take trouble and to work personally to give their people an example that they may follow, how dare you, a peasant, refuse to exert your strength? If you do nothing but play the idler, where will you find your food and clothes? If you wish to have food and clothes, you must plough at springtime, hoe during the summer, and reap at autumn. It is only after you have toiled half a year, sweating blood and water, that you shall be entitled to your bowl of food and clothes. If you are not afraid to bear pain and exert your strength, the crops of your land will become more beautiful; from year to year your grain baskets will increase in number, and your store-boxes for the silk threads will be filled. You will have more than you need, both in food and clothing.

Given that you are not lazy, you will always find sufficient to live on. Above all things, when you see people getting money from business, avoid envying their lot. Don't become disgusted with your field work and seek to go into business. Are you not aware that in olden times traders were generally little thought of, and that the emperors taxed them purposely to prevent their becoming too numerous?—Translation from The Sacred Edict.

NEW HEBRIDES NEWS

LETTERS continue to arrive irregularly from the Islands, but in time they do come. The usual Christmas services were well attended on Aoba, estimated to be over 300 people. R. Saunders, describing a baptismal service on the beach, says: "Not as many as last year because of the backsliding into the sins of witchcraft, covetousness from gambling and immorality, yet it was a scene to make the heart leap for joy to see the hundreds of the redeemed." The Ndul Ndul teacher, Abel Barney, baptised four young men and one woman, and the people not only rejoiced, but were greatly moved at the stirring messages from the elders of the church. It is felt that much good has been achieved this year in these united services.

Death of Faithful Teacher

Another of our faithful teachers passed away, largely it is feared as a result of ignorance and superstition. It will be recalled that David Bullcasso, leading teacher on Pentecost, was badly



The Blind Leading the Blind.

The teaching of Confucius, Taoism, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism have sought to show China the way. Madam Chiang Kai-Shek says: "I see a vision of a Chinese Christian church which can really help China and enrich Christianity."

mauled and cut about with broken glass bottles when lying ill and weak, in the hope, according to a superstitious bush woman, the evil might be drained out of him. As a result, his life was drained out. This time the victim was Alex Quarney, "a man much respected and loved for his gentle qualities." Alex was brought down to the mission dangerously ill with pneumonia. He was responding well under sulfa drugs, when Mr. Finger fell sick with malaria, and could not

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.

keep as close a watch as heretofore. An ignorant native, jealous of his skill as a healer, had the sick man carried away and proceeded with his treatment, which was mainly pounding the sick man's stomach and pulling his legs unmercifully. The weakened system could not stand the strain, and by morning his soul had passed on. To save his face, the wretched pseudo-healer told the villagers that it was the medicines the missionaries had given Alex that had "killed him dead finish." Alex was a man full of promise and of great assistance, not only as a handy man, having assisted Mr. Hammer to erect the bungalow at Ndul Ndul, but as a teacher. His widow and children should be remembered in prayer.

Progress

H. Finger reports general progress and increasing demands made upon time and energies. It has been difficult to keep the launch in first-class working order, and lack of good anchorage makes hauling a difficult business with a heavy craft.

THRIFT

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Visits have been made to Pentecost and Maewo. There are now nineteen churches on Pentecost and four on Maewo, and a total of approximately 600 Christians. Much rough country has to be covered to reach the outlying villages on Pentecost, but regular visitation has been maintained.

Sickness

There has been a good deal of sickness, and missionaries have been kept busy. Both our Australian men have had attacks of malaria, but reported being at their tasks again.

Missionary Booklets

"MISSION FIELDS OF THE WORLD."

Mrs. W. F. Nankivell.

This booklet tells of the peoples, characteristics, religious practices and work of Christian missions in the chief mission fields of the world. Profusely illustrated, 6d.; posted, 7½d.

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A. Anderson, Federal Secretary, 261 Magill Rd., Tranmere, S.A.

Obituary

Alexander Brown

ON Sunday evening, January 30, at Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., Alexander Brown fell asleep in Jesus. Although he had attained the age of 80 years Mr. Brown maintained good health until the end. Being baptised 37 years ago by the late P. A. Dickson, he entered enthusiastically into church work at Petersham during the ministry of A. E. Illingworth. He occupied a position on the diaconate and was the Bible school superintendent and youth leader for a few years. Our late brother served the church at Lidcombe, then known as Rookwood, as week-end preacher for 18 months. He was also a member of the N.S.W. Home Missionary Committee. When the committee 33 years ago contemplated relinquishing its assistance of the work at Wagga, Mr. Brown offered to take up the work under the supervision of the committee. His offer was accepted, and for six years he labored as the pastor of the church. It was due to his initiative that land was purchased and a chapel erected some 30 years ago in Wagga. The writer conducted a service in the chapel and later at the graveside, being assisted there by a grandson of the deceased, Glen Brown, of the Bible College. We commit the aged widow and all the sorrowing relatives to the loving Father who "knows all about our sorrows."—S. Jenner.

Walter Manning

AS a result of air operations over Europe on Nov. 18, Sgt. Walter Manning, of Carnegie church, Vic., lost his life. He was in his twenty-third year, and had spent all of his life connected with Carnegie church. Beginning in the kindergarten, after being carried to church as a baby, he went right through the Sunday school, and at the outbreak of war was treasurer of the Sunday school. He was connected with the boys' club and sporting activities of the church right up to the time of his enlistment. He was baptised by J. E. Shipway in 1932, and became a dependable and active worker in the church, taking his place regularly on the plan. He was friendly in disposition, and had a very fine character. His whole manner of life was exemplary. A very large number of friends and relatives gathered in Carnegie chapel on Sunday, Feb. 13, to pay respects to his memory. The church extends loving sympathy to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Manning, his brother Graeme, and sister Margaret.—L.E.S.

Mrs. T. G. Mason

MANY hearts have been made heavy with the home call of Mrs. T. G. Mason. She reached the age of 74 years, and lived a busy and useful life in a partnership of 53 years with her husband. Her husband's own testimony is that she was his mate all through his work among the various churches with which he labored. Many years ago they helped in the building up of the work at Ann-st., Brisbane, and more recently at Maryborough, Qld., where they labored for approximately five years. Nanango was their last place of labor. The sympathy of her friends and the brethren is extended to her husband and loved ones.—V. S. Dallinger.

Mrs. Georgina Way

AFTER an illness of more than four years, Mrs. Georgina Way, of the church at Swanton-st., Melbourne, passed peacefully to be with Christ on Jan. 26, at the age of 72 years. Our sister, who was formerly Mrs. Hayward, was baptised by A. C. Rankine in the Norwood church, S.A. She later went with her family to Grote-st., Adelaide, where she was highly esteemed in the service of Christ. When the church at Mile End was formed she became, with her husband, a foundation member. The family later removed to Melbourne, where nearly 40 years ago they attended Swanton-st. Our sister became active in the work of the Sisters' Conference and served faithfully as treasurer and later as president. She was interested in every good

work. Her husband and her son, Harold, both passed away some years since. She attended the first World Conference of Churches of Christ in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., in 1930. Later she married W. J. Way, one of our esteemed preachers, and God gave them some happy years together. Since the death of her husband our sister has not enjoyed over good health and the home-call came as a happy release to one who had lived courageously in spite of weakness of body. She was buried at Brighton Cemetery, January 27. Jas. E. Thomas, a friend of nearly 40 years, conducted the service assisted by C. B. Nance-Kivell. To her son Reg, of Sydney, and her married daughters, Dorothy and Gladys, we offer loving sympathy. They have the memory of a very faithful life of service, and this will inspire them to the same loving service for our Lord.—J.E.T.

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asked what was wanted. "Find Livingstone,"
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FIND MY WORLD, AND BRING IT BACK."
And the church has the power to do it.—S. D.
Gordon.

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