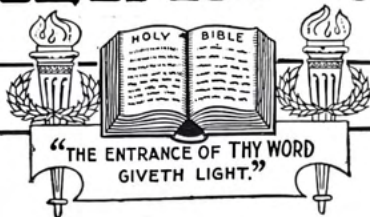


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Speak Where the Bible Speaks

MANY facts of the gospel are explained by the scriptures. If the meaning we give to the divine events set out in the Bible cannot be found in the word of God, then we enter the field of human opinion and theory. Such opinions may be interesting, but must not be made binding on believers nor must they be permitted to cause divisions amongst Christians. Providing a private view of a gospel fact does not deny the truth of the Bible, then it is not harmful. However such an opinion may become dangerous if it is taught as a Bible truth or set up on the same plane as scriptural doctrine. To express their view on this problem, the leaders of the Restoration Movement used to say, "Where the Bible is silent, we are silent."

IF God considered it unnecessary to explain, in the revelation of scripture, why he ordered men to do this or that, or why he chose to act in a certain way, it is foolish for us to waste time speculating about such ideas. Since we cannot understand them, it would be better that we wait until God makes a fuller revelation to us. At present we see as in a mirror dimly; but the time will come when we shall see face to face, and come to understand what has been hidden from us.

We do not want anyone to misunderstand us. There are many facts in the divine plan that have been interpreted for us by scripture. It is not then a case of accepting on the one hand the facts of the gospel and on the other of holding any kind of interpretation of them we may like. Not only is a fact of the gospel binding on us, but so is the scriptural interpretation of it. When we seek an interpretation of the fact, we must go to the Bible for it. If no information is given we need not worry. However when the scripture reveals that a fact has meaning for us, we must hold to such a meaning in preference to any private

opinion. That rule was expressed often by those pioneers of the faith who used to say, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak."

NOT only does the New Testament present us with the fact of the cross, it also tells us what the cross means to a world stricken in sin and in death. If we want to understand the cross and the meaning of the death of Jesus, we must try to find out what the scriptures reveal and not go beyond those statements of the Bible. We must not shut our eyes to that source of divine information, and we must not go beyond what it presents, lest we fall into foolish speculations about the cross. We must speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.

Under this rule there is no suggestion that we may believe what we like about the death of Jesus so long as we believe he died. Some say Jesus died as a martyr and that is all there is to the matter. Others say his death was a mere expression of God's love. Many perceive

a deeper meaning in the cross, and see it related to man's salvation from sin. Now the only way to settle that question, and similar problems, is to make an appeal to God's word. Any expression of the interpretation of the fact of the cross must then take into consideration those passages of scripture that speak of the cross and what it means in relation to the events of this life and to the future. We are not left free to believe what we like about the death of Christ, but we must face up to the teaching of scripture concerning that fact.

WHEN we take the passages of scripture relating to the cross and study them, we may find that there are minor shades of meaning about words and phrases to be considered. However, any good commentary of the Bible will give a clear understanding what world Christian scholarship has to say about such words.

When Jesus said, "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many," he presented an interpretation of his death and told what it meant. Commentators differ slightly in their ways of expressing that truth, but accept the main idea. Dr. E. H. Plumptre said, "It implied that our Lord's death was, in some way, representative and vicarious." Dr. Maclear, in the Cambridge Greek New Testament, wrote, in giving his meaning of the Greek word, *Lutron*, "The ransom or price paid for the redemption of a captive from slavery." He then links the verse with Paul's statement in Romans 3: 23, "All have sinned, all come short of the glory of God, but they are justified for nothing by his grace through the ransom provided in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as the means of propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Moffatt). Dr. H. Cremer, in his *Biblico-Theological Lexicon of New Testament Greek*, says, "The ransom price (*Lutron*)

(Please turn to page 575)



Understanding Needed

Guiding rules on how to help Service men and women return into the fellowship of the church are given by Esther M. Messent in this final article of her series.



CAN we in our churches help our girls to retain the charmingly frank and honest attitude they have learnt to adopt with the men of the Services? Some of them are coming back from areas where they have been a much appreciated scarcity, where men outnumber women by more than ten to one. In almost all units, they have learnt to work and play with men with a frank and charming comradeship which has made the world a sweeter and saner place. They will need a continuance of this clean and wholesome attitude towards the other sex in their civilian life, otherwise they will feel a great sense of frustration, especially those who do not marry soon. Can the church help them to this companionship, both in its social gatherings and in its homes?

These girls have come to have a very unself-conscious and unsex-conscious attitude towards men, because of the life they have shared together; but if they are made to feel self-conscious about men because of innuendoes and ill-bred remarks, something very sweet and wholesome will have gone out of life. Let us be careful of this—I have seen and heard it so often in church gatherings if two young people like being together. A wholesome friendship between men and women is a priceless boon to them both. If later they marry each other, they have a splendid foundation on which to build; if they marry someone else, they will be all the better for that earlier friendship, and the duet may well become a quartette; if they never marry, life will have been enriched for them both by the comradeship of the other sex; but a silly giggle at their expense, or some injudicious teasing, and a lovely and intangible relationship is spoiled. Shall we remember that Christ had women friends?

Our girls have been Service women in times of war. Can we help them to be service women in times of peace? Is not this the star a-gleam for them? We can use them or we can lose them. The choice is ours.

And now to sum up—

1. We must have unlimited understanding. Think what this word means—standing under—and it gains a new significance. We must be objective in our approach to our Service people and their problems (we must try to think their thoughts rather than our own). Even men who were at the last war will have to realise that 25 years of tragic history have passed between their experience and that of the men of to-day. Let us try to understand the problems of our Service people—the feelings of frustration, the longing for the old companionships, the comparative monotony of civilian life, the practical difficulties which will confront many of them, and which can never fully be solved by government agency. There must be a persistent friendship, which will not let go at the first rebuff or disappointment. We shall have to be good listeners really interested, really understanding.

2. We must be tolerant. "Judge not that ye be not judged." Hit hard at sin wherever it is found, but be tolerant with those people who, through being suddenly thrown into new life and new ways, have for a while lost their perspective.

3. Be ready to offer fellowship. We can do it in our own homes for those who do not come to the church, provided we are willing to do it simply, and perhaps to co-operate with

others. Can't we use our homes and gardens much more than in the past for the sake of our church and its Leader? Let us have fellowship with our Service people in their social problems; help them during periods of unemployment; stand by when the children are too much for frayed nerves, as may be the case with ex-prisoners of war; be ready to companion the lonely woman.

4. Be sincere. Out of these war years there has come a hatred of hypocrisy. We shall be expected to be utterly sincere in both our church and our private life. The church must take its part in the fight for a higher moral and social standard of living. Our voice should be heard in all matters pertaining to the future of the homes and children of this land. We should say to Service people, Come in and do this with us. We need your help. Our standards must never be lowered, nor must we ever apologise for keeping them high.

5. Give them responsibility as soon as they are willing to settle down to church life again. They have earned the right to help to run the church. There is, I believe, a heightened sense of religion abroad among the Forces. Surely if we can convince them of our sincerity and our need of their experience, there should be a great flood-time ahead for our churches.

6. Be patriotic. These men and women have been willing to die for their country. Let us not belittle it, nor the Commonwealth of Nations of which it is a part. Patriotism in its best form is "love of one's country for what it can give, not for what it can get." The real patriot sees his own loved country always in relation to the well-being of other nations. True love is never exclusive. "This is our own, our native land"; let us serve it with these people who have suffered for it. "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." In all sincerity, let us be true citizens of this Commonwealth in the difficult years ahead.

And so I believe the star a-gleam to guide us all is the star of service. Together we must work for the future of our church and our nation. Together we must stretch out hands of kindness to the peoples of the world. Service men and women must be service people, too, in the days to come, and we must serve with them in the forces of the King of kings.

One last word—for it all comes down finally to the individual. The best way of helping them in their rehabilitation problems is to live the simple, earnest life of the sincere follower of Christ, and one day it may be said of us:—

"Not merely in the words you say;
Not only in your deeds confessed;
But in the most unconscious way
Is Christ expressed.
Is it a wise and tender smile?
A holy light upon your brow?
Oh, no! I felt his presence when
You laughed just now.
For me 'twas not the truth you taught,
To you so clear, to me so dim:
But when you came to me, you brought
A sense of him.
And from your eyes he beckons me,
And from your heart his love is shed;
Till I lose sight of you—and see
The Christ instead."

"H. A. & M."

*A Hymn for December—No. 53
(Dec. 2), by F. J. Funston.*

THE great hymnbook of the Church of England, "Hymns Ancient and Modern," brought together the resources of a number of existing books with High Church tendencies. From small beginnings in 1857, interested friends assisted to form a large committee in 1859 with Henry Williams Baker in the chair. After a small temporary book—the first "Hymns Ancient and Modern"—the real publication appeared in 1861; nearly half its hymns were translations from the Latin and about a quarter were by living authors. The energetic Baker contributed nine translations and thirteen original hymns. Revisions appeared right up to 1916, by which time 60 million copies had been sold. Baker's modest valuation of his own work is suggested by the fact that the editors of the 1916 edition—almost forty years after his death—used 37 of his hymns.

Son of an admiral, Baker trained for the Anglican ministry, became a Cambridge M.A., and in 1851 not only became vicar of Monkland, Herefordshire, but also succeeded to his father's baronetcy. As Rev. Sir H. W. Baker he remained at Monkland until his death 26 years later. His last audible words—from his own best-known hymn—were an index of the tender and humble trust in which he had lived:—

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.

He had been an arduous worker and so skilled and firm an editor of "H.A. and M." that one aggrieved contributor whose hymn had been revised is reported to have asked whether the well-known initials stood for "Hymns Asked for and Mutilated"! Himself the composer of a number of tunes—including "Stephanos," so often used for "Art thou weary?"—it is natural that Baker's hymns were musical in thought and style and smooth in rhythm.

No. 53 (one of Sir Henry's six contributions to our book) is based on Milton's version of the 136th psalm, "Let us with a gladness mind." It seems strange that one critic, after mentioning its source in the psalms, should go on to express his wish that it had "a little more of Christ in its phraseology." Perhaps a more reasonable comment on this stirring version would relate to the addition of the trinitarian doxology which departs from the original, breaks up the balanced structure preserved through six stanzas and, as in so many other hymns from Anglican sources, seems a forced and artificial addition.

THE GREAT SATISFACTION

A CHIEF of an Indian tribe of the far North that had never heard the gospel, thus responded to its first presentation: "Missionary, I have long lost faith in our old paganism.

I made up my mind years ago that this Great Spirit, so kind and so watchful and so loving, did not care for the beating of the conjurer's drum, or the shaking of the rattle of the medicine man. So I for years have had no religion. Missionary, what you have said to-day fills up my heart and satisfies all its longings. It is just what I have been expecting to hear about the Great Spirit. Stay as long as you can, and when you have to go away, do not forget us, but come again as soon as you can."

The Australian Christian

One Night at a Mission

G. S. Brown, the newly appointed preacher of Grafton, N.S.W., writes of an interesting experience in the church's life.

To write of all that has happened during the mission would take up too much space. I confine myself, therefore, to the happenings of just one night.

There were not many less promising fields in N.S.W. than Grafton. Now, however, the members are really revived and heartily enthusiastic in the work of the Lord.

The night that I have chosen about which to write is Monday, the first night of the Jacaranda Festival. Although good meetings had been the order, because of the fact that this season of festivities is regarded as "the week of the year" for Grafton, we were, to say the least, apprehensive. Then with the advent of so many side-shows, circuses, and midget cars with their concomitant amplification devices, it was feared that meetings would be impossible. Now the week is nearly over, and already over twenty people have decided for Christ in meetings that have been the largest of the mission.

May I tabulate a few things in which we see plainly the hand of our Master?

1. On Monday morning the missionary suggested a list of those who had been regularly attending at the mission. It was decided that we should pray very definitely, for each of those on the list, that they make their confession of Christ before the close of the campaign. This morning, as I look back on the week, I see that without exception every one of those people has surrendered to the Lord, and has followed him through the waters of baptism.

2. The showman opposite, rather than hinder our work, offered to decrease the volume of sound from the loud speaker between the hours of 7.45 and 9 p.m. to a minimum. He was in fact sufficiently sympathetic to offer to use his microphone as a medium of advertisement for the meetings. There is an unusually happy spirit of co-operation. In return the missionary announced to his audience, "If you must spend your money this week, spend it on the dodgems across the road." After the service many took his advice.

3. Many members had not missed one meeting during the preceding five weeks, and one would think that they would like at least one free night, for the enjoyment of the festivities and the Duke's visit. On Monday night this question was discussed, but not one favored the abandonment of a service, and all enthusiastically demanded that each be held.

4. Bearing in mind the variety of attractions elsewhere in the city, it was a wonderful and most unusual sight to see whole rows of boys in the front, between the ages of 11 and 13, watching the missionary's every movement and listening with expressions of rapt attention to every word of the address. We don't know of any of our young people who failed to attend, and there were numbers of others present not members.

5. In the early weeks of a tent mission people feel strange and are easily distracted. On Monday night the spectacle of a dog giving chase to a rabbit across the tent may have been witnessed. The audience scarcely noticed it—most were completely unaware of such an happening.

6. The greatest joy of this night was to see three people take their stand for Christ. (There were also three decisions on Tuesday night and six on Wednesday.) Of the three on

Monday the first was a man, loved and respected by all. We longed to have his assistance in the church, and as he took his stand for the Lord he said, "I must do all in my power to make up for lost time."

The second was a good woman who, prior to and during the early days of the mission, felt no need of a Saviour. She was one of the finest women one could meet as far as the world is concerned, but she had no interest in God or in the church. She will be a gem for the Lord in his church. She says now that she realises that there are sinners and sinners. Some are guilty of the sins of commission—hers were the sins of omission. Her joy in the Lord, to-day, is a delight to behold.

Two nights later her brother also came to accept the Lord as his Saviour and was baptised the same night.

The third was a woman, well known in the

town and prominent in public functions. She is actively associated with the committee of the Jacaranda Festival. For weeks she attended at regular intervals, continually striving to evade the question of accepting Christ and obeying his commandments.

Here is her story as she told it to me: "I was most discontented on Monday night, and left home, in order to go somewhere away from the mission. I decided to attend a show, and accordingly set out to do so. When I got to the door, I felt that I just could not go in, and later found myself at the tent, but I was determined not to stay until the invitation. In fact, I actually told Mr. Morris that I would be leaving early, and sat in the back seat. I could not leave when the end of the address was approaching, and when the invitation was given I felt an irresistible power drawing me to the front in order to accept Jesus. I now feel a strange contentment because of that step, but pray for me, for I shall have a great deal of opposition."

And so it goes on, but the half has never been told—nor can be. As a young preacher, I can say that a mission with brother E. C. Hinrichsen is not only like a college course, as one man said, but it is, to my mind, the most inspiring and faith-building experience possible.

W.A. Plans for Jubilee

After seven years of valued help, our correspondent, R. Raymond, has asked to be relieved. In this concluding letter he reviews activities in his State.

OUR conference executive and Home Mission Department is thinking and planning with a view to a fitting celebration of our conference jubilee in 1948. The recently held half-yearly conference adopted a plan of campaign which, if brought to a successful issue, will mark very great progress in this State. The plan is mainly the concern of the H.M. Department, and includes in its objectives a more aggressive evangelism, both collective and individual; at least two more churches provided with church buildings, and a 200 increase in attendance at the Lord's Table. The plan of campaign includes a three months' teaching campaign; the full use of the mission tent with the services of a special evangelist from the eastern States. Every church is to be urged to hold an evangelistic campaign. Everything possible will be done to create a more energetic follow-up of radio evangelism. The plan calls for the ordination of elders and the exercise of a greater pastoral care. Places have been named wherein new buildings may be erected, and subject to the securing of suitable men for the work new fields in rural districts will be entered. Our jubilee year will conclude with the 1948 conference. In that year four of our churches will also celebrate their jubilee. It would be a great lift for W.A. churches if the 1948 Federal Conference could be held in W.A.

Visitors

Distinguished visitors to W.A. have included the General of the Salvation Army, who spent a few busy days here and made some notable utterances. Mr. Jarvis, of the Central Baptist Church, Sydney, conducted an all too brief evangelistic campaign in Fremantle and Perth. Meetings were well attended, and were held in city churches. The gifted preacher made some clear statements concerning the necessity of a public confession of Christ as the Son of God, and left no doubt in the minds of his hearers that he believed the only baptism of the Bible was the immersion of the penitent believer.

Mr. and Mrs. Escott and Edgar, with Miss Cameron, also had a couple of days in W.A. A very hurriedly arranged rally at Subiaco welcomed them home, and we were delighted with splendid messages from all three missionaries.

Personal

W.A. is about to say farewell to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiltshire. Mr. Wiltshire has filled many offices in the work of the brotherhood here, and will be greatly missed. The Federal Aborigines Board will lose its secretary. It is with a great sense of real loss that the board parts with Mr. Wiltshire. He has been tireless in his service to the cause of native missions in W.A., having filled the office of chairman and secretary of both our Federal mission and the U.A.M. The board has made a record of its appreciation of his services. Mr. A. M. Bell will probably succeed Mr. Wiltshire as secretary. Mr. Bell has had years of experience as secretary of both our conference executive and the State F.M. Committee. I am sure no better choice could be made in W.A.

Principal C. Urquhart, of Perth Bible Institute, died suddenly a few days ago. He was returning from a service, and collapsed on a suburban station. He was sixty years of age. The late Mr. Urquhart was well known amongst our people, and for years had a place on the preaching plan of several of our churches. He was an ordained Baptist minister. He wrote several booklets and tracts which have proved of great value as an answer to some of the popular heresies of to-day.

For seven years it has been my great pleasure to write this monthly news-letter concerning the doings of the West. This one is my last. At my suggestion the editor has kindly relieved me of further responsibility in this matter. My church here has granted me three months' leave, and I expect to spend most of the time away from the West.

HAPPINESS

WOULD you be happy, be the thing you seem,
And sure you now possess the world's esteem;
Nor yet to others too much credit give,
But in your own opinions learn to live:
For know—the bliss in your own judgment lies,
And none are happy but the good and wise.

—Horace.

Roses in the Desert



Prayer.—Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver us now from the vain things which have power over us, and enable us to rest our souls in thee and yield ourselves to the guiding of thy loving Spirit. Make us ready to offer thee the joy that is thy gift, and worship thee with glad and thankful hearts. In the light of thy perfection help us to see our shortcomings and be sorry for our faults; and grant, we beseech thee, that, strengthened by our worship together, we may serve thee and our fellowmen more faithfully in our daily lives, and come at last to thine eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. (Source unknown.)

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymn Book, No. 21.

Scripture Reading.—Isaiah 35.

Prayers.—Praise and thanksgiving; overseas and home missions; work and witness of local church; national and world leaders.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymn Book, No. 490.

Meditation.

"LIKE A ROSE BREAKING INTO BLOOM"

IN the reading chosen for our meditation Isaiah depicts a vivid scene which was to be enacted in the desert as the redeemed of the Lord return home from captivity by that solitary way. Everything desirable shall be found in this way of holiness; all that could be wished for shall be provided; all that limits appreciation of life is to be removed; the travellers will find abundant supplies for all needs. They shall not want for sight, hearing, health, streams of fresh water, nor for a made road. But best of all, as Rotherham and Fenton translate verse 8: "He himself shall be one of them travelling the road," "He himself shall lead them," or again, "Your vanguard is Jehovah and your rearguard the God of Israel."

It does not seem surprising, then, that as the ransomed return with singing and so much blessing, the desert shall blossom as the rose, even blossom abundantly. Though students and commentators have taken from us the idea of this being the flower we know as a rose by telling us that it is meadow saffron, or crocus, and have thus removed something perhaps of the poetic charm of the Authorised Version's "rose," they have, nevertheless, not removed the idea of beauty appearing where it was not previously found. We are presented with the picture of the yellow desert sand becoming yellow or golden flowers—a glowing blaze of beauty instead of gritty sand blistering under a scorching sun. That which would be uninviting, tormenting and dangerous is to become transformed into that which, appealing by its beauty, delights the beholder—the beauty of blossoms in the desert.

Now this thought of a life made beautiful as a flower breaking into blossom is a summing up of the meditations of recent months. As we have considered purity, strength, gladness, uprightness, uplifted thoughts and noble actions, they should not have appealed to us as a list of isolated ideas, each one standing alone; but rather as an accumulation of ideals which should and would make a complete whole. All these graces of character added together would make life a wonderful thing for the individual and a benediction to our associates. Such radiance and glory could not be confined, but must inevitably cast its fragrance abroad, even as does the rose. Yet even as we thought of these virtues, and felt the growing challenge presented by them, we

realised that there is no short cut to their attainment. Only by growth, by development through patient cultivation of character, do we come to the place where the prayer of this devotional poem is answered.

God, who touchest earth with beauty,
Make me lovely too.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymn Book, No. 495.

Business.—

Minutes.

Correspondence.

Home and Overseas Mission Notes.

Address.—"Australia's Future Relations with the Oriental Races."

Discussion.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymn Book, No. 362.

Prayer.

Benediction.—Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT, MRS. A. C. GREEN

I wish that this Christmas will be a time of real peace and refreshing? To some will come the joy of family reunions after long separation; to us all peace of heart is possible because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. As we think again of the Babe of Bethlehem, may it be ours to appreciate—

This sacred theme has boundless charms,
It fills, it captivates, it warms.

EXECUTIVE NOTES

Victoria.—In preparation for home mission offering, Mrs. Mann, of Home Mission Committee of Women's Conference, led devotional session, and Mr. Gale, home mission secretary of general conference, spoke to delegates of the work, plans and ideals of the committee. A welcome was extended to Mrs. Elliott, of W.A. Miss Ball, of Camberwell, who has been appointed to Norseman mission, gave a short message. The president, Mrs. Cleland, gave a brief report of visits paid to various country centres where she contacted many of our women.

Tasmania.—Monthly meeting of Women's Conference executive was held in Collins-st. chapel on Nov. 6. In absence of president, Mrs. Hughes, vice-president Mrs. Coles presided, and led devotional session. It was decided to invite Mr. Ferisken, of City Mission, to be speaker at next meeting, and all are asked to bring gifts of groceries for City Mission Christmas cheer. On Oct. 31 "United Day of Fellowship" was held in Collins-st. chapel. Addresses were given at morning session by Miss Perkins, a former missionary, and Mr. Austin, South Hobart Baptist Church. Mrs. Tease and Mrs. H. Cooper were soloists. Sister Jessie, of City Mission, and Mr. Ralph, of Congregational Church, were speakers at afternoon session. Mrs. L. Moore and Mrs. Hill were soloists. Greetings were received from Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Foot (on behalf of Northern women's executive), and from Dover church. There were representatives of local churches

present. Lunch and afternoon tea were served, and a happy day of fellowship was enjoyed.

South Australia.—Monthly meeting of auxiliary was held at Grote-st on Thursday, Nov. 1. Owing to tramway strike only 34 were present. Mrs. Cornelius, president, welcomed Mrs. Hughes, president of Tasmanian Women's Conference, who brought a greeting from conference of the island State. Mrs. Cornelius led devotional session. A letter was received from Mr. Taylor, stating that conference executive would respect auxiliary's request for an adequate number of women to be on department of conference charged with responsibility of rest home. General conference also endorsed resolutions concerning liquor traffic which were passed by the auxiliary. Sympathy was expressed to Mrs. C. Verco, whose mother was suddenly called home during month. Mrs. Downes was appointed to represent auxiliary at a meeting on Nov. 20, in connection with recently formed Women's International Organisation. Mrs. C. Verco, home mission superintendent, reported nine decisions at Pt. Pirie mission. Nailsworth mission was having good attendances. A mission would be held at Col. Light Gardens in middle of November. Mr. C. Schwab attended annual Ladies' Guild meeting at Naracorte.

Western Australia.—On Oct. 2 monthly meeting of Women's Auxiliary Conference was held in Lake-st. hall at 2 p.m. Mrs. K. Robinson led devotional session. Mrs. Nightingale presided over business session; 57 answered roll-call. An invitation to send a representative to opening of rest rooms for women in Central-ave. was received from acting town clerk. Mrs. Smillie was appointed to represent conference. Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Pollard were asked to attend Baptist Women's Union annual meeting and to convey greetings of women's conference. Financial statement showed balance of £394/3/7. At half-yearly conference on Oct. 6, the nine superintendents of departments spoke regarding their work. General conference was impressed by the amount of work done by the women's conference. Feb. 24, 1946, has been fixed for Bethesda Hospital fete.

New South Wales.—Annual home missions rally was held at City Temple on Nov. 2. Mrs. D. Wakeley presided, and Mrs. A. Maxwell, home missions superintendent, told of the need for increased giving for home missions. Mr. C. Candy, of Wollongong, gave an appreciated address. Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. H. Reynolds and Mrs. Hall, missionaries en route from U.S.A. to India. Mrs. Reynolds, going out for her third term in India, expressed eagerness to return to the people with whom she and her husband had worked for so long. Mrs. Hall told of the home missionary work she and her husband had been doing in Tennessee prior to leaving for overseas service. Both expressed pleasure at being able to attend monthly conference meeting.

Queensland.—"The job is not finished yet," was title of an address given by Mr. H. E. Greenwood, home mission organiser, at November meeting of Women's Conference Auxiliary. "The only effective answer to world chaos," Mr. Greenwood said, "is Christian unity. A more virile witness and more generous giving is needed to help spread the gospel in our godless State." Mrs. Bates, vice-president, presided over the meeting in absence of Mrs. Lade, president, through illness of her husband. An invitation is to be extended to Mrs. McCallum, president N.S.W. Women's Conference, to be guest speaker at next conference, Easter, 1946. Sixteen sisters were present at the meeting; illness and holidays prevented others from attending. Treasurer's report showed balances to credit of various funds amounting to £129/12/1.

India Greet Australia

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

THE Federal Board are grateful to Almighty God for his mercies during the years of war, and in deep thankfulness record the splendid work done by our missionaries and co-workers who, despite difficulties and war's alarms, were able to carry on. Arising out of the annual meetings recently held in India, a letter containing a special resolution was sent the board expressing the feelings of those on the field for help and encouragement given. At the last meeting of the board, it was felt that the letter was really one the brotherhood should share, since their practical sympathy, love and prayers have encouraged the board and State committees greatly, and made our work possible.

"To the members of the board:

"At the annual meetings of our India mission, we resolved that Christian greetings be sent to you. We want you to know that we are appreciative of all the effort, time and money that you are individually and collectively giving to the work of the church overseas. We remember your prayers, and assure you that you, too, are in our prayers. As the work develops and grows we are constantly in need of guidance and help. We pray that you may all be long spared for this service of the kingdom. We hope, too, that you will soon be able to send out a delegation to visit the field and spend some time in getting acquainted with the various aspects of the work and its manifold activities and problems. May the Lord be with you all and bless you abundantly. Will you kindly convey to the executive of the Federal conference our very sincere Christian greetings and best wishes for the success of the centenary conference next year? Will you also kindly convey to all State conferences our very sincere greetings and assurance of our interest in their work? We would also send our greetings to all missionaries on furlough in the homeland. Assuring you all of our gratitude to God for the labor of love of you all, and of God's people on behalf of the multitudes of India,

"Yours sincerely,

"H. R. Coventry, secretary."

ANNIVERSARY IN INDIA

THOUGH our first missionary (Mary Thompson) went to India in 1891, our all-Australian station was not opened till 1905. Our pioneer missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Strutton, and the place of location was Baramati. Much has happened since those far-off days, but during the whole of these forty years the gospel has been preached and souls have been won for the kingdom of God. The mother church in the area also has her vigorous offshoots at Shrigonda, Dhond and Diksal, as well as in many villages and hamlets. Special preparations are in hand for the celebrations to commemorate this fortieth anniversary in a fitting way. The field have recorded in their minutes, "We give thanks to our heavenly Father for his loving care and continued blessing and guidance during the forty years' existence of the mission, and request that the anniversary of the establishment of the mission on Dec. 5, 1905, be suitably observed, on all our stations at least, on Sunday, Dec. 2." It would be appreciated if some auxiliaries and societies were to send greetings to the field for this special day. All messages should be sent immediately and per air-letter. (Letter forms from any post office.)

SHRIGONDA GIRLS' HOME

IT is fitting that we present the latest report presented by Miss Cameron just prior to leaving India. "The year closes with 87 children in the home. There was one death during the year, but on the whole the health of the children was satisfactory, though there were more minor illnesses than usual. Most of the year there were no senior girls out of



Miss Cameron and Indian Boy.

school. Marriage and training have removed those of last year. The staff consists of Sitabai Wanzari, matron, and Tanshubai Adhew, who was transferred from Baramati. She helps in the home as far as school duties permit. We have been thankful that the needs of the home have been supplied. No really serious shortage has been experienced in any direction, though at times we were threatened with such, but all provision was made. This does not mean that we had everything we wanted, or that strict economy was not exercised. We are happy to report the baptisms of eight girls from the home. We feel the home is supplying a very real need in our part of India, and we thank God for the means to carry it on and ask his blessing on those who give to this end. May all be done to his honor and glory."—F. M. Cameron.

"CAST THY BREAD . . ."

OUR work in India, being in rural areas, often calls many people to go farther afield to seek employment. Often Christians have to move out, and the work of keeping contact is not always easy. Now and again, however, reports come to hand telling of the faithfulness of many who were once associated with our own field. Miss Vawser tells of a recent experience in Bombay. The occasion was a conference of the Bombay representatives Christian Council, and here were met many of our former Christians. Our reporter says: "Mr. Coventry and I had arranged to meet many of our Baramati Christians in Bombay at a meeting in the Robinson Memorial Church, and so we were not able to remain until the end of the B.R.C.C. meetings, and so missed quite a little. However, we were able to have a very happy time of fellowship with our own people in Bombay. I was rather surprised that so many of the women present were girls who had spent their childhood at Shrigonda. It was really very lovely to see them. Mr. Coventry spoke to them, and I also responded for the flowers which were given to us both."

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

WORDS

WORDS are mighty, words are living, Serpents with their venomous stings, Or bright angels crowding round us, With heaven's light upon their wings; Every word has its own spirit, True or false, that never dies; Every word man's lips have uttered, Echoes in God's skies.

—Adelaide A. Proctor.

LOVE FOR LEPERS

THE late Robert Louis Stevenson tells of a visit which he paid to the leper settlement on the island of Molokai, away in the Pacific. At first, he confesses he had some fear and some disgust to overcome. But soon the repugnance was gone. He stayed for seven days. He chatted with the sufferers at the doors of their little wooden houses. He played with the children on whom the terrible and loathsome sickness had laid its grip. But one thing he would not do.

"I made up my mind on the boat's voyage," he says, "not to give my hand."

But God does more than this. He stretches out his hand to the man who is full of leprosy. He comes into friendliest contact with him. He loves him out of his corruptions.

Because our iniquity is great, it is his work and his joy to pardon it.

SAME HERE

A Yankee soldier while in England was being shown over an old church beneath whose floor there were many graves.

"A great many people sleep within these walls," said the guide solemnly, as he indicated the inscription-covered floor.

"Is that so?" replied the Yankee. "Same way over in our country. Why don't you get a more interesting preacher?"

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—LOVE PERFECTING LAW

- Dec. 3—John 21: 15-25.
- " 4—1 Cor. 13.
- " 5—1 Pet. 1: 3-12.
- " 6—1 John 4: 1-16.
- " 7—1 John 4: 17-21.
- " 8—Rom. 13: 1-10.
- " 9—Proverbs 4: 10-27; Romans 13: 11-14.

AS the psalmist, under the Mosaic economy, wrote, "O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day," so we, like Paul, may well rejoice that we are under the higher law of Christ. Yet we do well to remember that the mere observance of law is inadequate unless it is prompted and perfected by love. A man may boast that to the best of his ability he has complied with the requirements of Christ's law, forgetting that the chief need is love for God and our fellowmen. It follows, therefore, that the value of all his acts of obedience, his regular observance of ordinances, his constant attention to church duties, may be nullified by the possession of an unlovely, harsh, unforgiving spirit. There are, unfortunately, many who are quite orthodox; no one in his senses would ever dream of charging them with heterodoxy; yet such as these stand in imminent peril because in their case law has not been perfected by love. There is a link missing in the chain of Christian graces, minus which it is useless and valueless.

Here and There

T. Butler, of South Australia, secretary of the Federal Executive Committee, was in Melbourne last week. We enjoyed a brief period of fellowship with him.

A telegram from Thornbury, Vic., Nov. 26, reports: "Good interest first week Macnaughtan-Saunders mission, Thornbury; chapel almost full both Sundays; splendid messages; one decision to date."

The following telegram reached us on Nov. 26: "Hinrichsen and Morris had marvellous meeting Bexley North, N.S.W., last night; marquee crowded out; two men and two women decided.—Henderson."

Home-coming services at Parkdale, Vic., on Nov. 25, were well attended. C. B. Nance-Kivell preached in morning and A. W. Stephenson at night. J. Wiltshire is on his way from W.A. to take up work.

Dr. Wm. Robinson, editor of the "Christian Advocate," has accepted the invitation of the Executive Committee of the Federal Conference to come to Australia to take part in the Centenary Conference to be held at Adelaide from Sept. 3 to 10, 1946. Dr. Robinson intends to leave England early in July.

The four persons, not fourteen as reported in error in issue of Nov. 14, who confessed Christ at Carramar, N.S.W., have been baptised and received into church fellowship. The following telegram reached us on Nov. 26: "Excellent services continue at Carramar; four decisions Sunday; J. C. Thomson preaching."

Dr. J. Bader will represent the American brotherhood at the Federal Conference to be held at Adelaide in September, 1946. Dr. Bader will proceed through Great Britain, attending the conference of British churches in August, flying then to India and on to Australia. He hopes to go on to New Zealand and be there by Sept. 15.

At Ivanhoe, Vic., attendances on Nov. 25 marked close of L. K. Wedd's ministry with church. Appreciation of his loyal service was expressed, and a suitable presentation was made. Church is preparing for commencement of K. J. Patterson as full-time preacher. During month Miss E. Gibbons, who has been active in church and auxiliaries for years, was married to Mac Wolf, of Cheltenham.

"New World Building is Thrilling." This is the theme of the 1946 "Youth's Own Diary." In addition to the diary facilities, it is a treasury of texts and stimulating thoughts. It contains 72 pages, 20 of which are reserved for important information, messages and illustrations. The cost is 9d. per copy, and supplies may be secured from local agents, State Young People's Departments or the Austral Publishing Co., 528-530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, C.I.

Fifty-ninth church and Bible school anniversary at Gympie, Qld., was successful. V. G. Boettcher, conference president, was guest speaker on Nov. 19. Prizes were distributed to largest enrolment of scholars for many years. Church thankoffering passed £46. C.E. Society handed £15 to a representative of Gympie Hospital for a "peace memorial cot" in children's ward. Annual meeting on Nov. 16 elected officers and prepared plans for an adequate celebration of 60th anniversary next year.

At West Hobart, Tas., R. V. Amos was speaker at well-attended service on morning of Nov. 11. There was a splendid congregation at gospel service, when R. Story, secretary of Unevangelised Fields Mission, was preacher. At close lantern slides and colored moving pictures of mission work were shown. G. E. Ashlin and T. W. Lillye were appointed secretary and treasurer respectively of Southern District Conference held at Dover. R. V. Amos conducted both services on Nov. 18, when attendances were good. S. K. Ashlin is home on leave, and at morning service T. Street was welcomed into fellowship.

The Good Companion 1st Degree outdoor sports were held at Jolimont Park on Saturday, Nov. 24. The clubs gaining distinction were Camberwell first, Burnley second, Box Hill and North Fitzroy equal third.

Many inquiries have been received for copies of the picture of Victorian "One Thousand Up" Rally appearing in the last issue. Copies of the original may be secured from the Victorian Young People's Department, Room 321, T. & G. Building, 147 Collins-st., Melbourne, C.I. Orders must reach the office before Dec. 10. Cost is 3/6 for 8 in. x 6 in., and 4/6 for 10 in. x 8 in.

At Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic., another year for fund to meet conference auxiliary appeals has ended. The initial aim to have 120 contributors has been reached and the objective of £312 exceeded. Nearly all are regular in their giving, but some lapse now and again. Allotment percentages were adjusted to include Social Service Department and Federal Aborigines Board, making provision for six annual offerings. This checks any increase for F.M. and H.M. allotments, but will not prevent maintaining past average. The annual comparative figures are: 1940, £256/14/10; 1941-2, £289/13/4; 1942-3, £319/12/11; 1944-5, £354/13/8, which in themselves attest to the wisdom of weekly in place of annual giving.

Nov. 4 was celebrated as thanksgiving and home-coming day at Gardiner, Vic. As a result of Temple Day, Nov. 3, Mr. Brooke announced that not only was the church absolutely free from debt, but there was over £300 in hand towards any future building operations. Theo. Fisher exhorted the church, and was given special welcome as an old member. Fred Adams and Don Thomas were welcomed back after being P.O.W. in Malaya. Gospel service was preceded by a baptismal service, Miss V. Wade being immersed. Mr. Brooke conducted gospel service; Don Thomas was speaker, and Fred Adams assisted. Miss Dorothy Clark assisted with solos. Mr. Brooke was speaker at both service on Nov. 11, evening service taking the form of remembrance. Girls' Club formed choir. Reg. Bolduan was guest speaker at K.S.P. 2nd degree meeting on Nov. 13.

The 53rd anniversary services of Fremantle church, W.A., were held Nov. 4 and 8. Messrs. McRoberts (Maylands) and J. Wiltshire being special speakers. Two young girls, daughters respectively of Mrs. Gracie and Mrs. Ladner, made the good confession on Nov. 4, at close of Mr. Hunt's address, and they were baptised on Nov. 18. Among recent returned men from Forces have been Alan Verco, Roy Thomson, Ted Potter and Neil McLeod. F. P. Whelan has visited over anniversary period from Yunderup, and his daughter (Ruth), now Mrs. Thygesen, with her husband and baby Barry, have arrived from Brisbane. H. Verco has been seriously ill for past fortnight in Fremantle hospital; he is making steady improvement. Mrs. Lindsay, also in Fremantle Hospital, has her leg in plaster owing to a broken thigh, which will probably keep her there for an extended period. Fred Vanstan is visiting Victoria on a holiday trip. Living Link financial position stands at £94.

N.S.W. YOUTH DEMONSTRATION

ON Nov. 2 the postponed young people's demonstration and prize-giving took place in Pitt-st. Congregational church by courtesy of officers of that church.

Over 500 attended, and from every side came expressions of delight at such an excellent programme. The programme committee is commended for the splendid presentation.

A special feature of the evening was the debut of Young People's Musical Society under baton of Gordon Day, L.R.S.M., with Miss V. Priestly at organ. This society grew out of the splen-

did talent presented at young people's Eisteddfod in May. They gave to the large audience a knowledge of what can be done with talents dedicated to the Lord and under capable guidance. Many expressed amazement, and all were delighted.

The Musical Society was assisted by individual artists from amongst youth of our churches.

The director presented prizes won in Bible schools examination, and then presented the prize-winners themselves to the audience.

E. Davis, conference president, presented Federal prizes to Colin Bowser, Belmore, and in absentia to Beth Stace, Georgetown.

P. H. Morton, examination supervisor, presented competition shields. Winners of shields were: Honor Shield, Paddington; "A" Class Shield, Georgetown; "B" Class Shield, Pendle Hill. Pendle Hill school consists entirely of boys of our boys' home.

Occasion was taken to express to returned Services personnel a sincere welcome home. Mr. Davis did this in the name of the brotherhood.—R. Greenhalgh.

HALF-YEARLY CONFERENCE. QLD.

APPROXIMATELY 70 visitors shared in the half-yearly conference at Boonah on Nov. 10 and 11. All services were held in the chapel, and excellent catering and hospitality arrangements had been made by E. Hart and a loyal team of workers.

Messrs. Miller, M.L.A., and Richter, Shire Chairman, extended a civic welcome, and remained to share in the group discussions on the theme, "Reviewing the Restoration Movement." V. G. Boettcher presided and H. G. Payne very ably led the discussion, reviewing the emphasis being made by the churches on the vital principles of the Restoration Movement.

An audience of 200 filled the chapel on Saturday night, when P. C. D. Alcorn, B.A., gave a survey of the work of the pioneers and the appeal of the movement to-day. The conference communion service was led by E. Hart, and S. H. Laney in a challenging address emphasised that the complete answer to present day evils of sectarianism was the formal acceptance and the practical application of the divinity and authority of Christ as the Master builder of the church and the finality of the revealed Word of God on all matters of faith and practice.

Young people of the church took part in the youth rally on Sunday afternoon, and the speaker, W. Giezendanner, declared that we must exhibit in the life of the church the plea we preached.

A heavy storm interfered with the Sunday evening attendance, but the congregation were unanimous in appreciation of the address of the conference president, V. G. Boettcher, who stated that because of its special calling the church had a spiritual basis, because of its foundation in Christ it had a spiritual head and because of Christ's promise of invincibility it had a spiritual existence.

Soloists, Miss Haworth, Mrs. Keeble and Mr. J. McCormick made a splendid contribution to the inspiration of the meetings.

A notable feature of these half-yearly conferences is that they are entirely inspirational and devotional. Praise services were ably led by Mr. J. Christensen.—H. E. Greenwood, conference secretary.

REFRIGERATOR CONCERT ECHO.

Would all churches still holding tickets, or ticket money, for Lygon-st. concerts by Metropolitan Churches of Christ Girls' Choir, please forward same to Claude Gadge, 27 Northcote-rd., Armadale? We can't close our books until your ticket money is received.

News of the Churches

New South Wales

North Auburn.—An evangelistic and Protestant crusade was held during recent weeks, the outstanding speaker being Miss Monica Farrell, Irish evangelist. Members were shocked to hear of the passing of Mr. Walsh on Nov. 3. Visiting speakers recently include Mr. Killmier and Mr. Chapman, the latter assisting in a memorial service for Pte. A. Wallis. Hazel Gorden is slowly recovering from an eye operation. Attendances are encouraging.

Beverly Hills.—St. George C.E. Union held a "Victory Crusade" from Oct. 6 to 13. Mr. Bennett, State C.E. Union president, was speaker at all services. Churches of Christ young people's St. George Fellowship held a social at chapel, when J. Moran was welcomed. On Oct. 21 Mr. Sparks spoke to church and Mr. Grant preached at night. Tom Newbery, A.I.F., was present after recent accident. Bible class and teachers held fellowship tea on Oct. 14, when Mr. Henderson, of Bexley North, gave an inspiring address. Mr. Grant spoke at both services on Oct. 28.

Kingsford.—On Oct. 28 Mr. Rogers gave a helpful address in morning, and Mr. Pierce spoke at night. On afternoon of Nov. 4, at Sunday school anniversary, singing was rendered by school, and prize-giving took place. Mr. McCallum was speaker. At night further singing by school was enjoyed, and Mr. Smith, ex-prisoner of war, gave an address. On night of Nov. 6, Sunday school demonstration was held. Mr. Jenner, of Sudan United Mission, spoke on morning of Nov. 11. Chaplain of Boys' Home gave an inspiring address at night. On Nov. 18 Mr. Rush, of Lane Cove church, gave helpful addresses.

Burwood.—Bible school anniversary services on Nov. 4 and 7 were very well attended. D. Wakeley spoke on Sunday morning, G. W. Hardiman in afternoon and R. Greenhalgh at night. Singing of school under leadership of C. Prowse was appreciated. During afternoon presentation of awards and certificates won in examination was made to scholars. Miss Blanche, cradle roll superintendent, presented awards to each cradle roll scholar present, these gifts having been specially made by "Helping Hand Club." P. E. Thomas gave an illustrated address on Wednesday night, when departments contributed items that were well presented and led to a climax in Bible class item which presented the message of the resurrection forcibly and beautifully. Nell Stow and Merv. Taylor were married on Nov. 17, P. E. Thomas officiating. Miss Leila Kennealy and Mrs. C. Beaumont have been received by faith and baptism and C. Beaumont as a baptised believer. Our Mrs. L. E. Haske died on Nov. 22 at Bowral at age of 78. Church tendered a social evening on Nov. 24 to those who have been in Services. The preacher, D. Wakeley, was in Newcastle district conducting a series of spiritual meetings at request of Wallsend ministers' fraternal, from Nov. 19 to 23.

Wagga.—On Oct. 28 W. Wakefield, of Wangaratta, Vic., a former preacher, spoke at both services. Church enjoyed fellowship with him and Mrs. Wakefield. Sunday school picnic on Nov. 5 was successful. Bible school anniversary services on Nov. 11 were enjoyable, with J. Morrison in charge of singing. In afternoon Capt. T. Evans, Salvation Army, spoke, and prizes were given to kinders. Anniversary ended on Nov. 14 with tea for children, concert and presentation of prizes. J. Rigg, superintendent, delighted with shadowgraph. On Nov. 8 the church entertained E. Blythe and his wife, whom he met when serving in Army in Queensland. R. Jenkins (R.A.A.F.) and W. Pat-

erson (R.A.A.F.) (both discharged), W. Fearn (R.A.A.F.), H. Renison (R.A.A.F.) and R. Oliver (A.I.F.), on defence leave, are all having fellowship with members. S. Jenner, a former preacher, had fellowship on Nov. 18. On same day visitors, Miss Campbell, Wangaratta, Vic., and Mr. Lang, Melbourne, brought appreciated messages in song. A. Dow is giving inspiring addresses pending arrival of W. J. Thomson from Long Plains, S.A. W. H. Snowdon has been appointed church secretary. Members hope for early renewal of fellowship with E. H. Pearson, whose health has been indifferent. A working bee did splendid work in and around church building on Nov. 17.

South Australia

Fullarton.—On Nov. 18 a husband and wife, a young lady and a young man made the good confession at gospel service. The church is greatly cheered and encouraged.

Mt. Compass.—S.S. picnic on Nov. 17 was enjoyable. Jim Roberts and Gwen Fitzgerald took part in services on Nov. 18. Mr. Manning conducted, and at close of afternoon service two girls from Sunday school made the good confession. Ray Bishop is doing splendid service with young men's class, C.E. and monthly social gathering.

Prospect.—On Nov. 15 about 130 gathered to tender a farewell social to Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Bradshaw and John. Members from all auxiliaries spoke of excellent services rendered to the church. Mr. Cousins, on behalf of members, presented a reading lamp and a satchel bag. Mr. Durdin, on behalf of Bible school, presented John with a Bible. Morning school on Nov. 18 was well attended and A. E. Brown exhorted. Visitors included members of the Forces.

Nailsworth.—Following upon mission of G. T. Fitzgerald, and confession of two young people, church is experiencing a time of blessing. A thankoffering amounted to £28. Attendances were excellent. Many from sister churches assisted with presence and song. In addition to regular guild meetings, two meetings have been held in homes of Sisters Perriam and McQueen to finish toys for Christmas tree. Don Perriam has returned from overseas, and is enjoying fellowship with church.

Forestville.—At annual business meeting on Nov. 14, reports showed all auxiliaries in healthy condition. Nineteen were added to church during year. £300 was paid off building debt. It was decided to launch a mutual fund with object of reducing debt on chapel. Deacons appointed, C. Stock, G. Thomas; deaconesses, Mesdames Davis, Samels, Walkley. Mrs. C. Harding and Mrs. B. M. Marshall passed away recently. Mrs. Erskine has undergone a successful eye operation. Dorcas Society has almost completed a large Christmas parcel for aborigines at Ooldea. Mr. and Mrs. Cleve McGregor, of Oakleigh, Vic., have been visitors, also Mrs. Downs, of Sydney.

Cottonville.—The 49th annual church business meeting was held on Nov. 14, when following were elected: Elders, Messrs. Caldicott and Hogben; deacons, Messrs. Beck, Pope, N. Coventry, Glastonbury, R. Brand, Ferris; deaconesses, Sisters Richards and Roberts; auditors, Messrs. Ferris and Hollands. Ladies' Auxiliary attended Park-st., Unley, annual meeting in afternoon of same day, and on next Wednesday held annual picnic in hills. Garth Williams has received his discharge from Army. Messrs. Pope and Mortimer are preparing for a boys' camp at Kingston Park during Christmas. A number of Endeavorers attended State C.E. Union mystery hike on Nov. 17. Jack Coventry and Ern Stephenson have been home on leave. Mr.

Curtis, preacher-elect at Hamilton, Vic., and his family were present at communion on Nov. 18. Miss Ruth Coombe (A.W.A.S.) made her decision on Nov. 11. A youth service, with young people assisting, was held following Sunday evening. Mr. Caldicott, who had three weeks in hospital, is recovering and meeting with church. A fellowship tea was held by Endeavorers prior to church business meeting. A social was held on Nov. 2 by Girls' Club and the Table Tennis Club, to wind up table tennis season. A welcome home social was tendered Ron Munro by Girls' Club.

Cheltenham.—Fine reports were received from representatives to Port Line men's fellowship, Nailsworth mission, Semaphore fellowship, and to Flinders Park C.E. rally. Abating sickness has allowed improved averages in church and auxiliary. Two new boys' club members have



The Chapel at Prospect, S.A.

been gained. Church appreciates Building Extension Department loan for urgent youth work facilities, etc. N. G. Noble and Jas Mitchell have been appointed editor and manager respectively of a monthly local church paper. Ladies were guests of men's monthly fellowship on Nov. 18; Walter Best in chair; an excellent unity address appreciated from Gordon Bartlett, president of Port Line Group. Preparation is advanced for eight-day inspirational church mission in chapel. Greetings are still received from brethren in Services, including a word from Earl Vincent, R.A.A.F., on way from England. Will Beattton and Angus Young are discharged and received welcomes. Twenty-two in Services directly and indirectly are connected with church.

Western Australia

Perth.—Recently a junior C.E. Society was formed with Mrs. C. Ewers as leader, assisted by Miss J. Watkins. Dorcas Society had a profitable afternoon when Mrs. Mercer (aborigines mission) was speaker. Mrs. C. Payne is in Mount Hospital recovering from an operation. On morning of Nov. 18 a talk by W. H. White helped all. J. K. Robinson spoke at Perth Baptist church. At 7.30 p.m. the service was broadcast. Mrs. Sansum rendered a solo; Mr. Robinson preached.

Maylands.—Eight scholars from Bible school have been immersed. Mr. Wiltshire paid his final visit on morning of Nov. 4, and all enjoyed his discourse. All auxiliaries are working for a sale of gifts to augment manse fund. Manse is nearing completion. Band of Hope observed second birthday on Nov. 1. C. Hunt, of Fremantle, presiding. Items were rendered by children. Mr. McRoberts gave a five-minute story. Prizes were distributed. Supper was served, and a birthday cake, donated by W.C.T.U., was enjoyed. A junior girls' club has been commenced for Saturday afternoons with membership of 20. Members of boys'

club visited Power House on Nov. 12. A happy and instructive time was spent.

Inglewood.—On Oct. 14 an illustrated lecture by Mr. Barker, of Bible Society, was enjoyed. On evening of Oct. 21 and morning of Oct. 28 Mr. Wiltshire gave appreciated addresses, Mr. Sherman helping at Harvey. A social evening was held at Morley Park to help members to get to know parents of scholars of newly-formed Bible school. On Nov. 4 there were two confessions and two baptisms of young people. As the Litterick family are leaving district, a social was held in appreciation of happy fellowship and service since linking up with church. Suitable presentations were made.

Queensland

Ma Ma Creek.—H. E. Greenwood visited church on Nov. 18 in interests of home missions. He also conducted services at West Haldon. Local brethren conducted services during absence of preacher at other centres.

Monkland.—An excellent "every member present" service was held on Nov. 19, when V. G. Boettcher, conference president, addressed church. Annual reports showed Bible school and C.E. Society in healthy condition numerically and financially.

Charters Towers.—Church attendances showed slight decrease during last few weeks. Mrs. Plant is making good progress in recovery following an operation. During Mr. Burns' absence on Nov. 18, Cpl. S. Symes spoke at morning service and H. S. Coward was speaker at night.

Brisbane (Ann-st.).—Church services have been well maintained. Men's Fellowship held first anniversary service on Oct. 31, when 31 men of church were present at the tea. A most inspiring time was experienced at the meeting which followed. On Nov. 11 Mr. Howard, of Temperance Society, was morning speaker. F. Hunting was evening speaker. One young man confessed Christ, and one reconsecrated his life. On Nov. 15, at Ladies' Fellowship meeting, women brought "talent boxes" which provided the splendid total of over £118. Church recently welcomed back two prisoners of war, Mr. Scott and Mr. Stanway. Miss Wakefield, who was in hospital for several weeks, is meeting with church. J. Hinkley is now out of hospital. Splendid services were held on Nov. 18. Attendance was 326 for day. F. Hunting was speaker.

Tasmania

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—Bible school anniversary commenced with 7 p.m. meeting on Nov. 11 and continued throughout Nov. 18, finishing with prize-giving night on 20th. Stanton Wilson delivered gospel addresses both nights. Attendances were good; over 300 at each meeting and over 450 on evening of 18th. Singing of school, trained and conducted by T. Wilmot, was excellent. During morning service on Nov. 18, church welcomed back Jessie Symons, who has been a P.O.W. for more than three years. S. H. Wilson presented her with a suitably inscribed Bible as a token of joy for her return. C. Crabtree, sen., is now out of hospital and has resumed fellowship with church. Clarrie Lee, Albert Porter and Max Cumming have been home on Service leave.

Hobart (Collins-st.).—Good attendances are maintained. Five have been added to church roll during month. Mrs. C. P. Hughes is back from her trip to S.A. and Victoria. On Nov. 15 Women's Mission Band at their meeting entertained twenty-one of City Mission Women's Fellowship. Mission Band Fellowship had for speaker on afternoon of Nov. 18 Rex Bullemore. A happy social evening was held in church hall on Nov. 20 to welcome home some of the boys—Stan Cooper, Tom Street, Mr. Chris-

tian, Mr. Downey, Douglas Staples, Reuben and Laurie Boxhall. At request of committee which arranges Christian Forum sessions, Mr. Hughes has been broadcasting concerning nationalisation of drink traffic. Mr. Story, secretary Unevangelised Fields Mission, gave an excellent lantern lecture recently.

Victoria

Coburg.—Objective of 100 to break bread was realised on Nov. 18, when 101 communed for day. Meetings are all fairly well attended. Newly-formed Men's Society met on evening of Nov. 20, when a number of men were present. An address by A. Hughes was appreciated.

Emerald.—On morning of Nov. 18 F. Gibson, of B. & F. Bible Society, took the service. In afternoon Bible school concluded anniversary, guest speaker being Mr. McLean, of Belgrave Methodist church. Prizes were distributed to scholars, also eight framed temperance pledges.

Dandenong.—After five years' service with church R. W. Marshall has been released to take up work in Berri circuit, S.A. He will preach his last sermon on Jan. 26. On Nov. 17 church auxiliaries held a sale of work, when £27 was raised to benefit building fund. Whilst gospel services have been small, morning meetings lately have been well attended.

French Island.—Communion service on Nov. 18 was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Broderick. At gospel service new interest was shown. Despite the lack of pianist (Mrs. Miller being laid aside with sickness), good singing rounded off the meeting conducted by G. Barnett, student speaker from Moorooduc. Mr. Barnett also visited the State school on Monday morning.

Thornbury.—A successful fete was held by young people in church hall on Nov. 16 and 17, enabling them to hand in £33 for reduction of church debt. An early morning prayer meeting preceded commencement of Macnaughtan and Saunders mission on Nov. 18. The missionaries were welcomed by the preacher, Mr. Stewart. Both meetings were well attended.

Shepparton.—Anniversary services were held on Nov. 4. Speaker at three services was Mr. Withers, preacher at West Preston. There was good attendance and orchestra and Bible school singing were under direction of Frank Young. Young people conducted evening service on Nov. 11 under leadership of Colin Mott. At gospel service on Nov. 18 a men's choir rendered an item.

Essendon.—A happy evening was spent on Nov. 24, when a thanksgiving service was held in school hall. E. L. Williams concluded a ministry to church for month of November. All enjoyed his addresses and fellowship. W. Murphy was received into fellowship, after confession and baptism, on Nov. 25. The church is looking forward to having Mr. Crisp commencing his ministry early in new year. Mid-week fellowship is enjoyed by several members.

Warragul.—Mr. Baker has tendered his resignation as preacher, to take effect from Dec. 2. This has been accepted by officers, and appreciation of his past services expressed. Mr. Byard has volunteered to fill the vacancy pending future developments, and his offer has been gratefully accepted. Clem Byard, a Bible school scholar, was baptised at evening service on Nov. 11. There was a splendid attendance at morning service on Nov. 18. Mr. Byard gave very helpful addresses to the young people and the church.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—A. Chatfield, R.A.A.F., was welcomed home on Nov. 18. Century Bible Class annual social on Nov. 24 was a great success, with just on 100 present. Good meetings were held on Nov. 25. K. W. Barton, assistant preacher for two years, gave his farewell address in morning. The church wishes him godspeed as he goes to Point Sturt, Milang, S.A., for a vacation ministry. C. G. Taylor spoke to Bible class and preached at gospel service. Twenty-two of the ladies enjoyed fellowship with Swanston-st. Mission Band on Nov. 20.

Hampton.—In absence of C. L. Lang on holiday, speakers on Nov. 11 and 18 were W. T. Atkin, M. Williams and R. T. Pittman. Mr. Lang was speaker on Nov. 18. In morning Mrs. Andreassen was received by transfer from Dandenong. In afternoon the year's giving of S.S. for Dhond Hospital was received by Mrs. Pittman and V. L. Gole on behalf of F.M. Committee. A present was made to Mrs. Pittman, who after over 30 years' service has retired as S.S. secretary. L. Chapman, recently home from Army service, has accepted the position.

Hawthorn.—Nov. 18 provided a happy day of fellowship with young folk on occasion of Bible school anniversary. Singing was bright, and R. Banks' address interesting. R. Johnston (superintendent) and H. Smith (pianist) were commended on result of their efforts. Cradle roll and school prizes were distributed. Mrs. Deane was received by letter from Northcote. Members rejoice at return of Ern, son of the preacher, J. E. Allan, also sons of Mesdames Hayward, Spear and McDonald, and a brother of Sister Orford.

Dunolly.—Bible school anniversary on Oct. 28 was successful. Addresses by E. L. Williams, guest speaker for day, were enjoyed. Fellowship with visitors and friends was enjoyed at services, also at tea. Scholars sang well under leadership of J. Hindman. Prizes were presented to scholars, nine gaining 100 per cent., also seals gained at scripture examination. A Junior Guild has been formed by Ladies' Guild to encourage young workers. At present they are making toys for kinder Christmas tree. Ladies' Guild has made an appeal for food for Britain. J. Hindman continues to address services. Fellowship has been enjoyed with visitors, including some returned prisoners of war.

Montrose.—An enjoyable and well attended social was conducted by Sunday school and young people of district on Nov. 17. Building was packed, many young people coming from other churches in conference area. The occasion was a send-off to Mr. Fisher, who is leaving district. He has been popular and energetic in youth activities. At conclusion a fountain pen was presented to him. On Nov. 24, S.S. picnic was held on Mt. Evelyn reserve, when scholars, parents and friends enjoyed a happy day. School now has best enrolment for many years, and work amongst young folk is very encouraging. On Nov. 25 Mr. Fisher gave farewell messages after two college years with church. At close of morning service a wallet of notes was presented to him by F. Rogers as a tribute to his work with church.

Wangaratta.—On Nov. 4, South Wangaratta Bible school held anniversary. A happy time was spent. There are 33 scholars on roll and 5 teachers, including superintendent, Miss Florence Green. Children sang well under baton of Mrs. Scott-Brown. W. Wakefield gave an interesting illustrated talk. Prizes were distributed to every child in school. On Nov. 21 church held thanksgiving and annual banquet. An enjoyable time was spent, and R. L. Williams gave an inspiring address. Offering amounted to £216 in cash and promises. Items were rendered by Mrs. J. Whittaker, a former member, and Mrs. Aubrey Jackel. Mrs. G. O. Jackel was convener of banquet. Sympathy of church is expressed to two isolated members, Mr. and Mrs. Dagger, in death of their mother. Mrs. A. Campbell is still indisposed. Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Jackel have arrived in Wangaratta to reside, after discharge from Services.

Mildura.—Attendances at morning services are encouraging. Tom O'Neill, ex-P.O.W., has returned and was given a welcome home evening by church. Mrs. Jardine and Mr. Bodle have returned to their homes from hospital. Three have been welcomed into church by transfer—Mrs. Kitner from Malvern, and Mr. and Mrs. Chislett, sen., from Merbein. On Nov. 10 and 11 W. R. Hibburt addressed young people and S.S. teachers from the four district churches. On Nov. 11, representatives from Mildura, Merbein, Daretton and Red Cliffs met at tea. Later Mr. Hibburt preached, and Lois

Beasy, a senior S.S. girl, confessed Christ. Mr. Lewis gave his farewell address on Nov. 19 before leaving to take up work at Albury. A farewell social was given, when presentations were made to Mrs. Lewis from Women's Mission Band and to Mr. Lewis from Boys' Club. Mr. Lewis was responsible for forming Mildura Boys' Club. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have done great service.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Bible school anniversary on Nov. 5 was well attended. Addresses of Ron Muller were enjoyed, the children being specially appreciative. Singing was good and reflective of careful training by Mrs. H. W. Morris and Miss L. Franklin. Tea on following Tuesday followed by an evening of games was a season of delight. Promotion day, Nov. 12, was conducted by Keith Price. Children of each new class were introduced to teachers. J. Methven, who has come to help in ministry of church for rest of this year, gave gathering an interesting talk on formation of habits. There were three decisions at Doveton-st. on same evening in response to T. A. Comer's invitation.

Hamilton.—Bible school anniversary was held on Nov. 11, when special hymns sung by the children, under baton of T. Robb, were well rendered to large congregations. Subjects suitable for occasion were delivered by Mr. Pratt. On Nov. 12, Bible school tea was held when scholars again sang and prizes were distributed. At church annual meeting on Nov. 16, reports and balance sheets presented by auxiliaries showed that spiritual and financial aspects of church life had been well maintained. Assistance rendered by Home Mission Committee in supplying speakers during Mr. Forbes' illness was appreciated. The following were elected: Elders, O. L. Robert and F. Kennett; deacons, E. Bannam, I. Leith, R. McPherson, R. Miles, R. Pitman and S. Witham; secretary, W. G. Hadden; treasurer, W. Maher; deaconesses, Mrs. Kennett, Mrs. McPherson and Mrs. Witham; organists, Mrs. Maher and Mrs. Clough; "Christian" agent, Miss V. Spillman; "Goodly Pearls," Mrs. Hodges; auditors, Mrs. Avent and C. L. Robert. Hospital Sunday was observed on Nov. 18, and at close of evening service opportunity was taken to thank Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pratt for their interim ministry, and to wish them blessing in their future work.

ADDRESSES

G. E. Ashlin (secretary Southern Tasmanian District Conference).—Station-st., New Norfolk, Tas.

H. L. Davie (secretary S.A. Aborigines Committee).—589 Esplanade, Grange, S.A.

J. Methven, sen. (preacher Dawson-st. church, Ballarat, Vic.).—705 Dana-st., Ballarat.

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Applications are invited for above-mentioned position, and should be sent, with copies of testimonials, to Secretary of Council, 31 Queen-st., Melbourne, by January 25, 1946.

Applicants should have approved diploma in education, and/or experience in teaching religion; also literary qualifications for editorial work.

Representing seven constituent churches, the council is the administrative organisation which supervises the work of Religious Instruction in Victorian State Schools. Details concerning salary, allowances, etc., can be obtained from the secretary.

BIRTH

STEPHENSON (Louey).—On Nov. 18, at "Vaucluse," to Thora and Ray—the gift of a son (Lance Graham).

DEATHS

ORR.—On Nov. 23, 1945, at his residence, 2 Glen Dhu-st., Peter, dearly beloved husband of the late Lillias Duncan Orr, and loving father of John (Edinburgh), Allan (dec.), Eleanor (Mrs. T. Arnot), Janet (Mrs. H. Masterman), Thomas and Hannah, in his 87th year. "He giveth his beloved sleep."

TORNEY.—On Nov. 14, at Flinders, result of accident, Ian John, dearly loved son of Wal and Vera Torney, and loving brother of Kevin and Trevor. Loaned to us for three years and four months.

IN MEMORIAM

JURY.—In loving memory of our dear invalid son and brother (Albie), died Nov. 30, 1942, at Castlemaine.

Gone the face we loved so dear. Peacefully sleeping.

—Inserted by his loving mother, father and brother.

ORAM.—In loving memory of my dear husband, W. G. Oram, who was called to higher service on Nov. 30, 1944.

"And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile."

—Inserted by his loving wife, Aldgate, S.A.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Main wish to thank their many Christian friends for their prayers and their sympathy, so freely expressed, in the loss of their father, Mr. A. R. Main. These and the many outstanding tributes to his life and work have combined to greatly ease the sorrow of parting.

BROADCAST SERVICE

DECEMBER 2 (Sunday, 7 p.m.).—Swanston-st. church, Melbourne, over 3LO. Preacher, C. B. Nance-Kivell.

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 7.—Swanston-st., 2 p.m., Victorian Women's Conference Executive Council will meet. Leader of devotions, Mrs. Priddle. Speaker, Mrs. Colonel Henry, of Salvation Army. Gifts for distribution among hospitals will be gratefully accepted.

DECEMBER 8.—Farewell social gathering to be tendered to Mr. T. A. Fitzgerald at Collingwood church of Christ, 8 p.m., December 8. All friends invited.

LYGON STREET NEW CENTURY BIBLE CLASS.

Every Sunday afternoon at 3.

Mr. C. G. Taylor, B.A., presents closing series for 1945.

"CONSIDER YOUR VERDICT."

Dec. 2—John Calvin v. Michael Servetus.

9—Mary Tudor v. Hugh Latimer.

Special Closing Session on Dec. 16.

VICTORIAN MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION.

DECEMBER 3, at FRANKSTON.

Trains from Flinders-st. at 9.50, 10.45 and 12.45.

—A. B. Withers, secretary.

NORTH SUBURBAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST CONFERENCE.

QUARTERLY INSPIRATIONAL RALLY

At COBURG CHURCH, BELL-ST., near Station, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 8 p.m.

Choral items by Conference Combined Choir under leadership of Mr. F. V. Brown (West Preston). Soloist, Miss Olive Russell (Coburg). A special address, "Working Out Salvation," will be delivered by Mr. F. E. Buckingham, of Social Service Department.

DON'T MISS THIRD WEEK.

MACNAUGHTAN-SAUNDERS MISSION, THORNBURY.

(Cr. Smith-st. and St. Georges-rd.).

Sundays, 6.45; week nights, 7.45.

Come and share in this Special Campaign. Deputations from other churches will be welcome.

CASTLEMAINE, VICTORIA.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m., Tea Meeting and Social. Sunday, December 9—11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., Anniversary Services.

Speaker, W. Gale. All welcome.

FRANKSTON

Dandenong-rd. and Beach-st.),

18TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH AND FOURTH OF OPENING OF CHAPEL,

DECEMBER 9 and 12.

Sunday, Dec. 9.—11, Dr. W. A. Kemp. 3, Dr. W. H. Hinrichsen. Special Thanksgiving Service. Soloist, A. W. Wallington. Organist, Miss Vera Sheehan. 7.30, Thomas Hagger. Special singing by Messrs. K. and E. Morris.

Wednesday, Dec. 12.—Concert programme, spiritual session, with address by C. G. Taylor, B.A., and supper.

Come and rejoice with us!

GARDENVALE.

In Aid of Guest Home Hospital.

DECEMBER 11, 8 p.m.

Moving Pictures,

"Australian Wild Life,"

By Mr. F. Lewis.

MINISTERS' WIVES' ASSOCIATION.

Next meeting to be held in Swanston-st. lecture hall on Friday, Dec. 14, at 2.30 p.m.

—A. Wigney, hon. secretary.

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Obituary

Margaret Eleanor Bulcraig

ABOUT 35 years ago, with her husband and daughter, Mrs. Bulcraig arrived in Tasmania from England, and 15 years ago took up residence in Camberwell, Victoria. It was about four years ago that, with her daughter, she placed her membership in the church at Camberwell. Mrs. Bulcraig, who had a long association with the Brethren, was a woman with a rich Christian experience. She loved God's Word, which she studied earnestly and constantly. Her wide reading of good books was reflected in her intelligent appreciation of the good, the beautiful, and the true. Because of her physical frailty, Mrs. Bulcraig was unable to attend church services regularly; but in spite of many physical disabilities she maintained constantly a radiant spirit and an unflinching trust in the goodness of God. To visit her in her home was always a benediction. The brethren at Camberwell sense deeply the loss of a consecrated and faithful follower of the Master, and extend deepest sympathy to Miss E. Bulcraig, who has faithfully lavished her ministries on her beloved mother. We are comforted in the assurance that for her "to depart and be with Christ is far better."—W.F.N.

William Francis Walsh

WITH the passing of William Francis Walsh on Nov. 3, in his 71st year, the North Auburn church, N.S.W., lost one of its most loved and respected members. Mr. Walsh received his early education at Sacred Heart Convent, Darlinghurst. Until two years after his marriage to Amelia Caroline Davis, a granddaughter of the late John and Mary Newby, foundation members of the church at Taree, he was a follower of the Roman faith. In 1905 Mr. Walsh was baptised by G. T. Walden at Enmore Tabernacle. For twelve years he was associated with the church at Taree. The greater part of his Christian service, however, was devoted to North Auburn, where he was a foundation member and an officer of the church. Our brother loved the church, and when health permitted, was always in his place. He was a brother to be proud of for his unswerving loyalty to the cause which he had espoused. Never was he heard to offer a word of complaint or reproach, and although the last ten years of his life were a period of declining health, he rarely failed to be present at the Lord's table, and was there on the Sunday prior to his death. A man of retiring nature, he always had a careful word of enquiry for the sick and heavy-hearted. His wife was the ever-guiding hand, for her thorough grounding in the faith during childhood enabled her to strengthen him, and it can truly be said of their little home, one felt "near to God." Mr. Walsh was laid to rest by Mr. Maiden in the family grave at Taree. We prayerfully commend his loving wife to the Saviour, who giveth the peace which passeth all human understanding.—A. C. Caldicott.

TWO FORCES

Men who have achieved success say that the two sound potent forces in life are work and thrift. In these unexampled days of prosperity everyone has the opportunity to SAVE.

Savings are essential to your future well-being.

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Social Service Progress in Victoria

THE Victorian Social Service Department has just finalised arrangements for the purchase of another fine property at Murrumbidgee, a half mile from the property secured some six months ago which it is intended to use as a Children's Home, and two and a half miles from the Christian Guest Home, at £4000.

It is intended to use the newly acquired property as a hospital to meet the urgent needs of our home, and in a measure, to take into our care some pressing cases demanding nursing attention.

The property is one of about two acres, on which is a substantial brick building of 15 rooms. It is situated half a mile from the railway station, in a beautiful residential area which is served by 'buses of two routes.

The purchase will affect somewhat our previous plans to build the hospital on the same block as stands our Christian Guest Home. The newly acquired property offers excellent opportunity for extension when this is desired, and further accommodation can be provided for guests at the home. Both from the point of view of meeting the immediate need for the hospital and providing for the future, the purchase of this third property at such a low figure must be regarded as a move in the right direction, signalling not only Christian progress, but also offering a further means of service for God and our fellowmen. It is estimated that a new building to suit our requirements at present costs of material and labor, when such are available, could not be provided under £10,000.

The committee is well aware of the implications involved, and has already taken steps to secure financial assistance from the Charities' Board to bring the hospital into service at the earliest possible moment. They also invite applications from nurses and such others who are prepared to offer themselves for service as trainees or semi-trained nurses, cooks and maids. Married couples will also be required. Mothercraft nurses and such as are trained in the care of children or who are prepared to train are also invited to write the committee for information. Applicants from other States will be assisted if required. Financial assistance is also offered, if necessary, to such as are prepared to train for service. Write Will H. Clay, secretary, 241 Flinders-lane, Melbourne, C.I.

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PI CHRISTIAN FRATERNAL ORDERS, VIC. COMPETITION RESULTS, 1945

Swimming.—Phi Betas, Parkdale; Kappas, East Kew. Basket ball.—Phi Betas only, Gardiner. Field sports.—Phi Betas, Gardiner; Kappa Juniors, Balwyn; Kappa Seniors, Caulfield. Homecrafts.—Phi Betas only, North Essendon. Table tennis.—Phi Betas, incomplete; Kappas, Balwyn. Skipping.—Kappas, Gardiner. Quoits.—Kappas, Gardiner. Debating.—Kappa final debate, Gardiner v. East Kew, at Northcote C. of C., Dec. 10, 1945. Dramatics (Phi Betas): humorous section, Balwyn; serious section, East Kew.



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION

"We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak."—Paul to the Galatian Christians.

C.F.A. undertakes to assist its members in all kinds of difficulties. It brings the assistance of all to the help of the one.

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The Australian Christian

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.)

FEEDING THE STARVING

I've waited overlong for a sign that the churches were awake to the appalling and tragic situation which faces so large a percentage of the world's population to-day. There is a necessity laid upon us to do something more tangible than has been done in order to get the starving masses of the world fed. How can we go on talking niceties about "saving" men and women, when we callously let them die in their millions? Some churches have sent food for Britain—a fine gesture—but other countries have a more urgent need. The words of Field Marshal Montgomery that "it serves them right" are not good enough for the Christian. Are the churches so caught up with the rampant spirit of nationalism that they are afraid to heed the words of Christ? Does distance from the scene of suffering cause us to close our eyes to the fact that feeding these people is feeding Christ himself, and denying them food is starving the Christ?

We know that organisations such as UNRRA are tackling the problem, but much can still be done by the church. The churches of Christ can show they are interested in this work by subscribing money and food and forcing Government policy on the question, even as some other smaller bodies are endeavoring to do.

Is anyone interested, or will we close our eyes and go by on the other side?—C. N. Burn, Charters Towers, Qld.

WHAT IS NEEDED

THE writer of the article, "What a Returning Man Thinks is Needed" (7/11/45) is to be commended for attempting to make the church relevant to the needs of our day.

He rightly criticises the platitudinous "Come-to-Jesus-and-the-world-will-be-like-pie Christianity," but are we any further ahead when he substitutes for it "Christianity as the Bible teaches" and the church's "original ideas"? Without elucidation, these can be made to mean just whatever you like. Every heretic takes his stand on the Christianity of the Bible—chapter and verse. Every Christian sect claims it has the original ideas, "the truths of New Testament Christianity."

Furthermore, although the church has "in its cellars" the old ideas which once changed the world, it is certainly required that the "old as the hills" be made "as new as the dawn." Otherwise we but confirm the opinion that the church is the relic of the past. We have to think through those original ideas and discover their developed meanings for our day. Good tidings to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, liberty to the bruised—old ideas—but what do they mean with reference to, say, Asia for the Asiatics, peace in industry, Allied disarmament?

The church should lead, yes! But in what fields, and with what methods and objectives? Should it be in the application of those insights given us by the conferences of Oxford, Madras, Delaware, etc.? If so, what serious attempts are being made by the church to grasp them, campaign for them in pulpit and religious press, and apply them to the life of every day?—R. W. Graham, Boronia, Vic.

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Speak Where the Bible Speaks

(Continued from front page)

is an expiation or (Num. 35: 31) an equivalent for the punishment due, and therefore frees from the consequences of guilt." Peter explains the significance of Christ's death by saying, "Christ himself died for sins, once for all, a just man for unjust men, that he might bring us near to God" (1 Peter 3: 18, Moffatt). Scriptures not only present the fact of Christ's death; they give also an account of the meaning of that death. Such a scriptural definition of the meaning of the cross cannot be treated as a mere human opinion; it is a truth that must be accepted if we are to speak where the Bible speaks. Scripture makes it clear that Christ was more than a martyr. He did more than express the Father's love. Thus A. R. Main could write: "Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for the sins of men on the cross of Calvary. What could not be attained by works comes to us by grace (Rom. 4: 4; 11: 6). The salvation which we cannot have as wages comes as a gift (Eph. 2: 8)." Our teaching about the cross of Christ must be based on the truths the scriptures present. To neglect divine teaching on such a subject and to substitute human opinion for scriptural teaching will weaken the witness of the church.

We have taken the cross and shown the divine interpretation of its meaning for sinners so as to illustrate the validity of the rule we have sought to explain. If this principle is applied to many other facts in the sacred story, scriptural explanations will be found for them also. Let us speak, then, where the Bible speaks, and be silent where it is silent.

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£1000 wanted for the Women's Appeal
For the Hospital on December 8.

WILL. H. CLAY, Secretary,
241 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, C.I.

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