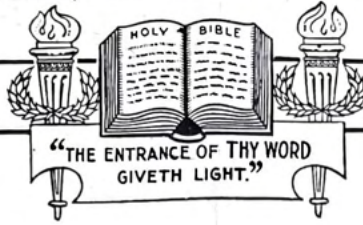


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“This child is set for the fall and rising again of many”

A Peace Resting on Goodwill



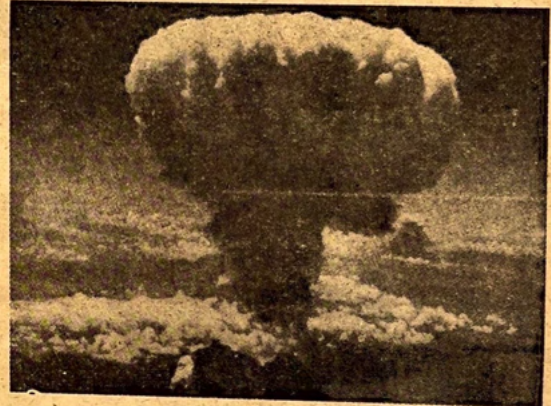
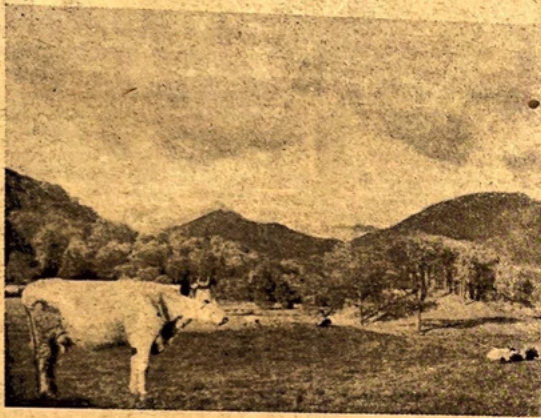
THIS is our first Christmas since the end of World War II. We used to look forward to the time when Christmas bells would ring a message of peace to a world free of the horrors of war. We longed for that Christmas day when the young men and women of the Forces would be back enjoying with us the happiness of this season of the year. Although many are still away and our thoughts are with them, nevertheless large numbers of our kith and kin are back home. Christmas, despite some restrictions, will take on something of its former dress. Perhaps it will not be so gay, but it will be brighter than some we have seen during the past six years.

Christmas can be appreciated fully only when there is peace in this world. It is a season that tells of the need of people being kind and friendly toward one another. When bombs and guns are causing havoc, the song of the angels comes to our ears with an echo suggesting that we human beings are all hypocrites. What right have we to speak of peace with our lips, when with our hands we make war! Christmas has reminded us again and again that



WE are rebuked to-day by the angels' song for having only a peace based on fear. While we prefer a peace based on fear rather than a war, still such a peace is not the kind of peace about which the angels sang. We cannot be satisfied and be really happy at Christmas until there is real and genuine peace.

What did the angels sing? The Authorised Version says: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Weymouth has it: "Glory be to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among men who please him." This reading given by Dr. Weymouth fits the best Greek texts and is supported by A. Souter and Dr. Meyer. The angels did not refer to a peace based on fear, but to a peace resting on the goodness of men who have given pleasure to God by learning to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. When men have gained that love, and have knowledge of the Lord, and have become children of the living God, loving goodness and righteousness, then they have the basis upon which peace may rest.



Do Not Allow Peace to be Destroyed by Atomic Warfare

it is not right for men and women to be destroying life, culture and civilisation. The song of the angels has disturbed our consciences. "Let there be peace on earth" it used to tell us each Christmas during the past six years.



PEACE has come at last. Christmas is also here—a Christmas in a world at peace. How grateful we ought to be for such a gift! Some will not be enthusiastic when they read that message. They may be the cynics in our midst. We, too, may be a little cynical. We may ask: Is this a peace that has come because we have been exhausted by war? Not having the strength or means to continue the struggle, has the human race laid aside its arms for a time? Or is there peace because there is the fear of the dreadful consequences of modern warfare? It may be that it is not the atomic bomb which is evil, but the heart of man, and so we should fear man rather than the bomb. Still there are times when man's deceitful heart is held in check by a fear of the consequences of evil deeds. Because the bomb is so devastating in its effects, it may restrain men from going to war. Then we have a peace based on fear. We venture to suggest that most of the periods of peace in the past have been of that kind. That is why no real peace has been enjoyed among the nations.



WHEN men give pleasure to God they love one another; they share their goods with those in need; they do all in their power to get rid of inequalities among peoples. It is clear the angels point to the truth that only as men get rid of the causes of war will a real peace come into this world. Such a peace will not be secured by treaties, by world conferences of nations, or by peace rallies. Only by the conversion of men of all races to Christ, and only by men living for Christ, can there be real peace. The world needs men of goodwill and men who please God. With such men the newly discovered atomic power will not be a dangerous instrument of war, but a means of providing untold blessings to the peoples of all nations. It is not pressing now to have men working busily in scientific laboratories, for they already have great power under their control; but it is desperately urgent to have men busy preaching the gospel that converts men to God so that this newly discovered power may be in the hands of men with good wills and be used to save life and not to destroy it.

This Christmas lays upon us the duty of spreading the gospel of peace with greater haste so as to save the world from the horrors of another terrifying carnage, and so as to introduce real peace among all nations.

The Christmas Story



By
Ethelbert Davis

"In God's wonderful Book a story is told,
That runs down the pages of time;
A story more precious than rubies or gold,
With hope for the world in each line."

IT'S the story of the wonderful Saviour of men, who brought redemption to the world through Bethlehem's manger, Calvary's cross and the garden tomb.

The Prophet's Vision

Isaiah, the son of Amoz, it was who climbed the mountain summit of prophecy, and putting the prophetic telescope to his eyes looked down the vista of coming centuries, and saw a vision of Israel's Messiah. He announced what he saw in the words, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." And "The Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Thus the heart of the nation was set on the Child that was to come. A later prophet announced the place where he was to be born, and the eyes of the nation were focussed upon the little town of Bethlehem of Judea.

Once Only in Time

Once only in all human history had such universal preparation been made for the birth of a child; for once only in the eternal ages would such a Babe be born. For centuries Jewish prophets and heathen philosophers kept the messianic idea before the peoples. Mighty Rome had built her highways across the civilised world, and thus prepared the way for the feet of his future messengers. Cultured Greece contributed her language as the channel for the proclamation of his gospel. God had also in readiness the body and the love of a virgin for his conception, and his care. For "to a virgin espoused to a man, whose name was Joseph, of the house of Israel," came God's angel saying, "Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. . . . The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee; therefore that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

No necessary detail in the arrangement of this strange means of the Babe's conception and birth was overlooked. To a noble and righteous man this maid was espoused; what of his rights, his feelings, his position? Was he to be ignored? Thoughtful of all that this would mean to this godly son of David, God sent his angel to him with the message, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And

she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins." Joseph was satisfied; "Then Joseph did as the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife."

The Time Appointed

At the appointed time the Child came, or as the inspired writer has it, "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that are under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Came the fulness of time when he who was with the Father before the world was, and who was the express image of his person, should emerge from the matrix wherein he was formed in "fashion as a man" to dwell among us, "God manifest in the flesh." And it happened on this wise: Joseph went with Mary from Galilee "into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem." When they arrived in "David's royal city" they could find accommodation only in a khan outside the town. "While they were there the days were accomplished that she should be delivered."

The beating of the world's tumultuous heart was hushed. In silent reverential awe nature waited—waited for the Child virgin-born.

"The fields lie silent 'neath the starry sky,
And on the hill the child sleeping lies,
When lo! in stable rude—a tiny cry!
And mother-love wakes in a maiden's eyes."

"And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger." There in the stable lay the Babe in whom two natures met—the human and the divine. In him Godhood and manhood were for ever united.

The Angels' Song

It would seem that the city's crowded populace was too preoccupied with other things to know anything of an infant born in a stable, though that infant were God's token of goodwill. But away out on the plains of Bethlehem, where shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night, a shining angelic band appeared. A deep portentous calm, and then "the glory of the Lord shone round about them." As the radiance deepened and the fields were bathed in silver light, the shepherds heard, swelling on the midnight air, the sound of heavenly voices. One of the angelic host said, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is

Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Then there came floating on the air an anthem of praise, the sweetest ever sung, the echoes of which have come down the ages through: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The Guiding Star

To what extent Bethlehem was stirred by the strange events attending the birth of the Christ-child the inspired story does not tell. But from the distant east came wise men to Jerusalem asking, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

From afar these wise men journeyed in search of a king foretold. In their sacred quest they were led by a star of extraordinary brilliance "which went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was." The star did not lead them to the royal palace of Herod the reigning king; it did not lead them to the palace of the nation's anointed high priest; it led them to a humble home, where they "saw the young Child with Mary his mother." Not a mansion but a tradesman's house was the home of the infant King. Finding the object of their quest, the wise men fell down and worshipped him, and opening their treasure they offered their gifts.

"Gold, frankincense and myrrh,
They brought the new-born Christ,
Those wise men from the east;
And in the ox's stall the far-brought
Precious gifts they heaped
With love unpriced,
And Christ the Babe looked on
And wondered not at all."

The wise men's worship and the wise men's gifts were the first-fruits of that worship and those gifts which should be given to him continually as long as the sun and the moon endure.

The Story Ever New

Nearly two thousand years ago that Babe was born in Bethlehem of Judea; but even now that sweet old story seems strangely new. Through the centuries his birth has been commemorated. He has been worshipped by countless millions, and now untold multitudes are looking forward to the time when he will come again, not as a babe in a manger, but as the King to reign.

Hear it again, blessed story of love! Christmas morn, a quiet nook, an open Bible, an uplifted gaze, a fervent desire, and you will hear again the angels' song, you will see the guiding star, you will greet the holy Child—these will give you a new grip upon life, impart a new spirit, and send forth to serve with a new power.



Island Children Receive Christmas Presents.

Christmas

on a

South Sea Island

Lionel Dudley, formerly a missionary in New Hebrides, tells of Christmas events enjoyed by natives.



Baptisms on Christmas Day.

THE festive spirit of the New Hebridean is well expressed in the words of one of his own race: "Native belong islands no work along Christmas more New Year. Him, he walk about no more." This is the general attitude of the native during the Christmas season. Europeans who employ native labor are often vexed by the attitude and behaviour of the natives at this season of the year. A little thought as to the cause would lead such people to adopt a more philosophical outlook. For have not these people some reason for their lightheartedness at the Christmas season? The Babe of Bethlehem brought them peace and joy in delivering them from the power of witchcraft, tribal warfare and cannibalism. It is surely natural for them to desire to give vent and play to this new-found life—"this well springing up within them to eternal life."

We had been in the islands only a few weeks prior to Christmas when we first sensed this festive spirit. Shortly after nightfall native voices were to be heard in the distance singing hymns and choruses. This splendid harmonious singing often lasted until well into the night and seemed to blend with the weird atmosphere of tropical moonlit evenings. Our curiosity induced enquiries as to the reason for this continued singing. Replies were on this wise: "You missionary no understand fashion here? Come close up Christmas. Time belong plenty sing and plenty play."

Newcomers to the tropics slumber heavily and waken only gradually and drowsily. Perhaps this was the reason for momentarily thinking that we were in heaven during our first Christmas eve in the islands; for we wakened to the strain of far distant choral singing. The effect was weird and unreal, yet harmonious—so faint that at first it seemed only a dream. The melody persisted, growing gradually louder and louder until consciousness dawned and we realised that the voices were at the very doors of our bedroom. We threw on dressing gowns as we fumbled for matches. Would we never find them? At last we managed to light a lamp, the rays of which shone out upon the dark sincere faces, revealing that we were confronted with a host of guests who had packed themselves on to the verandah of the bungalow. The spirit of Christmas had manifested itself at our very doors.

In the history of churches of Christ missionary enterprise in the New Hebrides, some wise soul had foreseen the possibilities of the Christmas spirit either running wild or being guided into avenues of spiritual usefulness; for midst the air of festivity a solemn note of dedication has been sounded, as Christmas Sunday is one of the most eventful days of the year. It is the culmination of weeks of preparation in all avenues of life. The men and women become most active in their vegetable and copra gardens. Vegetables are staple foods, and are needed in abundance during the Christmas season. Copra, the dried kernel of the coconut, may be sold to the local

trader, or to traders who call in their launches, in exchange for English, French or Australian currency. The money thus gained has power to purchase tinned meats, rice, sugar, tea and like commodities. In addition, there is considerable purchasing of garments and materials to be worn during the approaching festive season. Needle women are greatly in demand in the villages to fashion and stitch brightly colored materials into frocks. All of these are more or less private preparations.

There are also communal efforts. In various parts of the island men and boys assemble with long knives and native brooms and they set to work to weed, level and sweep footpaths or roads as they term them. On the Saturday preceding Christmas Sunday, the large central church building is prepared and decorated. What a picture it presents with its tasteful arches of banana palms, crotons, hibiscus, fragipanni, and other tropical flowers! On this day also every native housewife is busy in her kitchen, with younger members of the family assisting in carrying and preparing "lap lap" which will remain in the primitive yet effective oven until early on the morrow, when it is unearthen, wrapped in leaves and placed in baskets ready to be carried to the central assembling place.

Yet another form of preparation has been taking place. Spiritual forces have been active. Young men and women who have grown to years of understanding; possibly, too, older folk from semi-heathen villages who have been influenced by native Christians, have indicated their desire to be baptised. The elders in their respective villages have instructed these people in the teachings of the New Testament in preparation for their public confession.

Christmas Sunday dawns with a clear sky, a calm sea, and an air of expectancy. Now and again the early morning stillness is broken by cries of glee coming from the lips of early morning sea bathers. As the sun rises higher in the deep blue sky the island springs into life. Soon now natives appear wending their way along the clean paths which are bordered by variegated crotons and colorful hibiscus midst a background of dense tropical greens, toward the central church building. Some gracefully carry food in baskets balanced on their heads. A piccaninny may be slung on the back of another. The younger women are dressed in bright orange, red, blue and pink frocks. One or two of them have even secured a modern hat. The men are dressed in trousers and athletic singlets. Food is left at the kia-kia house adjoining the church building. The procession then moves on to the coral beach, where people sit about in the shade. Presently a number of young women appear clad in simple white frocks, also a number of young men dressed in white shorts and shirts. These are the candidates for baptism. By now some four or five hundred people have assembled to join in the service and to witness the baptisms. The missionary with his wife and family has arrived. Some elders group themselves about him at a van-

tage point. The missionary announces a hymn, and at a given signal from the native song-leader, the crowd takes up the note and blends in an anthem of praise. A native leads in prayer, another reads the scriptures, and the missionary delivers an appropriate address, his remarks being supported by two native elders. Well-known hymns are sung lustily. The native choir renders an anthem as the missionary and elders make their way into the sea preparatory to the baptismal service. One by one the candidates are assisted into the water and are immersed in the sea and assisted to the shore again. A prayer and benediction bring this beautiful service of witness and confession to a close.

The throng of people now move off in the direction of the kia-kia or social hut where food was previously deposited. A band of helpers divide the lap lap, rice and roast fowl into equal portions and hand it around on plates made from tropical leaves. Water-melons, pineapples, bananas and coconuts are available in large quantities. After an ample repast the people sit in groups, and between draws at a cigarette, discuss their common interests.

Then the culminating service of the day is held. Early afternoon the mission bell tolls and the worshippers enter the house of God. Those unable to find accommodation within this large auditorium crowd about the windows and doors. The missionary conducts this dedicatory service. He extends the right hand of fellowship to all who earlier in the day put on Christ in baptism. He presides at the Lord's table, and in simple terms enlarges on the significance of the emblems. Midst a solemn hush the emblems pass from hand to hand. The choir sings again, and the missionary brings a message of challenge and encouragement, and directs the thoughts of the people to the need of complete consecration in the tasks of the Christian life. With the service at an end there is much hand shaking as these natives prepare to set out upon their homeward journey, since many of them have come from remote villages.

Eventide echoes with the sound of the mission bell. On hill and in dale native tomtoms resound and re-echo, as this is the hour of evening worship. In many a village chapel the people sing:

Holy night, peaceful night,
Through the darkness beams a light;
Yonder, where they sweet vigils keep,
O'er the Babe who, in silent sleep,
Rests in heavenly peace,
Rests in heavenly peace.

So the islander, midst his Christmas festivity, acknowledges him who first brought to this world the spirit of Christmas.

Here and There

The church at Point Sturt, S.A., celebrated its ninetieth anniversary on Nov. 11, not nineteenth as appeared in error in last issue.

We learn that the Women's Service Club, of Melbourne, after providing much valued help during war years, closes down on Dec. 21.

Will preachers please note that, in order to participate in this year's subsidy of the Preachers' Provident Fund, all contributions must be received by Dec. 31? Address F. S. Steer, Box 9, P.O., Surry Hills, N.S.W.

A. L. Haddon, of Dunedin, New Zealand, is expecting to visit Australia to take part in the centenary conference to be held at Adelaide, Sept. 3-10, 1946. Mr. Haddon is editor of the "New Zealand Christian" and principal of Bible College.

Young People's Departments in most States are conducting camps during the Christmas seasons. These should prove of help to young people.

Maston Bell, secretary of Federal Aborigines Board, advises by telegram reaching us on Dec. 6, that Nurse Ball was entertained by Kalgoolie brethren while awaiting transport for Norseman. On Dec. 2 Miss Ball was welcomed at Norseman Aborigines Mission station by mission staff and by representatives of Federal Aborigines Board.

Keen interest is maintained in the mission at Thornbury, Vic., which has entered its fourth week. On Dec. 5 four were baptised. K. A. Macnaughtan gave a talk to Bible school on Dec. 9, and six scholars confessed Christ. At C.M.S. tea W. W. Saunders gave a helpful address to the men. Prayer was offered for Mr. Page, the president, who has undergone an operation for appendicitis and is progressing favorably. Mr. Swan, who attended, was congratulated on his 84th birthday. At gospel service there was one reconsecration, making the number of decisions to date 18. Amongst visitors to the church was Mrs. Paradine, of Brisbane.

The church at Melbourne (Swanston-st.) was pleased to have present on Nov. 25 Mr. and Mrs. Hermon Reynolds and their son, en route from U.S.A. to India. Mr. Reynolds spoke at morning service on his work in India. All other recent services have been addressed by C. B. Nance-Kivell. Mr. Gibbs, of Shepparton, was baptised on Dec. 2. On Nov. 30 a social evening was well attended, when there were musical and elocutionary items. Highlight of the evening was a play entitled "The Winning of Mrs. Bard," presented by the ladies of the church. Before a large congregation on Dec. 9 "The Messiah" was rendered by the choir, under direction of H. T. S. Brown, with the following soloists: Miss S. Oliver, Miss P. Collett, R. Hardy and H. Helmore. Mrs. S. C. Le Lievre was organist, Miss M. I. Moore pianist, and W. Scattergood trumpeter. An offering for Food for Britain reached £13/17/-. Home mission offering was approximately £38.

A splendid gathering representative of the churches connected with the Northern Suburban Churches Conference, Melbourne, met in Coburg chapel, which was tastefully decorated on Thursday evening, Dec. 6, for the third quarterly rally. Bright singing rendered by combined churches choir conducted by F. V. Brown; elocutionary item delightfully rendered by Mrs. Coe, and solo by Miss Olive Russell, all helped to create a helpful atmosphere for the speaker, F. E. Buckingham, who spoke upon the thought, "Working Out Salvation." Mr. Buckingham powerfully presented the claim for support by the individual of the C.F.A. movement, which prompted many questions upon the functions of C.F.A. work. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Prentice, vice-president.

Greetings

DURING 1945 we have appreciated the cooperation of brethren throughout the Commonwealth. Because of such consistent help we have been able to serve churches in all the States, and to encourage the work of the kingdom of God in many parts of the world. To readers, agents, reporters, correspondents and writers, we express thanks for such help, and we ask for continued assistance in the coming year.

That all readers may enjoy the true happiness of Christmas and the blessings of a peaceful and prosperous New Year are the wishes of

**The Editor.—A. W. Stephenson.
The Manager.—D. E. Pittman.**

We learn that R. Bolduan, recently returned from India, has accepted the invitation to labor with the church at Gardiner, Vic., A. Brooke having resigned to take up church work in N.S.W. In order to enter this new work in the homeland, it was necessary for Mr. and Mrs. Bolduan to resign as missionaries. A. Anderson, secretary of Foreign Mission Board, writes: "The Australian Churches of Christ Foreign Mission Board regretfully announce the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Bolduan as missionaries to India. The board place on record the valuable work given by these workers, and pray them God's richest blessing as they undertake the ministry of Gardiner church. Under their joint signatures Mr. and Mrs. Bolduan state, 'We wish to say how much we have appreciated the association of almost 17 years with the board, and count it a privilege to have worked in India. We should like each member of the board to know how grateful we are for the kindness and consideration shown us throughout the years and particularly on this occasion of severing our mutual connection overseas. Be assured that we shall

be ready always to do all in our power to foster and further the work in 'Our India,' and that our memories of our association with you will be of the sweetest.'

The following telegram reached us on Dec. 10:—"Macnaughtan-Saunders mission, Thornbury, Vic.; seven decisions December 9; eighteen to date; splendid interest; sound teaching; church receiving blessing."

A baptismal service was conducted at Bentleigh, Vic., by Mr. Anderson in chapel on evening of Nov. 18, when Mr. Romeril, jun., and Miss Sampson were immersed. Recent speakers at services have been N. Arnott, A. Wallington and R. P. Morris. Church extends to Mrs. Carne and family sympathy in their bereavement. Recently-formed girls' club is doing fine work. Mrs. G. Lewis has resigned as superintendent of kindergarten, and has gone to live at Frankston, and Miss Yewdall has accepted the position.

W. B. Payne announces that regular services at Cumeroounga, Vic., have been discontinued. For almost 16 years spiritual help has been given to aborigines, about 60 having been baptised. Some hospital visitation will be maintained.

On Nov. 18 the evening service at Footscray, Vic., took the form of a "popular hymn night" with aid of lantern slides. Members of district youth fellowship visited Burwood Boys' Home on Dec. 2. The following Saturday the kinders, at Tottenham and Raleigh-st. schools, had annual Christmas treat in afternoon, and main school a Christmas social at night.

At service for breaking of bread at Geelong, Vic., on Dec. 9, three young ladies who were baptised previous Sunday were received into fellowship. A farewell gathering by members and friends to Mr. and Mrs. F. Gason, who are leaving district, took place on Dec. 6. Mr. Gason has for a number of years been secretary of church. Several spoke of excellent service rendered, and wished them success in their new venture. Mr. Gason was recipient of a travelling-rug, and Mrs. Gason also received a presentation.

At church half-yearly business meeting at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic., a constitution was adopted. Reports revealed progress in all phases of work. Record offerings were received for all special appeals. Addresses and fellowship of Mr. Crawshaw, of Leper Missions, were appreciated. An offering of £5/10/- was received at lecture for this work. Approximately £25 has been donated to this work during this year. Home mission offering was £29/10/-. Kindergarten had record attendance of 105 kinders present last Sunday. Ladies' Christmas gift to hospital appeal was £22.

The Prime Minister of Australia (the Rt. Hon. J. B. Chifley) makes an appeal to people to spend wisely during these days to keep prices down. "Many goods are scarce and dear," he writes, "and as always happens at such a time there is competition for scarce goods. That competition if not checked by the good sense of our people could destroy the price control system, force costs skyhigh and destroy the value of the savings of our people in whatever form they are held. In the ultimate most goods would go to those with most money. The poorest of us would get least."



News of the Churches

Tasmania

Hobart (Collins-st.).—Miss Mary Rodd, a very old and loyal member, passed away on Nov. 23. Chaplain Tease gave an inspiring address to church on morning of Dec. 2. Sunday school scholars visited West Hobart Sunday school anniversary. C. P. Hughes addressed annual meeting of W.C.T.U. at Newtown, Hobart, on Dec. 4.

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—Average attendances for November were: 11 a.m., 72; 7 p.m., 218; communion, 108. In past two weeks (since anniversary) ten new scholars have been added to Bible school. On morning of Dec. 2 Ern Taylor, of Sulphur Creek, was welcomed into fellowship. Included in visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Merv. Taylor, of Sydney. Junior and Intermediate C.E. Societies are now meeting as separate auxiliaries. O. G. Potter is new superintendent of Intermediates and Miss Nellie McCullum (a former Intermediate) becomes Junior superintendent. A baby creche at 11 a.m. Sunday meetings is patronised and appreciated by parents.

Invermay.—During months September to November meetings maintained good average attendances. Mr. Steele ministers helpfully. During September church assisted in Youth Week celebrations. Mr. Steele was speaker at youth celebrations in Hobart. In his absence local brethren filled platform. Visiting speakers have been S. Riches, secretary Mission to Lepers, who exhorted church, and R. V. Amos, of West Hobart, who was speaker at Youth Week celebrations in Launceston. His gospel address was appreciated. Sunday school has commenced an increase rally with encouraging results. Visitors during October included Mrs. and Miss Steele, from Victoria. Bible school anniversary was conducted on Nov. 25. Children were trained by Mrs. Alderton, assisted by Max Olding at piano and Miss Mary Arnott (Sandhill) at organ. Margaret Smith was soloist, and Delka Evans and Margaret Smith sang a duet. On Nov. 28 anniversary demonstration was held. Mrs. E. A. Stevens is again in fellowship after an operation.

South Australia

Unley.—Combined clubs had a successful Christmas social. Church was invited to attend Maylands church, when a welcome social was given to Miss F. Cameron. K. Jones, Dr. Messent, Mr. Manning and Mrs. Green spoke words of appreciation, and younger members of church said theirs with bouquets of flowers. On morning of Dec. 2 B. W. Manning, of Fullarton church, gave an inspiring talk.

Forestville.—Church anniversary was celebrated on Nov. 25, with good attendances. Special items were rendered by choir. Anniversary tea was held on Nov. 28, at which twelve returned men were guests of honor. H. G. Norris was speaker. Visitations have been made to mission being held by church at Colonel Light Gardens. A happy time was spent at Bible school social on Dec. 1. E. R. Reynolds recounted some of the brighter aspects of life as a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. Frank Bell is home from active service.

Kensington Park.—Anniversary services conducted ably by Mr. Penhall were a great success. The picnic on account of tram strike was held nearby at Kensington Gardens. Prize-giving was well attended by parents, programme in main being given by children. More teachers are needed in every department of school. An operation kept Mr. Hoffmann, the superintendent, away. Gerald Simpson, despite an injury, took charge of school activities. Mrs.

Pederson had news from Islands of her husband's death. Mrs. John Gard has passed away. Sympathy is extended to the bereaved. For two years Miss Hume, one of the pioneer members, has been laid aside. For many years she and her sister, Janet, were ardent workers among children. All through the year church has had part-time ministry of A. H. Wilson. Three senior girls, Joan and Margaret Potter and Nancy Walkley, have been immersed. Judith Walkley, baptised last year, has begun her nursing at Patawilya Hospital, Glenelg.

How Far to Bethlehem?

"**H**OW far is it to Bethlehem town?"

Just over Jerusalem hills adown,

*Past lovely Rachel's white-domed tomb—
Sweet shine of motherhood's young doom.*

*It isn't far to Bethlehem town—
Just over the dusty roads adown,
Past wise men's well, still offering
Cool draughts from welcome wayside spring;*

*Past shepherds with their flutes of reed
That charm the woolly sheep they lead;
Past boys with kites on hill tops flying,
And soon you're there where Bethlehem's
lying*

*Sunned white and sweet on olived slopes,
Gold-lighted still with Judah's hopes.*

*And so we find the Shepherd's field
And plain that gave rich Boaz yield;
And look where Herod's villa stood
We thrill that earthly parenthood
Could foster Christ who was all-good;
And thrill that Bethlehem town to-day
Looks down on Christian homes that
pray.*

*It isn't far to Bethlehem town!
It's anywhere that Christ comes down
And finds in people's friendly face
A welcome and abiding place.
The road to Bethlehem runs right
through
The homes of folks like me and you.*

—Madeleine Sweeney Miller.

Balakiava.—Church services maintain a good average. Young people's week-night services have been suspended for harvest season. Colin Curtis exhorted church during his stay with his people prior to taking up work at Hamilton, Vic. Solos from Mrs. C. Curtis were also appreciated. A. Hutson conducted R.S.L. Armistice service on Nov. 11, and Mr. Pearl, sen., gave exhortation at worship service on that date. Mr. Albright, representing Temperance Alliance, spoke at evening service recently. Local branch of W.C.T.U. asked A. Hutson to address them. Two weddings were celebrated in chapel last month by Mr. Hutson—Miss Rhonda Roberts and A. R. Rodda, Miss Annie Shrubsole and A. C. Cox. A social evening was held prior to the wedding to express good wishes of church friends. Presentations were made on behalf of young people's societies. Occasion was also taken to extend a welcome home from active service W. Lock, who has been away over five years. Sunday school attendances have been on up-grade, teachers and officers co-operating heartily. Dorcas gift afternoon for missions, etc., raised about £8/10/-. Mrs. F. Webb, in hospital following an accident, is making good recovery.

Cottonville.—The church was saddened to learn of the death of J. E. Brooke's father at Wallaroo, on Nov. 22. During preacher's absence on 25th, G. Berry and A. Glastonbury

preached. Mr. Brooke took both services on Dec. 2, and gave consecration address to Endeavorers at 10 a.m. Miss Ruth Coombe was baptised at gospel service. Church weekly average offering for November was £8/17/5, while amount received so far towards home mission offering is over £14. Intermediate Endeavorers have written 20 letters to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coventry in India, which were parcelled together, and will convey season's greetings. J.C.E. held a social on Nov. 24 to close a successful competition. Mrs. Eagle (formerly Miss Joyce Stephenson) is back from Eastern States. Valwynne Nichols, who is now home with his parents after four years in school in Japanese occupied China, was welcomed back. Neil Coventry (R.A.A.F.) is to receive his discharge, while Ern Stephenson is also back. Mrs. Walter Berry is improving following an operation. Practice has been started for Sunday school anniversary, with A. Glastonbury conductor. Girls' Club is in recess.

New South Wales

Tempe.—Mr. Hardimon has been appointed by church for full-time work for next twelve months. A concert and fete were held, and £58 raised to purchase piano for kindergarten. On Nov. 17 L. W. P. Smith and Miss M. Tyler were united in marriage.

Seven Hills.—Bible school anniversary was held on Nov. 25, when special singing by school, under leadership of H. Colbourne, was a feature of evening. R. Greenhalgh gave an illustrated address. Prizes were distributed at a service held on Dec. 1, when school again rendered musical items, and speaker was P. E. Thomas, of Marrickville.

South Auburn.—Services continue at high standard. E. Davis gives addresses of spiritual uplift. Attendances at morning services have improved lately. Average for breaking of bread is 70 to 80. Sponsored by Dorcas sisters, the church on Nov. 8 gave a 90th birthday party to N. Ruddle. A good number of relatives and friends sat to dinner, after which a social evening was held. Mr. Ruddle, despite his years, enjoyed every moment. Mr. Davis presented a book and cheque to the guest of the evening.

Rockdale.—On Dec. 2 Mr. McMillan gave an impressive exhortation. A welcome was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, en route for New Hebrides. There was good attendance at Bible school. Young People's Fellowship tea was held, when a party of young people from Manly Methodist Church was present, one of their number being speaker. Mr. Burns gave a good gospel address, and Miss Marcia Burns rendered a solo. Sister Goyen has been ill for a number of weeks, and Sister Henderson is in hospital.

Burwood.—On Dec. 2 Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, missionaries on way to New Hebrides, brought a greeting to church from church at Cheltenham, Vic. At close of service Jack Smith and Ron Lewer, two boys from Bible school, made the good confession. Ernest Millar and Edith Avenell, who have been very active in choir and as Bible school teachers, were married on Dec. 8. Word has been received that Mrs. R. H. Wakeley's brother, Sig. H. M. Williams, who has been missing for over twelve months in Dutch N.G., died in P.O.W. camp.

Fairfield.—The Protestant Hall was filled at a recent concert and presentation to Miss Roffey and Mr. Morris, organised by Mr. Jenkins. Mr. Hall was chairman. Speakers were Messrs. Beale, Dewberry and Norling. Mr. Carre made presentation of a wallet of notes. A musical and elocutionary programme was enjoyed. Sunday school anniversary services on Nov. 18 and 20 were very well attended. The speakers, R. Greenhalgh and P. E. Thomas, gave appreciated illustrated addresses. P. E. Thomas also presented the prizes. Children's items were excellent. The church thanks Mr. Morris and Miss Roffey for their service, and wishes them success and happiness in their future life and in the work at Hamilton.

Marrickville.—Women's Guild concluded activities for year with social afternoon, on Nov. 28. Gifts for Aged Women's Home and toys for kindergarten and cradle roll Christmas tree were displayed and represented many hours of splendid service. Mrs. McCallum (Epping) was speaker and Mrs. Walker (Earlwood) soloist. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, missionaries en route to Aoba, were present at Life Gift Fellowship on Nov. 28. In connection with school "houses" competition, a supplementary competition (covering attendance, punctuality, new scholars, behaviour and scripture memorising) has been started. First of a series of welcome home socials to discharged Servicemen and women was held on Dec. 5.

Queensland

Townsville.—On Nov. 18 C. Burn, of Charters Towers, was speaker for day. A well attended Bible school anniversary service was held in afternoon. The concert was held on Nov. 20. The church still enjoys fellowship with a few Services personnel passing through either to be released on leave. Bible school maintains fair average attendance.

Charters Towers.—Two memorial gifts were received at morning service on Dec. 2. A communion table with glass top was a memorial to late Sister Riley, called home in June, 1945, presented by her granddaughter (Mrs. D. Williams). As memorial to late Mr. Coward, called home in October, 1932, a new pulpit was given by the Coward family. The late brother and sister were foundation members. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Gatten in loss of her son (P.O.W.); also to Broad family (Mossman) in their recent bereavement. Church in new year intends to give trial to budget system.

Western Australia

Perth.—Dave Ewers and Heather Campbell have now left hospital. On morning of Dec. 2, visitors included Mr. and Miss Lewis (Mile End, S.A.) and R. Thompson (Prospect, S.A.). A. G. Elliott, who presided, received church's best wishes as he takes up full-time ministry with church at Victoria Park. A talk by J. K. Robinson helped all. At 7.30 p.m. Mrs. D. Ewers was soloist; Mr. Robinson preached.

Subiaco.—Two were received into membership on Dec. 2 following their baptism. In evening Mr. Raymond conducted a service of remembrance and sympathy. Order of service was printed, and contained names of four members who made the supreme sacrifice. Building was filled to capacity. Choir and double (male) quartette did exceptionally well. Prior to service about 70 men sat to tea, when a further group of returned men were welcomed home. Major Sagers and F/O W. Lake responded to welcome on behalf of the men. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond are about to leave on three months' rest in eastern States. Ladies' Aid made a parting gift to Mrs. Raymond at wind-up social on Dec. 1. Following midweek service on Dec. 6, opportunity was taken in a social hour to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond. A presentation was made.

Victoria

Emerald.—On Dec. 2 Chas. Cole, secretary Sudan United Mission, took both services. An illustrated lantern service was held at night, and Miss Kingshott was soloist. Special offering for mission totalled £3, and a number of offering boxes were distributed. Electrical hearing aids recently installed are proving efficient and popular.

Bayswater.—F. Gibson, of B. and F. Bible Society, gave an interesting lantern lecture on Nov. 24. At combined meeting in Bayswater Hall on Dec. 2, Mr. Duff-Forbes, of Biblical Research Society, gave an illustrated address to a good congregation. Mr. Combridge continues to give inspiring addresses. Home mission offering was £6/2/9. All auxiliaries are in healthy condition. Mrs. Morton is laid aside with illness.

Hampton.—Church auxiliaries are holding closing functions for year. On evening of Dec. 9 Barbara Stokie, a scholar of the Bible school, confessed Christ. On Dec. 8 R. Lang and Miss S. Rogers were married in chapel, C. L. Lang officiating; and Miss B. Holloway was married to Mr. Sercombe in Swanston-st. chapel by G. P. Pittman.

Ascot Vale.—The auxiliary held a birthday evening on Nov. 29, an enjoyable time being spent. Mrs. Turner gave an instructive address; Mrs. Butcher rendered two solos, and Mrs. Rose was elocutionist. Supper was served. Dec. 9 was Temple Day, when a number of past members were present. Mr. Burns gave a helpful address. £75 was received.

Red Hill.—A church welcome was given to Colin White and David Holmes in a social evening on Nov. 7. The church with Mr. Torney and family suffered in the tragic death of Ian. N. Kingston conducted the funeral service. 17 attended bedside conference on Nov. 17. Harold Holmes and Eric Salmon were married on Nov. 10 and 24. Meetings are well attended.

Echuca.—During November services were well attended. Mr. Robertson McCue, of Local Option Alliance, addressed service on Nov. 25. Members are glad to see Philip Maidment at church after a month in hospital. Girls' Club had a church parade on evening of Dec. 1. So far home mission offering amounts to £6/6/-. Mission Band held annual wind-up afternoon on Nov. 21. The Buyer family, from Frankston, have come to Echuca to live, and met with church on Dec. 2.

Warracknabeal.—Two decisions have been made in recent weeks, in addition to the one at Dimboola mission—all young people. Members are thankful to Messrs. Sherriff and Jackel, of Horsham, for help given, also to Mr. Sleep, of Rainbow. Following conclusion of Dimboola mission, a farewell evening was given G. T. Black, when preachers of other churches of town were present. Presentation of wallet of notes was made, also gifts from Ladies' Aid and Endeavor Societies. Prior to her marriage, Miss Heather Telfer was tendered a kitchen-tea, when many useful gifts were presented. Sister Gore is making steady recovery after illness, as also is John Earl.

Camberwell.—Home mission offering on first Sunday amounted to £36/8/-. Increase so far of £8 on last year's. A committee with F. R. Ryall convener has been formed to arrange fellowship amongst men, particularly taking in returned men. Final meeting of Women's Mission Band was held on Dec. 5, when an Australian tea was held to assist Christmas treat for kinders. Jack Williams has been awarded Military Medal for meritorious service. Word has been received that Frank Nankivell has obtained his B.Sc. with credit at Adelaide University. Chapel was full for morning service on Dec. 2, when W. F. Nankivell spoke. About 70 were present in evening. 145 broke bread for day. Each family in church is being presented with a church almanac for 1946.

Warragul.—S.S. anniversary services on Dec. 2 were well attended. Mr. Finger, of Boronia church, presided in morning. J. Baker, sen., at organ, and Mr. Byard (cello) rendered great help to singing. A solo by Miss Finger was enjoyed. Mr. and Mrs. Collyer, sen., were received by letter from Gardiner church. Mr. Fitzgerald, from Collingwood church, delivered an inspiring exhortation. Afternoon meeting was in charge of J. Baker, jun. Under leadership of Mr. Baker, sen., with Sister Keetley at organ, children delighted with singing. A duet was rendered by Norma Keetley and Betty Waters. Mr. Fitzgerald held attention of children and adults with his object lesson address. Prizes were distributed by Mr. Fitzgerald, who on behalf of young people of church made a presentation to Mr. Baker, jun., in appreciation of his work amongst them for past two years. In evening the children again sang splendidly. A duet by Dorothy Pedersen and Norma Keetley and a solo by the latter were appreciated. Mr. Fitzgerald gave another fine illustrated talk.

Springvale.—Explorers and Good Companions, under leadership of B. C. Marks and Sister Beandlan, held a garden fete at home of Mr. and Mrs. Marks on Dec. 8. Fete was opened by Miss Roberts. Proceeds, £37, will be used for platform furniture for new chapel. One Good Companion confessed Christ on evening of Dec. 2.

North Fitzroy.—For several weeks A. MacDonald has been giving week-end services to the church, and has now taken up full-time work as an interim ministry. On evening of Dec. 2, four young women were immersed following their decision at evening service two weeks ago. John Turner is expected to commence his work at end of January.

Surrey Hills.—H. A. G. Clark has accepted an invitation to serve the church as preacher. Miss W. Kerr has been baptised and welcomed into fellowship. Speaker at youth tea was Fred Elliott, from East Kew. Youth council conducted gospel service and cricket club parade, Frank Collingwood being preacher. Church cricket team, undefeated, heads list to date.

West Preston.—Splendid meetings with excellent attendances have been held over past few weeks. On Dec. 2 C. Watson spoke in morning, and A. B. Withers preached at night. On Dec. 8 junior school held Christmas party. On Dec. 9 Mr. Alcorn (Reservoir) was morning speaker. Mr. and Mrs. A. Powell were received by transfer from Moreland. Many visitors were present. In evening A. B. Withers was preacher.

Moreland.—Recently a young lady from Bible school made the good confession, and at a special baptismal service three were immersed. Spencer J. Hocking, a deacon for a number of years, has recently returned home to Ballarat, and a farewell was tendered at which a presentation was made to him. A splendid new kitchen has been installed in church buildings as result of excellent efforts of Mothers' Club of Junior Crusaders.

Prahran.—Morning Bible school appears to be a success, attendances improving. The church at beginning of November decided to adopt the church of Christ, Bulwell, Nottingham, England. Since then over 50 parcels of food have been sent direct to the congregation at Bulwell. The church will continue to send parcels until the food position in England improves. Letter of greeting and appreciation has been received from secretary at Bulwell. A new brick fence has been erected in front of the chapel, adding to appearance of property.

Mont Albert.—Temple Day was held on Nov. 18. £21 has been received to date. Dr. Kemp spoke in morning, and Mr. Hurren in evening. Miss Z. Luke was soloist. Sunday school anniversary services on Nov. 25 were bright. F. Combridge was speaker in afternoon, and Mr. Miller, R.A.N., in evening. The children sang well under leadership of Mr. Smith. Presentation of prizes and social evening took place on Dec. 2. Three new scholars have been added to school. Mr. Hodgins, of Blackburn, addressed church on morning December 2, and Mr. Hillier spoke in evening.

Collingwood.—At morning meeting on Nov. 25 the address was given by Miss E. Beecroft, a missionary from India and a former member of church. On Dec. 2, owing to T. Fitzgerald's absence at Warragul, speaker at both meetings was Mr. Westwood. On Dec. 8 a farewell social evening was held in honor of Mr. Fitzgerald, who is concluding his ministry with the church after fifteen years. Presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald on behalf of all organisations in church. Speaker at morning service on Dec. 9 was C. Watson. There has been an excellent response to Food for Britain appeal, especially among children, and parcels have been sent.

Ringwood.—Sunday school anniversary services were held on Dec. 2. At 11 a.m., C. R. Burdeu commenced a series on goodwill. At 3 p.m. R. Muller was speaker, and in evening F. Buckingham spoke. Scholars were led in singing by B. F. Huntsman. Prizes were presented to kinder scholars, who have been led by Betty Jame, from Blackburn; and Joy Russell and Laurie Dunn were presented with prizes for regular attendance at church services. V. Quayle as circuit preacher for 1946 brought a greeting in afternoon. He expects to commence his ministry on Jan. 6. C. Barlow has been elected circuit treasurer.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Workman wish to announce the 25th anniversary of their wedding, solemnised by P. R. Baker at church of Christ, Margaret-st., Launceston, Tasmania, on Dec. 16, 1920. Present address, 94 The Avenue, Coburg, N13, Vic.

DEATHS

MORPHETT.—On Dec. 2, 1945, at her daughter's residence, 14 Holywood-gve., Glenhuntingly, Annie, the beloved sister of May, and loving aunt of Ralph, Horace, Percy.

I keep in my heart the love of the past,

To me it is dearer than gold,

For deep in my heart it was planted to last,

And in absence it never grows cold.

—Inserted by her loving sister.

MCDONALD.—On Dec. 6, 1945, at Glen Iris, Elizabeth, loved mother of Percy and Myrtle, grandmother of Jock, Dorothy and Eileen. "He giveth his beloved sleep."

MCDONALD.—On Dec. 6, at 1 Scott-gve., Glen Iris, Elizabeth, dearly loved mother of May. "Asleep in Jesus."

MCDONALD.—On Dec. 6, at 1 Scott-gve., Glen Iris, loved mother of Laura and Harry, grandma of Marjorie, Don, Brian, Wallace and Gwen.

"Until we meet again before his throne,

Clothed in the spotless robes he gives his own,

Until we know even as we are known,

Good-night."

IN MEMORIAM

BERRY (on Active Service).—In sad and loving memory of our only son, Flt.-Sgt. Stan., reported missing abroad on Dec. 6, 1943, now presumed to have lost his life on that date.

Death is a heartbreak no one can heal,

Memory a treasure no one can steal.

Sadly missed.

—Inserted by his loving mother and father.

BERRY (on Active Service).—In memory of my much loved brother, Flt.-Sgt. Stan., reported missing abroad on Dec. 6, 1943, now presumed to have lost his life on that date.

Dearer to me than words can tell,
Is the brother I lost and loved so well.

—Inserted by his loving sister Dorothy.

BERRY (on Active Service).—In fond and loving memory of our dear by, Flt.-Sgt. Stan., reported missing on Dec. 6, 1943, now presumed to have lost his life on that date. Loved and remembered by his loving grandma, and aunts May and Carrie Pettifer.

Resting where no shadows fall,
In God's care he awaits us all.

BERRY.—In loving remembrance of Flt.-Sgt. Stanley George, killed air operations abroad Dec. 6, 1943; loved friend of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Phillips, Dorothy and Audrey, Fairfield.

PERKINS.—In loving memory of my dear husband, William Henry, who passed away Dec. 11, 1942; also devoted father of Ralph, Horace and Percival.

"Our lives, though parted, still are bound,

By golden cords of love,

But the faith we hold by God is crowned

And sealed in heaven above."

—Inserted by his loving wife May.

SQUIRELL.—In loving memory of Rose, who passed away Dec. 17, 1944; the dearly loved wife of Tom; loving mother of Rose (Mrs. James) and Doris; loved mother-in-law of Harold. A wonderful wife and mother.

Not gone from memory—or from love,
But to her Father's home above.

—Inserted by her loving husband and daughters.

SQUIRELL (nee Sharp).—In loving remembrance of Rose, who passed away Dec. 17, 1944; the dearly loved daughter of the late Samuel and Martha Sharp, of Kensington, Melbourne; the devoted sister of Ann (Mrs. Munford), Mary (Mrs. Stobaus), Fred and Walter.

If thou shouldst call me to resign

What most I prize, it ne'er was mine;

I only yield thee what is thine—

Thy will be done.

—Inserted by her loving sisters and brothers.

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OUR GLORIOUS PRIZE

LOOK upward where the prize is; the sight
of the prize increaseth the determination
of the will; this hope suffereth not to toil or
distress; it maketh the distance appear short.
And what is this prize? No palm branch; but
what? The kingdom of heaven, everlasting
rest, glory, together with Christ, the promised
inheritance, glorified brotherhood, and ten thousand
other blessed things. It is impossible to
describe the beauty of that prize; he who hath
it alone knoweth it, and he who is about to
receive it. It is not of gold, it is not of
jewels; it is far more precious. Gold is mire
in comparison with it, pearly stones are mere
bricks in contrast with its beauty. If thou
hast this, and takest thy departure to heaven,
thou wilt be able to walk there with great
honor; the angels will reverence thee when
thou bearest this prize; with much confidence
wilt thou approach them all.—Chrysostom.

Mrs. Crawford.—"Why won't your husband
buy you a motor car?"

Mrs. Crabshaw.—"He says we can run into
debt fast enough now without employing
machinery."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—"ABOUND IN HOPE"

Dec. 17—Col. 3: 18-23.

" 18-1 Thess. 4: 13-18.

" 19-1 Thess. 5: 1-11.

" 20—Heb. 6: 13-20.

" 21—Heb. 7: 11-25.

" 22—Rom. 15: 1-13.

" 23—Psalm 2; Romans 15: 14-33.

HOPE is denied to none, and liberally bestowed where needed. It is "heaven's own gift to struggling mortals, like some subtle essence from above." It is an "anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." It is an incentive to effort, the "very spring that sets all the wheels going." It is a comfort in distress, a foretaste of ultimate victory, an assurance of the felicities of heaven. And above all, it points to the reappearance of the Christ which may be said to be our supreme hope. This hope we are assured will never be disappointed. Many of life's fondest hopes have failed us. Human experience is, after all, "a pile of fragments of half-built towers. Our hearts are like graveyards, where lie entombed many earthly dreams, and plans, and ambitions we once followed eagerly, but are now ashamed of, or have abandoned." But this hope will never fail us, and so it need never be relinquished. Like the star which guided the wise men from the East, it will prove our life-star, ever leading us on, and never disappearing till it brings us to our ever-living, ever-loving Lord.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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The Australian Christian

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December 12, 1945

College of the Bible

GLEN IRIS, VICTORIA

EXAMINATION RESULTS, THIRD TERM, 1945
Honors, at least 80 per cent. Pass, at least 60
per cent.

Apologetics.—Honors, Patterson, K. J., Quayle,
V., Cartmel, C. B., Alcorn, F. B., MacDonald,
A. G. Three others passed.

Church History I.—Honors, McLean, R. S. A.,
McKenzie, C. J., Davey, S. F., Gavros, N.,
Waterman, J. G. Four others passed.

Church History II.—Honors, Barton, Miss
A. M., Hillier, R. H. Six others passed.

Comparative Religion.—Honors, Barton, K.
W., Patterson, K. J., MacDonald, A. G., Hindman,
J. A., Gill, I. V. Two others passed.

Christian Doctrine.—Honors, Barton, Miss
A. M., MacDonald, A. G., Alcorn, F. B., Saunders,
R. W., Barton, K. W., Patterson, K. J. Eleven
others passed.

Ethics.—Honors, Alcorn, F. B., MacDonald,
A. G., Patterson, K. J., Hindman, R. H., Hind-
man, J. A., Cartmel, C. B., Quayle, V. Two
others passed.

New Testament.—Honors, Barton, Miss A. M.,
Wedd, L. K., Barnett, G. W., Long, H. M.,
Gavros, N., Hillier, R. H., McKenzie, C. J.,
Whitmore, P. R., Saunders, R. W., Davey, S. F.,
Allison, R. F. Twelve others passed.

New Testament Greek I.—Honors, Waterman,
J. G., McLean, R. S. A., Davey, S. F. Seven
others passed.

New Testament Greek II.—Honors, Barton,
Miss A. M., Baker, J. B., Saunders, R. H. Nine
others passed.

New Testament Greek III.—Honors, Alcorn,
F. B., Patterson, K. J., MacDonald, A. G. One
other passed.

Old Testament.—Honors, Barton, Miss A. M.,
Barnett, G. W., Saunders, R. W., Allison, R. F.,
Hillier, R. H., McLean, R. S. A., Wedd, L. K.,
McKenzie, C. J. Thirteen others passed.

Pastoral Theology I.—Honors, Waterman,
J. G., Gavros, N., Long, H. M., Whitmore, P. R.
Five others passed.

Pastoral Theology II.—Honors, Barton, Miss
A. M., Fisher, W. E., Saunders, R. W., Hillier,
R. H., Williams, M. D. Seven others passed.

Pastoral Theology III.—Honors, Alcorn, F. B.,
Patterson, K. J., Quayle, V., MacDonald, A. G.,
McKenzie, C. J. Three others passed.

Leaving Subjects.—Economics: Honors, Shaw,
J. G., Gross, H. F., Roberts, R. T. Nine others
passed.

English: Honors, Gross, H. F.,
McDonald, Miss M. F., Roberts, R. T., Dixon,
K. W., Sewell, E. J., Shaw, J. G. Eight others
passed.

Greek and Roman History: Honors,
Gross, H. F., Dixon, K. W., Roberts, R. T.,
Shaw, J. G., Smith, C. L., McDonald, Miss M. F.,
Manallack, J. A. Three others passed.

French: One passed. Modern History: Honors, Gross,
H. F. Six passed. Intermediate Greek: One
passed. Preparatory Greek: One passed.

—E.L.W.

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A Christmas Fashion

ONE thing that gladdens us all at this season is the getting, and I trust also the giving, of gifts. But why should we give gifts at Christmas? Because God set the fashion for us, when he gave the world what the Bible calls "his unspeakable gift," the gift of his only begotten Son, who was born on a starry night at Bethlehem long, long ago.

Others were soon following the fashion, of whom the first were the three wise men. On hearing about this new arrival, who they believed was to be of great importance to mankind, they came with haste to the Bethlehem stable where the child was, guiding themselves by means of the star, and when they reached his presence at length they "presented unto him gifts," rare and lovely, of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

As that baby grew up and became a man he himself followed the fashion of giving. Indeed, there never was in all the world a more generous giver. Although it wasn't money he gave, for he never had much, he couldn't see anyone in need without giving whatever he could, his healing and help, his labor and love, his friendship and sympathy. And at last he gave the most precious thing in anyone's power: he actually gave his life for his friends.

And millions since then have gone on trying to follow him in this fashion of giving. And whatever we may feel like at other times, at this time of the year we all feel, as somebody called it, "givish," and though perhaps we haven't any "great possessions," like the rich young ruler had, we are anxious and glad to give what we can. A true story is told of one small girl who was very anxious to give. It was at a service at a Christian Sunday school in China. On Christmas Sunday the children brought gifts, to be given out afterwards to the needy.

A penny perhaps, a piece of silver, a pair of socks, or some other thing—the tiny tots trotted up with them to the altar. At last everyone seemed to have given, but the superintendent, not wishing anyone to be left out, asked, "Is there anyone else who has a gift?" At that there was a movement and a poor little Chinese slave-girl plucked up her courage, unwound a cotton scarf from her neck, same shyly forward, and laid it upon the pile of gifts. I think there were tears in the eyes of the angels at that gift.

Even if we seem to have nothing worth giving, we can still follow the fashion and give the great Giver something he craves above everything else.

Over that great South American land of Brazil there once were kings, and the name of the last Brazilian king was Dom Pedro, a very good man. Although it was no fault of his own, Dom Pedro was forced to resign and had to seek refuge abroad. It so happened that he had his birthday on board the ship. Usually on such an occasion the family had gifts to give him. Unfortunately in their hurry none had taken any with them, so they wrote him letters instead to show him their love. One that gave him particular pleasure was a note written by his three small grandsons, which simply said:

"Dear Grandpapa,—We have no flowers for you to-day, but we give you our hearts.—Your little ones who love you very much."

It was indeed a tender thought. And he, too, who once gave his all for us, he wants and will value most of all the gift of our hearts.—C. M. Hepburn, B.D., (Selected).

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Y O U T H S ' M A G A Z I N E

The Story of a Carol

R. Gledhill, M.A., in "The Expository Times," tells of incidents that account for one of our beautiful Christmas hymns.

IT was Christmas eve in the little Austrian village of Hallein. Everyone was busy getting ready for the great Christmas festival. The homes had been decorated, special gifts had been bought, and parents and children were waiting for Christmas morning. The children were particularly excited because they were allowed to stay up and attend a service in church at midnight. Joseph Mohr, the village priest, was also preparing for Christmas. He sat in his study reading the lovely story of the first Christmas day. As he read he pictured the whole scene. He could see those shepherds on the hills keeping watch over their sheep in the star-lit night. It was so peaceful . . . then came the sudden blaze of light, and the singing of the heavenly choir.

Suddenly there came an interruption. A heavy knock at the door. It was a poor woman asking help. Would the man please come at once to a home on the hillside where a baby had been born? As they set out on their journey, Joseph Mohr went on thinking about the story he had been reading. It was Christmas eve—a silent, holy night. In the far distance he could see the torches of those who were making their way to church. He was going to a humble home, to see a mother with her newborn baby. He began to think of the manger in Bethlehem. And gradually the words of this lovely Christmas carol formed themselves in his mind.

Silent night, holy night,
God's own Son, Heavenly One.
Love smiles forth from thy radiant face,
Gazing down with a Saviour's grace,
Jesus, thy birth is our Light.

On the same Christmas morning he showed the words to the village music teacher; and on Christmas day, 1818, the words and music of this carol were born.

The story of how this carol became known the world over is most fascinating. A famous organ-bulder at work in this village of Hallein heard the carol sung, and he taught it to his friends in

the Austrian Tyrol, who gave it the beautiful name "Song from Heaven." Later some children took the carol to Leipzig. Every year they went to the great fair at Leipzig selling the chamois gloves their parents made. Like all children away from home, they sang songs which reminded them of home and home-life. So they sang their favorite carol. The song soon attracted attention; and these children were invited to sing at a concert to be held in Leipzig. At first they were dazed by the large audience assembled in the Guild Hall; and as they began to prepare to go on to the platform another surprise awaited them. An announcer stepped forward to say that the King and Queen of Saxony were present.

The children began by singing the carol they loved; they sang many songs; and ended by singing the carol once more. The audience applauded and applauded. But there was more excitement for the children. A messenger came on to the stage to say that the king and queen wished to receive the singers. When the children entered the royal box, the queen said she was so charmed with the carol that she would like to have it sung in her palace at Christmas-time. So from one tiny village a carol was sung until it was known far and wide.

We can never tell what great and glorious adventures our message will have. But it will be like the many other triumphs of the Christian faith. From small beginnings it spreads and spreads until it covers the earth. Just as One born in a stable is now worshipped as King of kings; just as a tiny handful of unknown men began the world-wide church; just as words and music of a carol from an obscure village are sung the world over, so, too, our worship, when it is worthily offered, is one with the worship of "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven." Our worship will be the inspiration which will enable us to be messengers of peace and goodwill.

Y O U T H S ' M A G A Z I N E

There's a Stillness

Edith Hilderbrant

OVER all the earth to-day
There's a stillness. Let us pray:
Jesus, wilt thou fill each heart
With the love thou dost impart?

Wilt thou bless each home to-night—
Make it cheerful, warm, and bright?
When thy presence, Lord, is there,
Every one shall blessings share.

Lord, thy coming we await,
As thy birth we celebrate.
We shall have a sweet release
When thou bringest us thy peace.

Jesus, on this Christmas eve,
Give the world a glad reprieve.
Set all men from error free;
Let them, Lord, abide in thee.
—“The Christian Evangelist.”



Christmas Quiz

1. In what town was Jesus born?
2. What is name of home-town of Joseph and Mary?
3. What does Bible say about place of origin of the wise men?
4. In what place did wise men ask the question, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"
5. To what place did Joseph and Mary go to present Jesus to the Lord?
6. To what land did they flee from Herod?
7. To what place did they go and live after their return?

ANSWERS
1. Bethlehem. 2. Nazareth. 3. They came from the East. 4. Jerusalem. 5. Jerusalem. 6. Egypt. 7. Nazareth.

Dr. Barnardo's Discovery

ONE bitter winter night in London, one of the boys Dr. Barnardo had been teaching asked leave to remain all night in the stable where the little school was held. "Oh, no! run away home," said the doctor. "Got no home," said the boy. "Be off," said the teacher sharply: "go to your mother." The boy said he had no mother, had no father, didn't live anywhere, had no friends. Dr. Barnardo talked with him further, and learned that he was only one of many waifs who really had no home, no father, no mother, no friends, lived nowhere.

The boy led his teacher out—it was midnight—and showed him where a number of these boys stayed. Peeping into barrels, boxes and holes, and striking matches, he found at last a woe-begone group of eleven poor boys, from nine to eighteen years old, sleeping in all positions, clad in their rags, with nothing to cover them, exposed to the bitter wind—a spectacle to angels and men sorrowful enough to break any heart of love.

"Shall I wake 'em up?" asked Jim Jarvis, the boy guide, who had brought Dr. Barnardo to this scene of want. "Or shall I show you another lay, sir? There's lots more." But the young student had seen enough. Sick at heart, he went home, saddened, amazed, bewildered, but the vision of misery and wretchedness he had seen led to his devoting his life to the saving of waifs and strays. During the forty years that he lived, he gave himself wholly to this one work, and rescued more than fifty thousand children from the gutter, fed them, trained them, and set most of them, at least, in honest ways of life. He organised a great rescue work which is still going on now that he is gone. All because he was not disobedient to the vision which broke upon his eyes that cold midnight.

Wherever a vision of suffering, of need, of degradation, of want, or of sin is shown to us, it should be regarded as a call to us to do something to give relief, to rescue, or to save. Dr. Barnardo, because he was a Christian, was "ready for every good work," and thousands of now happy boys and girls live to honor his name.—“Golden Grain.”



The Australian Christian

DEC. 12, 1945

Youths' Magazine



A Christmas at Home

CHRISTMAS is a festival that cannot be separated from the home. The coming of Jesus Christ enriched the family with real love. Thus Christmas brings its complete joy when made a part of the experiences of a family group. There is a real longing to be at home on Christmas day. To be back among loved ones many are prepared to travel great distances. From the days of childhood, when little ones gathered at the hearth to pray, then into youth and on to old age, a Christmas celebrated within the home charms and delights the heart. Youth tend to think of Christmas as a time of merry-making, often confusing merriment with worldliness. Since Christmas joy comes from heaven, nothing worldly ought to be allowed to creep into our behaviour; for it may draw us from the Christian church or a godly home. So let us during this Christmas season praise, in word and deed, the Christ-child who is our Lord and Saviour.