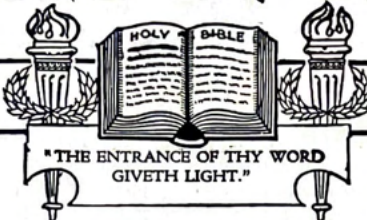


M^{rs} Fraser

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A GARDEN TOMB OUTSIDE JERUSALEM

*Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ hath broken every chain,
Hark, angelic voices cry,
Singing evermore on high.*

*He who slumbered in the grave,
Is exalted now to save;
Now through all the world it rings:
He, the Lamb, is King of kings.*

—Michael Weisse.

MEN, through the long course of human history, have made many efforts to outwit the purposes of God. The story of the tower of Babel may be taken as symbolical of human endeavors to build contrary to God's plans. The descendants of Noah wanted to secure themselves by their material efforts, against unseen events, instead of respecting the spiritual principles of right living. When men depart from God they seek security in towers of Babel—creation of the human mind.

FEAR of the future can be a degrading and dominating force in the life of a person. Those who know the love of God and have been reassured of his concern, find out how divine love casts out fear. For them the kingdom of God, rather than a tower of Babel, provides security against the terrors of the future. New orders or utopias are modern forms of the ancient tower of Babel, and prove the existence of a lack of faith in God. Ernest Scott, who was a distinguished professor of history in the Melbourne University, summed up the evidence of history concerning stories of utopias and religion in the following pertinent statement: "The great popularity of utopian romances especially among the working classes is largely due to the decline of religious faith. There has been a transference of belief in a heaven to be attained at the end of mortal life, to belief in the possibility of establishing a heaven on earth by drastic change in the constitution of the society." Professor Scott also pointed out that the effects of the religious revival led by Wesley have saved English speaking peoples from the violence of the social eruptions that have occurred in lands where true faith has been weak.

DESPITE all that we have said so far, we still claim that faith must have fruits in our social life; however, the driving force must come from divine principles and not from human selfishness. Under such conditions the aim will be to improve the lot of others, rather than to make oneself secure. The tragedy of the present situation lies in the fact that there is a conflict between sections of society, and each is out to build its own tower of Babel and to make itself secure while ignoring the rights of others. A revival of true faith in God would make men anxious to help their neighbors while they are themselves trusting in God as the Stronghold against the terrors of the future.

Having reached this conclusion, we must now examine briefly man's real aim in life. So long as he pursues some vague and dreamlike utopia, he is suggesting to himself that human happiness is the goal. This view was taught by Epicurus and was revived in a modified form, in more recent times, by Jeremy Bentham. Such a philosophy tends to make those who act upon it selfish. Children then consider that parents have no other use than to make life easy and happy for them. Other individuals become peeved if friends do not go out of their

DUTY HAS ITS CROSS

WHAT grounds have we for even suggesting that we have been set in this universe to be made happy? It seems to us that to behave as if it were so is dangerous; for then we are diverted from the real purpose of

life like Atalanta from the race with Hippomenes. That crafty man of Greek mythology threw golden apples to turn Atalanta from the straight path leading to the goal, and thus defeated her. How many have met defeat in life because they have been enticed from life's purpose by the lure of selfish pleasure! Here we are using the word "pleasure" in the widest sense. Bishop Butler pointed out that scripture does not teach that life has been ordered so that the pleasures of passion and appetite may be enjoyed, but rather that we may do the right which conscience has enforced, whether that brings pleasure or pain. The aim of life is to do our duty, and it is our duty to do what is right. When we act upon that principle we shall find that life involves a conflict. Like Paul we shall soon discover ourselves in some arena wrestling with lions.

It must be admitted that while performing our duty we sometimes enjoy the thrill of real happiness. However, the motive urging us on is the call of duty rather than the hope of happiness.



"Not my will, but thine, be done."

HE is foolish who thinks that duty will not involve him often in hardship and pain. If we think that by doing what is right we shall be invariably happy, we deceive ourselves. If right living always made for happiness, then Jesus ought to have been the most jubilant of men, but "he was a man of sorrows and was acquainted with grief." He did not act to secure happiness; he lived to do the right that duty imposed upon him. Naturally he shrank from pain and anguish. When he thought of the cross he cried, "Let this cup pass from me." But it did not take him long to decide whether he seek personal pleasure or travel the path of duty. To do what was right involved the agony of a cross.

HOW far we have departed from the true path of life can be revealed by our modern passion for security and our desire to "play safe." We do not like to be different for the sake of righteousness. Life tends to become conventional and preaching platitudinous. If the pioneers of a new land endured hardship, can the pioneers of the kingdom of God avoid suffering and persecution? The "Pioneer of life" has shown that the only life that counts in eternity is one that answers the call of duty even if it leads to a cross. He who would live according to the dictates of this highest nature must be prepared to do what is right even though it may lead to a cross.

THE resurrection of Christ proves that the cross was not a calamity which he could not avoid, but a cup which he willingly drained; it reveals him as the Son of God; it assures us that he is not now a memory but a Living Presence; it brings life and immortality to light; it comforts us with the faith that death is not the end of the soul but the gateway through which the soul passes into its larger life.—Selected.

Beyond the Veil

OF all the unusual events which coincided with the death of our Lord on the cross, that which seems to be charged with the deepest significance is that which took place within the temple. "And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." The veil divided the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. The Jewish worshipper could go into the Holy Place, but then a thick, heavy curtain separated him from the Holy of Holies, where he believed God dwelt in a special sense. Only the high priest could go through the veil into the presence of God, and that only once a year. There was a veil between God and man; men could neither see into nor enter into the presence of God. But with the death of Jesus this veil was rent from the top to the bottom. Anyone in the temple on that day could have seen through the curtain into the Holy of Holies, even if they did not dare go through the veil. We can be sure that this curtain was repaired, and that once again the veil would separate the Jewish worshipper from the presence of God. For the Christian the veil was abolished altogether, so that we can not only see into his heart, but we can enter his presence. "For to this day remaineth the same veil untaken away, which veil is done away in Christ." We said that anyone who happened to be in the temple might have looked through the veil into the Holy of Holies just after Jesus had died on the cross. We believe that through the cross of Calvary we can still see into the heart of God. What is it that we see as we look through the veil which was rent that day?

I.

We see that God is LOVE. The thought may be familiar to the twentieth century, but the fact is as vital as ever. God's love, patience and mercy had been operating for centuries; from the very beginning he had been broken-hearted at man's sins, and at the suffering which inevitably followed those sins. His love for man had been so great that, although they repeatedly let him down, he persisted in his love for them and continued to show them the better way. The cross shows the extent to which that love would go; it is not simply the highest pinnacle of human love, and it is more than a spectacular demonstration of divine love. In the cross we get a glimpse of "that great love which like a fire is always burning in his heart." When the consequences of sin and disobedience fall upon the world; when they touch someone who was sincerely trying to help his fellow-men; when they rob us of some of our very best friends and loved ones, we must not be satisfied with the sub-Christian saying, "It is God's will." That often puts the blame on to God when it belongs to men. But at the same time let us realise afresh his love, understanding and sympathy. He knew that day what it was to lose an only begotten Son, and that was not easy. It was not because of his will, but because of disobedience to his will that things turned out as they did, yet his love was big enough to accept it without a trace of bitterness. In time of trouble we can be sure that he is by our side for

"There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's fallings
Have such kindly judgment given.

"For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind."



II.

Then we see God's power. What we have been saying might lead, some to ask, "Is it a fact then, that the power of men in their sin is greater than the power of God in his holiness?" The answer to that question comes, too, as we look through the veil, though it takes more than a casual glance to see it. For as we look through the veil into the heart of God we see, not only a cross, but the resurrection and the ascension. God's power was still behind it all; it was not cut short in any way. When the world does its worst on a Good Friday, there still has to dawn an Easter morn.

*Through the cross of Calvary we can see
into the heart of God. Following the tragedy
of Good Friday Easter morn dawns. L. E.
Snow, of Carnegie, Vic., discusses this hopeful
theme in his helpful article.*

But as we look through the cross it is not the power of the resurrection which we see clearest, but the power of his word. We see the inevitability of suffering as a consequence of sin. We see how powerful his principles really are. His commandments are not rules which we can keep or break at will. They are unbreakable laws; if we shape our lives according to them, then we take our place on the side of peace and goodwill in the kingdom of God; if we refuse to be guided by them they are not broken, we are broken and they remain as steadfast as ever. They are eternal principles operating through the universe, and are so certain in their effects that a world's disobedience to them will lead the Son of God to Golgotha and millions of innocents into a terrible war. But as we look through the veil we see, too, God's power as a redeeming sanctifying power. We see a way out of our darkness and an answer to our sin. Here the love of God and the power of God mingle together in such a combination that those who will spend a while looking through the veil are strangely moved. Our Lord foresaw this when he said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." When Jesus died, darkness covered the whole earth; but looking through the veil we see the Light, and not only the Light but a way into that Light; and the way is open to us all.

Garden Tomb

K. RUTT, B.Sc. (R.A.F.), writing in "The Christian Advocate," Dec. 29, 1943, describes the scene shown on the front page of this issue. The following extracts from the article will interest readers:—

"On Wednesday morning I visited the Garden Tomb. As far as I could discern, this is the only place looked after by Protestants. A very chatty and pleasant middle-aged English woman showed me round. Many people believe that Calvary and Christ's sepulchre were in this area, and I believe the same. Evidence is much more in favor of it than the evidence that can be supplied on behalf of the places enclosed by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The hillside definitely lies outside the city walls (the church does not), to the North (where sin sacrifices were made according to Judaic law) and gives the impression of a skull (Golgotha). The tomb in the garden close to this hill could quite easily be the one in which Christ's body was laid. The age of the garden is quite definite from the remains of Roman wells and the ancient wine press.

"What I liked most of all about the Garden Tomb was the quietness in the pretty, flower-stocked garden, the absence of priests, candles, shrines, photo-sellers, etc. For everything is completely natural and nobody has built on, in, and around the garden. Damascus Gate, with crowds of people and animals, is only a few hundred yards away, but the clamor does not penetrate the garden. Gilyetha (Golgotha) lies but 200 yards from the city wall."

Life Out of Death

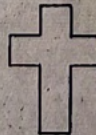
THE power of his resurrection is not merely the power of the risen Christ, which, thank God, may rest upon us all; but the power that brings life out of death and good out of evil, and that plucks victory from defeat; that demonstrates the futility of the designs of evil men, and defies all the evil powers in the universe. It is surely to live without fear, in conscious security that whatever befalls nothing can hurt you. It is significant that the most frequent words of our Lord to his disciples on the resurrection day were, "Be not afraid; peace be unto you." As if he would say, "I have been through death and there is nothing to be afraid of in it. I have overcome, and you may share my victory."—Dr. Charles Brown.

Brotherhood Through the Cross

THE Christ! The cross! The
Easter morn!
Grim contrasts with a world war
torn.
Blood and darkness and rended
veil—
Blood and death and shrapnel
hall!
O God, when will the world at last
Outlaw the bomb and cannon blast,
Learning the worth of the human
soul,
And the madness of warring's
ghastly toll?—
The human soul for which Christ
died

By
Chaplain
Walter
McDowell.

To open the gates of heaven wide,
To change the tone of history's
tale
From blood and death and shrapnel
hall
To peace on earth, good will to
men.
All men shall be brothers, but
only when
We return, worn and weary and
sadly forlorn,
To the Christ—the Cross—the
Easter morn.



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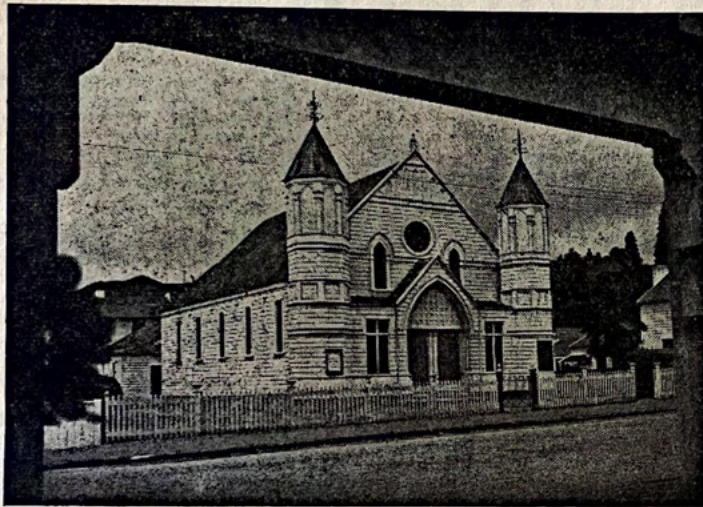
N.Z. Churches Celebrate Centenary

ALL churches throughout the brotherhood celebrated on Sunday, March 5, the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Restoration Movement in New Zealand. One hundred years before, Thomas Jackson, with his wife and a few others, had set up the Lord's Table in Nelson, four years after the founding of New Zealand. Thomas Jackson had been in membership with our churches in Glasgow, and brought with him some of our literature. This and other supplies sent out by James Wallis were used by him to good purpose, and the little church increased. Amongst the first members was a young man of about 18 called Thomas Magarey. Later he left New Zealand, and was responsible for

Nevertheless the centennial Easter young people's camp will be held at Nelson, as Nelson can be reached by boat and service car from a number of places. This will lessen the general disappointment, and will give the young people of the brotherhood an opportunity of sharing in the centennial celebrations in a special way.

Historical Booklet

A permanent souvenir of our centennial celebrations is a 56 page book issued by the General Executive and Historical Committee. It consists mainly of a history prepared by Milton Vickery, who is himself the son of an Auckland pioneer family and a vice-president



The Chapel at Nelson, N.Z.

the founding of our Australian work in South Australia. Jackson and some of the others were forced through hardship to leave for the Auckland colony, where they founded another church in 1845. The present churches in Nelson and Auckland and the movement in New Zealand and Australia date back to these humble beginnings.

Celebrations

Naturally the main celebrations have been in Nelson itself. In the Nelson District we have eight churches, and all have taken part in the gatherings at the central Nelson church. These gatherings included a centennial dinner, a public thanksgiving service, and three special Sunday services. The Nelson church itself is one of the largest and healthiest in New Zealand. J. K. Robinson, of Perth, W.A., recently concluded a long and fruitful ministry there. He has been succeeded by one of the ablest and outstanding products of the New Zealand college, Ray Blampied, who is already doing outstanding work there.

Most of the newspapers throughout the country gave extensive space to a specially prepared historical statement written by Principal Haddon.

Perhaps the most disappointing feature of the centenary is the cancellation of the centennial Easter conference which was planned to be held in Nelson, and for which much preparatory work had been done. The cancellation is the result of the imposition of rail travel restrictions in the interests of the conservation of coal stocks.

Eastern District Camp, Vic.

W. R. Hibburt

"LALLA ROOKH," Tecoma, was the site for the sixth annual camp arranged by the Youth Committee of the Eastern District Churches of Christ Conference, and held over Labor Day week-end.

Representatives, 54 in number, were present from Bayswater, Boronia, Blackburn, Emerald, Mitcham and Ringwood. The leaders were E. L. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. J. Wright, E. Fisher. A brief visit was paid by B. F. Huntsman and W. R. Hibburt, who brought with them greetings from the Y.P. Department. Greetings were also received from Frank Langford, Alan Welland, Ferg. Minahan, Ted Dufty and Ralph Legg (former campers now serving in the Forces), and also from Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Bischoff.

The selected camp theme was "The Price of an Enduring Peace." The findings evidenced the fact that much ground had been traversed, and leaders were pleased with the willingness on the part of campers to share in the discussions. The following sessions also provoked thought and discussion:—"Making My Life Count" (E. L. Williams); "Sharing Our Faith" (C. H. J. Wright), and "Hints for Teachers" (Mrs. C. H. J. Wright). Helpful talks on "A Guide to an Understanding of the Bible" were also given by E. L. Williams. Sunday morning communion service was led by E. Fisher, and in the afternoon on "open forum" was in charge of E. L. Williams.

The evening found campers in attendance at Boronia church, where the Inter-Church Girls' Group were also worshipping. C. H. J. Wright led the singing; a solo was rendered by V. Innes. E. L. Williams gave a challenge to all in his address based upon the words of Jesus, "Follow me." At the close of his message a young married man from Blackburn gave his heart to the Master. Mrs. Ferguson and her assistant, Mrs. Taylor, were complimented on their management of the meals, and Miss Bessie Lowen on the business efficiency of the camp.

QUEENSLAND

Youth Week in Queensland was observed from February 27 to March 5. The theme was "Youth Builds a Church," with suggested subjects for discussion and addresses: "Tools for Building," "Building with the Master Builder," and "Building To-day for To-morrow." A number of youth groups are engaging in service projects. The Youth Committee has re-opened Rocklea Bible school with a staff of five teachers. Toowoomba church has commenced a Young People's Fellowship. The organiser visited eight churches during the month to advance youth interests.

AN INTERLUDE

Deacon Jones.—How goes the work of the Victorian Young People's Department?

Chairman.—Business is brisk. Within the last seven days the following events have been reported: Lygon-st. C.E. anniversary rally attracted a Saturday evening audience of 150; Eastern Suburban Young People's Fellowship spent Saturday afternoon in a group conference and the evening in an evangelistic rally; campers held their official re-union; the Good Companions 1st Degree held a Monday evening swimming night and the 2nd Degree a combined river trip.

Deacon Jones.—I am not surprised that you talk about brisk business.

Chairman.—You must also calculate many local activities, just as important though not spectacular. Then, realise that similar activity is going on in all the States in an endeavor to relate religion to life. The annual youth offering on May 7 (Queensland excepted) gives all an opportunity to keep the departments in business.

The Long Roar for Barabbas Died Away

The long roar for Barabbas died away,
"Who stands for Christ?" asked Pilate then.

Who stands for Christ? But the early day

Gave back no echoing word;
Only a startled bird
Broke the grim silence of those angry men.

Judas, you tried to force the hand of God!

Cataphas, your epigram men cowed!
Pilate, held in the path you trod—
You played your lesser part:
But that which broke Christ's heart
And raised a cross was silence of the crowd.

The long roar for Barabbas died away,
Strange! For "Hosanna" they had cried,
And strewed palms on an earlier day;
But now their apathy
Nailed him upon the tree—
God help me, lest my silence Christ again
hath crucified. —Geoffrey Walker.

Notes on Current Topics

Beer Versus Milk

THE Victorian Minister for Health (Mr. Macfarlan) declares he is staggered by the closing of milk bars. In reply to a deputation, he said milk bars did a great work from the nutritional point of view. It was a scandal to see hotels serving as much beer as they could get, while at the same time manpower closed down milk bars. The general secretary of the Victorian Dairy Farmers' Association is reported as saying that part of the fall in production of milk was due to the fact that excessive supplies of barley had gone to the breweries. It is a marvel that, with the overwhelming evidence of the evil effects of liquor and the present condition of the liquor trade, the authorities should continue to treat it as if it were one of the most reputable and, indeed, essential businesses.

Every Little Helps

A newspaper article dealing with the importance of salvage of paper reported that in Britain through the saving of the tiny disks of paper punched out in the perforation of postage stamps many tons of paper were made available. This remarkable bit of news will probably lead thoughts of readers in various directions. Some will contrast the saving of such little things with the terrible waste still going on. Another thought is that even the smallest things have a value. A little bit of paper by itself seems as nothing; but multiply the pieces and the result is important. Apply the thought to church contributions, and consider the advance of God's work which would be made possible if every

Christian were systematically to avoid waste and devote the proceeds to the various church funds. Those apt to refrain from helping because they can do so very little might consider the lesson of the perforation disks. Use the smallest opportunities, be faithful in little, and our united efforts will be used and blessed.

A Methodist View of Union

Dr. C. Calvert Barber, of Queen's College, put a Methodist point of view before a gathering in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Sunday last. According to press reports he said some good things. He declared that the deep and bitter divisions which still exist are a scandal to the world, while the leisurely approach to the problem of healing them is a species of "fiddling while Rome burns." The menace of increasing paganism should rouse Christians to united action. It is heartening to note the series of addresses on "The Call to Christian Unity" being preached at the Cathedral. I was not greatly pleased by the following reported statements of Dr. Barber: "What was needed was something more than federations and less than union, that would transcend but not destroy, assimilate but not suppress. This was the only ideal to which Methodists could possibly subscribe." Of course, we wish a unity on a basis which will destroy nothing good and true. But the New Testament ideal is unity, and not some half-way position between a federation of denominations and unity.

A. R. Main

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

WHAT MATTERS

"It matters little where be my grave,
Or on the land or on the sea,
By purling brook, 'neath stormy wave,
It matters little or naught to me;
But whether the angel Death comes down
And marks my brow with his loving touch,
As one that shall wear the victor's crown,
It matters much!"

COURAGE OR COWARDICE— WHICH?

AN Eastern fable tells how a pilgrim one day met the Plague. "Where are you going?" asked the pilgrim. "I am going to Bagdad to kill five thousand people," was the reply. Some days later the pilgrim met the Plague returning. "How is it?" asked the pilgrim. "You said you would kill five thousand." "I killed only the five thousand," the Plague answered. "The rest died of fright."

Stanley tells about finding a race of pigmies in the heart of the great Congo forest which stretches out beyond their abodes, dark and dismal, for a distance that it took him one hundred and sixty days to traverse. The pigmies believed that the world was all that dark forest. Stanley tried to tell them about the fair and cheery countries beyond, where the sunshine is, but they would not believe him. "No," they insisted. "All like this!"

Too many of us are like the people who were killed merely by fear of the plague, or like the pigmies who believed that all the world was gloomy because their part of it was. And this dread and despair destroy our usefulness in the world.

"Fear is dead! Fear is dead!" cry the Hindus, dancing around a hideous image of the god which represents fear to them. And then

some of them reverently kiss the idol, for fear that Fear may not be altogether dead, after all. Let us not go through such a farce in regard to the objects of our foolish fears. Let us allow the Spirit of our Lord to put them out of the way, and let us be sure that they are dead for ever.—Selected.

"Why is a proud girl like a book of music?"
"She is full of airs."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—"HE HATH BEEN RAISED"

- Apr. 3—Matt. 28: 1-10.
- " 4—John 5: 19-29.
- " 5—John 11: 17-44.
- " 6—Rom. 6: 1-11.
- " 7—1 Thess. 4: 13-18.
- " 8—1 Cor. 15: 1-11.
- " 9—Psalm 116; 1 Cor. 15: 12-22.

THIS fact alone is proof of a general resurrection. Conclusive evidence is found in no other argument. The extraordinary changes wrought in nature, such as the worm being transformed into a butterfly, the acorn into an oak tree, are often alluded to as proof of a resurrection; but although such analogies are pleasing, they should never be given as evidence that men will be raised from their graves. One cannot fail to note that the scriptures give no such illustrations. The only evidence presented is the fact of Christ's resurrection. Once prove that, and surely it cannot be thought incredible that we shall be raised. On the other hand, this is the only conclusive evidence. We cannot improve upon Paul's reasoning when he wrote, "Now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of them that are asleep."

Losses and Gains in W.A.

R. Raymond, in his W.A. news-letter, tells of an effort to discover the causes of church losses, and of the continuance of broadcasting.

THE last State conference of churches of Christ in W.A., like all its predecessors, was perturbed about the reported losses to our membership. By resolution of conference the matter was referred back to the executive with instructions to convene a meeting of the men of our churches to go further into the matter. A sub-committee appointed by conference submitted its findings and recommendations to a meeting of the "Christian Men's Association" and delegates at its last meeting. The findings were based on a questionnaire sent to the churches. The losses reported upon covered the last three years. 55 per cent. of additions to churches came from Bible schools and 32 per cent. of losses were of those added by Bible schools. Another important disclosure was that removals from rolls were in only a very few cases because of open sin, indifference and non-attendance being so often the cause. One church showing a loss of 87 members was able to show that the average time these had remained in membership was 11 years. It was discovered by the committee that generally there was no undue haste to remove a name, and where possible pastoral care had been taken to recover the lost. All the recommendations of the committee were endorsed, and it was urged by the meeting, which was one of the largest the Men's Association has held, "That all leaders commit themselves in entire consecration to their work, and strive to give no offence to their weaker brethren either by word or manner of life."

Conference

Following up the successful experiment of last year, Good Friday will again this year, for the most part, be given over to inspiration and fellowship. Important aspects of brotherhood work will be dealt with during the afternoon by representative speakers. Executive and home mission reports will be dealt with on Tuesday night, this being the opening session of conference. The overseas mission report will be adopted on the missionary rally night. A. Anderson is expected to be at conference. J. K. Robinson will preach the conference sermon. Les. C. Peacock is the incoming president.

Broadcasting

Our Lord's day evening broadcast over 6PR-TZ has been sustained without a break for more than two years. It has been a great ministry on the part of J. Wiltshire and those who shared the work with him. It was thought at the first that the cost of about £5 for 15 minutes each session was too heavy, but after all these months there is no sign that any other work has suffered or anyone is the poorer. This note is written to say that through no fault of ours the session has finished. It has been crowded out. We had intimations before that it followed too closely upon the "Catholic Answer" to be satisfactory to the management. However, the Committee on Radio Evangelism has been able to report that the same station can accommodate us at 6.30 p.m. on the Lord's day for 15 minutes at half the cost of the former broadcast. In addition another station offers us facilities for 30 minutes' broadcast at 9.30 on the Lord's day evening. This is also at half the cost of our original one. All this means that we shall now broadcast twice on the Lord's day over two stations, giving us an additional half hour on the air for the price we were paying for our original 15 minutes.

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Here and There

L. G. Burgin, on March 27, telegraphed the following message: "Hinrichsen-Morris mission made good start, Inverell, N.S.W."

From the 1943 balance sheet of the church at Chatswood, N.S.W., we learn that the brethren contributed during the year over £372 for others, receipts from all sources being £1217.

Howard Toyne, a member of the church at Parkdale, Vic., has completed his medical course at the University of Melbourne. We congratulate Dr. Toyne upon the successful completion of his studies.

The following telegram reached us on Mar. 27: "First week mission splendid attendances; Sunday, 160 at eleven, 170 communed for day; 270 at gospel service, two confessed and baptised; Thos. Hagger giving stirring addresses.—Foot" (Lanceston).

The Victorian Churches of Christ Tennis Association is busy linking up 60 co-operating teams into its 1944 programme. Players and teams in northern and western districts seeking information should communicate with Trevor Howe, 12 Vauxhall-rd., Dennis, N.16, and those in southern and eastern with Norm White, 17 Nairn-st., East Malvern, SE5, phone, WM3589.

At Nth. Richmond, Vic., on Mar. 21 the Ladies' Sunshine Circle celebrated tenth anniversary, when Mrs. Chambers spoke. Mrs. J. Turner was soloist. 130 ladies greatly enjoyed the service and had fellowship later at tea. On March 18 the Men's Fellowship held annual banquet; R. Burkitt was speaker. On Mar. 26 Mr. Fitzgerald addressed the church in morning.

Edwin R. Errett, editor of the "Christian Standard," a paper circulating amongst Disciples of Christ in America, died suddenly on January 29, 1944. His work has been very much appreciated. He was planning to write a Bible commentary for those who love New Testament teachings. He seemed to be in the prime of life, and was aged fifty-three. We sympathise with those who mourn the passing from this life of such a helpful co-worker.

I. J. Chivell, who has been preacher at Maryborough, Vic., for some weeks, conducts a daily broadcast service (except Sundays) from station 3CV under the name of the "Wayfarer." This station has a large number of listeners in central Victoria, and in southern N.S.W. Mr. Holland conducted it for some time. Messages of appreciation have been received from Bendigo, Warracknabeal and Hamilton. Such expressions will help secure the service. Very many people in the town listen every morning.

Attendances are well maintained at Wagga, N.S.W. L.A.C. Burrell delivered a fine message on evening of March 12. Mrs. Brown was recipient of a gift from Ladies' Aid at a function held in her honor on March 9. A large congregation assembled in the hall on Mar. 14 to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Brown and family, who are leaving the district. Mr. Brown, who has been church secretary for a number of years, was presented with a wallet of notes. Mr. Willis has been appointed a deacon to fill the vacancy, and Mr. Midgley has accepted appointment as secretary. An Explorer Club has been formed with eight members. The church enjoys fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Schilling, of Burnley, and Sister Blackshaw, of Northcote, Vic. Mr. Mearing has been baptised.

Meetings at Paddington, N.S.W., were good on Mar. 19; Mr. Greenhalgh was speaker. C.E. Society is having interesting meetings and good programmes. R. Wilson has accepted the invitation of the church to be part-time preacher until end of year, after which he will take up duties as full-time preacher. A girls' choir has been formed, the aim being 50 voices.

Women's Fellowship had an interesting afternoon on March 14 to celebrate sixth birthday. Mrs. D. Wakeley and Mr. and Mrs. Greenhalgh were special singers and Mrs. Stirling, of Wollongong, was guest speaker. A presentation was made to Miss Winks, president of the Fellowship. Lantern slides are creating great interest in Bible school.

Good attendances over past few weeks have been maintained at Blackburn, Vic. On Mar. 12 messages from Messrs. Turriff and Smith were appreciated, Mr. Wright being at E.D.C. young people's camp at Tecoma. Thirty young people from Blackburn attended this camp, and one young man confessed Christ. He was baptised on morning of March 19, and received into fellowship, and on March 26 another young man made his decision, Mr. Wright speaking. A message from John McKenzie, of the college, was appreciated on morning of March 26. All auxiliaries are working well. A series of studies and group discussions on the Holy Spirit is proving helpful to members of Y.P.C.E.

At Gardiner, Vic., there were good congregations for T. Hagger's farewell meetings on March 12. At gospel service Miss Gleda Coultts, from Bible school, confessed Christ. On March 14 K.S.P., 2nd degree, entertained members of other clubs; A. A. Hughes, M.L.A., was speaker. T. H. Scambler spoke on 19th. Two members of Philharmonic Society assisted at sacred community song service after church. A. R. Main exhorted church on morning of March 26 and T. H. Scambler was speaker for evening service. Sympathy was expressed to Mrs. Coultts and family in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Campbell. Mrs. Fergeus, in Alfred Hospital, is progressing satisfactorily after serious bicycle accident. Cricket club won the premiership of South Suburban Churches Cricket Association, Second Grade.

A Happy Hour and Radiant Life campaign was conducted at Kingsford, N.S.W., by F. C. was conducted from Feb. 20 to March 5. The Happy Hunting from Feb. 20 to March 5. The Happy Hour had average attendance of 236 children, and gave contacts with 102 children who and gave contacts with 102 children who stated that they went to no Sunday school. Al- ready over 20 have been enlisted in Sunday school and newly formed Young Worshipers' League. The Radiant Life campaign yielded three decisions, increased interest of some members and a quickening of spiritual life of regular members. Average attendance at week-night meetings was 47, while at the Sunday evening meetings it was approximately 155. Mr. Hunting made a fine contribution to the church life through these meetings. On March 12 a Bible school scholar took her stand for Christ. On March 19 four were baptised and more decisions were made. On March 19 three scholars from Bible school took their stand for Christ.

We are glad to rejoice with the members of the church at Nelson, N.Z., in the celebration of their centenary. The following additional information to that given elsewhere in this issue will interest readers:—Eight members of the Nelson church have served, or are serving, on mission fields in Africa. They include the on mission fields in Africa. They include the names of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Phillips, Mrs. Hadfield, Mrs. and Miss Mansill, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hay, Miss R. Hay. Among those who deserve special mention and who are still serving in the work here are Mr. and Mrs. F. V. Knapp, who commenced the Bible school in 1893, and carried on the work as leaders for 35 years. Mrs. Knapp will be better known to Australians as Mary Dickens, of Melbourne. The following is a list of those who have served in the ministry of the Nelson church: E. Lewis, John Griffith, jnr., Harry Batt, H. S. Earl, A. B. Maston, A. F. Turner, T. J. Bull, James Hay, F. Hales, W. Clapham, J. J. Franklyn, W. L. Jones, G. D. Verco, P. A. Dickson, S. J. Mathieson, W. G. Carpenter, G. T. Fitzgerald, P. Polton, F. J. Sivyver and J. K. Robinson.

From Week to Week

IN her delightful book entitled "Between the Larch Wood and the Weir," Flora Klickman expressed a longing to escape from the routine of the city, to go into the country and to enjoy the refreshing experiences nature lavishes upon those who are prepared to be still and to learn from her. I recalled Miss Klickman's remarks when a nurse on leave called upon us while our family was spending a happy holiday in Dr. W. A. Kemp's home in the Dandenong Ranges. "I was sick of the city," she remarked, "and I just longed to get away into the hills for a day."

THERE is a primitive depth within us that I cannot be content always with the artificial life of modern civilisation. We are somewhat like the natives and desire to "go bush" at times.

It is possible for us to be brought close to the heart of the universe through nature. The tall eucalyptus tree, with its white trunk and sparse limbs, rises toward the blue sky, and points to heaven. How blue the sky can be in the clear atmosphere of the hills! Several who have come from Great Britain, where skies are dull so often, have told me that the blue Australian skies fascinate them. One woman said, "When I first came here, I used to gaze and gaze, and marvel at the blue sky."

WHO can look upon the majesty of heaven without giving some thought to the mystery of life? When one leaves the city, and spends a quiet time in the country, he will learn from the sky a message of God's eternal presence and omnipotence.

The hills reveal beauty; beauty in flower,

bird and tree. It is a delight to the eye. Socrates used to ask his friends the question: What is beauty? They would remark that beauty is found in trees, flowers and sunsets. Then the sage would point out that these were but instances of beauty's revelation. He would ask again and again: "But what is beauty itself?" He sought a definition. None could define beauty accurately. Socrates suggested that beauty belongs to the ultimate nature of the universe. Therefore it brings us near to the God that is the source of all things. It is, then, but a step from beauty to God.

SOME people make their excuse for not attending the worship service the plea that they prefer to worship God in nature. It seems a sound statement, but I doubt whether many who say they seek God in such a manner ever contemplate long enough to find God's spirit in nature.

I saw, while in the hills, on the Lord's day, many holiday-makers rushing hither and thither; most were bent on making merry. Not that I find fault with merry-making, but he who would come to know God in nature must also heed the psalmist's word, who cried, "Be still, and know that I am God."

If a person finds evidence of the power of God in nature (it is the power of God, and not God, that nature reveals), then I should expect to discover evidence of a reaction arising from the soul of that individual—a response in the form of worship; for a true appreciation of beauty will encourage us to go to the house of the Lord to join with others in worshipping "the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth (Lake-st.).—On March 12 a large congregation was stirred by a message from Chaplain-General Allen Brooke. In evening Mr. Robinson continued his series of studies connected with a course of directed Bible reading which the members are pursuing. Plans for a new year's work are well in progress. A. M. Bell and A. B. Povey have been re-elected as church secretary and treasurer. Mr. Cugley is seriously ill in hospital. A profitable and enjoyable time was spent by young folk at C.E. anniversary. Mr. Robinson was speaker at both services on March 19.

ENCOURAGING YOUTH

MEMBER APPOINTED EVANGELIST FOR TASMANIA

COTTESLOE.—At annual business meeting on Mar. 8, reports showed some solid work in all auxiliaries. Deacons elected were J. Cousins, F. Hood, F. Jones and V. Ferguson. E. Jeffery was re-elected secretary and F. Hood treasurer. Financial report showed both building fund and hall accounts had been cleared. A boys' Explorer Club has commenced under leadership of H. Steele and V. Ferguson. A girls' Good Companions Club is being planned. D. R. Hill was farewelled at a church evening on March 20 prior to his departure for Tasmania as travelling evangelist. Ladies' Aid commenced for year on March 14 with Mrs. Yeomans president.

Harvey.—Mr. Bamford has given stimulating talks. Eugene Wooders and Tim Thorpe have been baptised. On March 4 J.C.E. with Mr. Bamford visited the pines, then had a swim and tea. On March 8 sisters' annual meeting and election of officers took place. After faithful ministry Sister Ottrey as past-president welcomed Mrs. Bamford as president; Miss Woodier, secretary; Mrs. Wooders, treasurer, both of whom are of long standing in office and have rendered valuable service; H.M., Mrs. Robinson; F.M., Mrs. Rowley. Local hospital has benefited by donations of grapes grown at manse. Visitors were welcomed on March 18.

Queensland

Gympie-Monkland.—Good services continue. On March 12 Gympie school had a record, with a new scholar enrolled. Large congregations were at Gympie on March 19, when a young man was baptised. Both J.C.E. societies are doing well. Gympie juniors enjoyed a successful picnic on March 18.

Ma Ma Creek.—Youth offering was £6/11/7. Weekly cottage prayer meetings are now being held within an eight-mile radius of chapel. On evening of March 15, 29 Endeavorers held meeting in home of aged T. Chappel. On morning of March 19 three young people were baptised and received into fellowship.

South Australia

Timby Bay.—C. B. Cartmel spent his vacation here, rendering appreciated services. Harvest thanksgiving was held on Jan. 16, speakers being C. B. Cartmel, afternoon; H. G. Norris, evening. On Feb. 20 A. Anderson spoke on home missions. C.E. Society had fellowship with C. Manning, home on leave from New Guinea; he addressed meeting on Feb. 29. The marriage of C. Manning to J. Branford took place on March 1. Kevin Branford, on leave from New Guinea, was baptised and received into fellowship on Feb. 29, Mr. Norris conducting the service. Home mission offering was £35/14/-.

Edwardstown West.—At annual meeting on March 14, a fine spirit was manifest; reports showed steady work during past year, and decisions made suggest general improvement of church and auxiliaries in near future. Recent Y.W.L. activities included blackberry picnic and a social on March 22.

Victor Harbour.—March 19 was an encouraging day, with many visiting members and friends. At evening service Mr. Manning immersed a W.A.A.A.F., when the chapel was nearly full. Cliff Manning gave a testimony of answers to prayer in his experiences in Tobruk and other theatres of war. The audience united in open-air singing in front of the building.

Fullarton.—Members appreciate the willingness of Messrs. Lovell, Sheriff, Dixon, Maxstead, S. Riches, R. Wilson, G. Bridgman, Dunkerton and Schwab, in filling the pulpit. Mr. Butler, secretary of H.M. Committee, presided on March 12. After service he outlined the H.M. Committee's position, and the church agreed unanimously to subscribe more to support a full-time preacher. The aim for H.M. offering was £10, and over £11 was raised. Bible school picnic at Mitcham Reserve on March 18 was very enjoyable.

Hindmarsh.—Young Women's Fellowship and boys' Explorer Club are functioning well. J.C.E. is well attended. Young Worshipers' League has commenced at evening services under leadership of Doris Galliford and Joy Chappell. Harvest festival services were a fine success, with special music and singing at morning and evening services. Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Aird, Keith and Jean were received by letter. Congratulations have been offered to Mr. and Mrs. Parsons on reaching the golden anniversary of their wedding. Ed. Radcliffe is home on leave. Deril Dillon has returned to his unit. It has been decided to hold fortnightly cottage prayer services, and a plan is being devised. Dorcas Society commences on April 12. All phases of work are bright.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On March 19 successful S.S. anniversary services were held. At 11 a.m., W. Beiler presided, and a helpful address was given by A. E. Brown, of Prospect. Scholars were present and sang. In afternoon kinders under Miss Lorna Downs sang several action songs, and older scholars assisted by a violin orchestra sang well. L. Lush gave an interesting address. At 7 p.m. W. Beiler conducted and A. Anderson, conference president, preached. Scholars again pleased with their singing. Miss Winnie Thorpe conducted the singing, and Miss Dorothy Hurren was pianist. Good congregations attended each service. March 22 was prize-giving night, when scholars sang, and Miss Downs and W. Blackeby, school superintendent, distributed prizes. On Mar. 26 W. Beiler delivered uplifting addresses.

Prospect.—P.B.P. and K.S.P. chapters entertained comrades from Prospect North Methodist church on March 13. Half-yearly meeting of church was held on March 15, with good attendance. Reports from auxiliaries showed good progress. R. Bradshaw and Mr. Peacock were elected deacons. During the period ten were added by letter of transfer and three by baptism. Combined Endeavor societies of church held annual rally on March 18. I. Durdin presided and A. E. Brown gave the address. Reports were very satisfactory. Special numbers were rendered by the societies. There were 20 representatives from societies, each giving a greeting. On morning of March 19 S. Riches spoke to a large attendance on the work of the Mission to Lepers. G. Bonney, who has been home on leave, has returned to duty. S. Riches addressed Bible class in afternoon. A. E. Brown commenced a series at night on the last days of Christ's ministry. Miss C. Robson and Allan Roberts rendered a duet.

Cottonville.—On March 7 S. Riches gave a lecture on the Mission to Lepers. A social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Millican, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Manning and Mr. and Mrs. Rob Manning in the church hall on March 16. Speakers wished the young people happiness and God's blessing in their married lives. All have rendered sterling service to church and auxiliaries. Presentations were made prior to supper. The three men are still on leave from the Forces. Betty Richards is now in training as a W.A.A.A.F. Mr. Brooke had influenza and could not give the messages on March 12. He recovered sufficiently to take services at Sunday school anniversary on March 19. Three splendid meetings were held, and school singing was excellent, with Sgt. A. Glastonbury conductor. At afternoon session 135 scholars were on-platform and 170 in audience. Kinders assisted with several items. Home mission offering is over £25.

Flinders Park.—At a special church meeting, it was decided to carry on the work with the two elders, H. Francis and G. Houston, equally sharing the pastoral work and preaching until annual meeting in August. Each elder takes gospel service monthly. Attendances are well maintained. Glen Pearce has been discharged from the Forces, and members look forward to him resuming active church work. A separate copper offering at morning services toward new chapel building fund has been commenced.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

YOUNG PEOPLE ASSIST IN MEETING

BALAKLAVA.—Harvest festival reached high levels in attendances both morning and evening. The thankoffering was just over £30. Mr. Hutson delivered suitable messages, and Y.P. choir rendered an anthem. The quartette party also sang. F. Woolmington was farewelled and presented with tokens; he was home on final leave. Several other Service men on leave have met with the church. Mrs. Samuel James was recently bereaved of her husband. Dorcas gift day resulted in £3/10/- for missions. Guild and Triangle clubs held a social evening on March 7 with good attendances. Men and women of church held annual working bee on church property last week. The church reached its quota for home mission offering. On March 12, at close of an address by A. Hutson, a young man from the Bible class made the good confession.

New South Wales

Grafton.—On Feb. 17 P. J. Pond was welcomed by members and friends. There were greetings from church and auxiliaries, also from representatives of other communions and organisations of town. Greetings from Home Mission Committee and Lismore were received. A reduction of £13 was made on building debt (£5/15/- also for interest), £7 of which was a gift from young people, £8/2/- from Ladies' Guild, and remainder from the general fund. Six new scholars have been enrolled at Bible school and others restored. Several new Young Worshipers have been gained, and an increase is shown in attendance at C.E. A high school boy recently responded to the invitation. It has been proposed to open a Bible school at South Grafton. Permission has been obtained for use of School of Arts free of cost, and prospects are good. Mrs. McCallum, sen., is in Base Hospital with a fractured thigh and is seriously ill.

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Merewether.—On March 19 much blessing was received from morning meeting at which Mr. Oswald, of Georgetown, spoke. Attendance at gospel services increased during past fortnight. A young woman, a mother and her two sons have confessed Christ, and a man and his wife have also been received into fellowship. On March 1 the J.C.E. held a social, proceeds going to the aboriginal appeal.

Victoria

Emerald.—On March 19 both services were taken by F. B. Alcorn, and there were many visitors. After morning service a special meeting of the official board was held to welcome Dr. E. R. Killmier, of Thornbury, who was spending the day in the district.



LANTERN LECTURE

PLEA FOR MISSION WORK IN SUDAN

GEELONG.—Attendances on recent Sundays have been pleasing, and all departments of work are in good heart. Preparations are being made for S.S. anniversary. J.C.E. and newly-formed Y.W.L. function successfully, with pleasing attendances each Sunday morning. C. Cole, of Sudan United Mission, spoke at morning service on March 12 and delivered a lantern lecture on March 16, when there was a good attendance. Offering for mission of over £6 was a record for all churches in Geelong district. R. Tattersall spoke at worship service on March 19, Mr. Macnaughtan being at special service of Belmont church. An outdoor sale of work, organised by Ladies' Aid, on March 11, was highly successful. Ballot for church officers resulted in all nominees being elected.

Footscray.—On March 22 an impressive baptismal service was held, followed by fellowship around the supper table. On March 26, Mr. Ritchie's gospel sermon was illustrated with a wall chart. R. McLean, of the college, conducted Bible class meeting. Miss M. Sayers is in hospital.

Yarrowonga.—Recent church business meeting revealed financial side of the work was sound. All officers were re-elected, and auxiliaries were functioning well. The building was beautifully decorated for harvest thanksgiving on March 5, and the gifts were sold for prisoners of war, realising £5.

Coburg.—Miss Doris Chipperfield and Miss Jean Chambers, members of the W.A.A.F., are located in Gippsland. Visitors recently included Hartley Smetheram, of Maylands, W.A. Bible school under leadership of A. E. Barber has commenced practice for anniversary. Mrs. Carthew is improving after long illness. On March 26 Chaplain W. G. Graham, of Moreland, was speaker in morning.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—The church has showed marked progress during past six months under leadership of the preacher, A. Graham. Attendances and happy fellowship are very encouraging. There have been seven young people added to church by faith and obedience. The church has had fellowship with Clarence Schulz, on leave from New Guinea. Good attendance is maintained in Sunday school.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—On March 26 C. G. Taylor spoke at all services. Margaret Calway decided for Christ. Miss Amelia Scarce rendered two delightful solos at evening service. Officers of church visited C.E. Society on March 22 and took charge of meeting, Ken Barton giving the address. Bible school teachers held annual outing on March 26 at home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Holdsworth, Mordialloc, and had a very enjoyable time.

Parkdale.—Enjoyable Sunday school anniversary services were held on March 26, speakers being: morning, A. A. Hughes, M.L.A.; afternoon, G. Hing; evening, A. W. Stephenson. Children, under leadership of T. Cuddy, sang well. During absence of preacher on holidays, G. Clark, F. T. Saunders, Mr. Grainger, W. H. Clay and R. Baelz spoke. The help of these brethren was much appreciated. R. Hill is still seriously ill in the Alfred Hospital.

Drumcondra.—Fellowship of many visitors has been enjoyed. Mr. Sheriff gave a challenging address on morning of March 26. March 19 was harvest festival. Mr. Methven continues to give uplifting messages. On March 26 Bible school had highest attendance since July, 1937 (66). Mr. Methven commenced a series of addresses on God's plan of the ages (illustrated). Mrs. Ross has had an operation and is progressing favorably.

Surrey Hills.—Church annual business meeting reports revealed progress in church (6) and Bible school (14) numbers, membership of former being 112. Youth activities especially show enthusiasm, efficiency and promise. Appreciative references were made to G. J. Andrews' considerable assistance to brotherhood churches and causes. Nice meetings were held on March 26. Evening service was conducted by Roy Sheehan in absence of Mr. Andrews at Bambra-rd., Caulfield.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Bible school picnic was held enjoyably on March 3 at gardens, about 160 in attendance. Church anniversary was held on March 5, when C. J. Robinson, from Hartwell church, gave addresses which were encouraging and challenging. Attendances were good. On the Wednesday a fellowship gathering and basket supper made opportunity for a pleasant evening. The programme arranged by W. W. Saunders was full of interest. Hartwell brethren are thanked for lending Mr. Robinson for the occasion.

East Kew.—The first Sunday of 21st anniversary celebrations of Sunday school was observed on March 26, when an enjoyable day was spent. Many visitors were present, and fellowship with them and with visiting speakers was enjoyed. Len Butler presided at 11 a.m., and Mr. Roberts brought the message. At 2.30 p.m. J. Wright gave the boys and girls an excellent talk. At 7 p.m. Mr. Brooker gave a fine illustrated address. Singing of children under Mr. Elliot's leadership was enjoyed by all.

Collingwood.—All auxiliaries of church have resumed after Mildmay mission, a splendid prayer meeting being held on Mar. 22. Harvest festival services were held on Mar. 26, speakers being Mr. Cremin, of South Richmond; Mr. Phillips, of Clifton Hill Baptist; and T. Fitzgerald. At gospel service Miss V. Biggs, who made the good confession during Morris-Levett mission, was baptised and welcomed into membership. Proceeds of harvest festival were donated to Christian Guest Home. Cricket club has concluded a successful season; tennis club has commenced competitive matches for this season.

Preston.—Visitors at morning service on March 26 included A. Paterson and P. Box, on leave from active service, and a party of eleven Malayan soldiers, who rendered two messages in song in the Malayan language. The latter also took part in evening service, at which a large congregation was present, Bible school scholars rendering anniversary hymns. Mr. Combridge spoke at both morning and evening services. At close of his evening address four more Bible school scholars made the confession. Prizes were distributed in afternoon. Books were given to kinders, but all other successful scholars received war savings stamps of equal value to prizes allotted.

Castlemaine.—Harvest thanksgiving services were conducted by C. E. Curtis on March 19, when appropriate messages were delivered to good congregations. The fruit, vegetables and produce were presented to local hospital. A party of young people, under direction of C. E. Curtis, representing girls' and boys' clubs, journeyed to Harcourt and gave half a day fruit picking to an orchardist who was short of labor.

Essendon.—Attendances are maintained. There are many visitors, and W. E. Jackel is working earnestly and delivering powerful discourses. Finances are healthy. On Mar. 12 Murray McNicol, of North Essendon, presided in morning; Norm. Huntley, R.A.N., and his brother Len, A.I.F., were welcomed home on leave. The church has been saddened by the deaths of Mr. Dockery, husband of Mrs. Dockery and father of Joy; and the second youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Strack, who passed away at Children's Hospital. S. Hainsworth has returned from service with C.C.C., and has taken over office of treasurer. The marriage was celebrated recently of Len Huntley and Joy Dockery, Mr. Jackel officiating. Gordon Lamont was welcomed home at morning service on March 26, on leave from A.I.F.

Box Hill.—Successful harvest festival services were held on March 12, the goods afterward being sold and the proceeds, as formerly, devoted to benevolent work. A church picnic at Wattle Park was enjoyed by many who attended on Feb. 26. Women's Mission Band has commenced a new year of service under presidency of Mrs. Sandells. On March 26 a girl from Bible school was baptised, and at conclusion of gospel service a member of Bible class took his stand for Christ, Dorothy Sharp, for many years an active worker in C.E., was married on March 25 to Ray McIntosh, T. H. Scambler officiating. The church has had fellowship with several members of the Services home on leave, and visiting, and Cpl. Joan Lees assisted with a solo at gospel service on Mar. 19. The increase campaign conducted by Bible school has aroused much enthusiasm, and many new scholars have already been enrolled.

Balwyn.—Services are very well attended, 135 breaking bread on March 19 and 118 on morning of 26th, when Cr. A. Fordham, of Camberwell, presided. Mr. Hurren has spoken at all services recently. Good congregations gather at night. Prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings is becoming stronger. All auxiliaries



The Chapel at Balwyn.

are in good heart. S.S. has difficulty in securing regular teachers. The kinder superintendent has had to resign because of poor health and general press of business. Some members, especially those of long service, are in indifferent health. Mr. Smith, for many years S.S. superintendent, has undergone a serious eye operation. The church home is almost restored after severe damage in recent fire. One has been added to church by letter, and one by restoration. Don Opie, Keith Larkin, Don Finlayson and Ken Smith have been home on leave.

Boronia.—On March 26 E. L. Williams concluded a special series of morning addresses. There were very good attendances. Young Worshipers' League with 17 members meets with gospel service. Annual meeting of Mission Band has been held, a very good year of work being reported. Les. Goodwin and John Chandler, on leave, have met with the church.

Bayswater.—Attendances have been good, and Mr. McCollough's messages are appreciated. On March 19 some young men of Bible class took part in evening service, and Mr. McCollough gave the message. On March 26 harvest festival services were held. The fruit and produce were donated to Guest Home at Oakleigh. Messages of song by Miss Norma Langley and Squadron Leader Douglas Forder, from Hawthorn, were much appreciated. The church was pleased to have a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Burns, and Mr. Burns presided in morning.

Gardenvale.—Meetings for past month have been good, with increased attendance at gospel services. Mr. Anderson's messages have helped many. Recently a Bible school scholar, Jean Laird, was baptised and received into the church. The church renewed fellowship with Reg. Andrew while he was on leave. At annual business meeting and election of officers on March 23, reports from church and auxiliaries showed work to be healthy and prospects good, especially young people's departments. Mr. Donaldson has been appointed to diaconate, and all other officers were re-elected. Mr. Nance-Kivell conducted both meetings on March 26, giving helpful addresses. Kindergarten children had an enjoyable time at a party given by Mr. Rust. Interior of building has been renovated, including writing of a scroll and text.

ADDRESSES.

I. J. Chivell (preacher Maryborough church, Vic.)—15 Barkly-st., Maryborough.

T. Davey (secretary Portland church, Vic.)—30 Cameron-st., Portland.

S. Smith (secretary Hawthorn church, Vic.)—21 Wiseman-st., Hawthorn, E.3.

79th ANNUAL CONFERENCE of Churches of Christ in Victoria.

APRIL 5 to 12, 1944.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5—Lygon-st. Church. 10.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 7.30 p.m., WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6—

2.30 p.m., Swanston-st. Lecture Hall, Reception by President Women's Conference.

3 p.m., Lygon-st. Church, Preachers' Session. 7.45 p.m., Lygon-st. Church, Opening of Conference and Youth Panel Discussion.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7—Lygon-st. Church—

9.30 a.m., Annual Conference.

2.15 p.m., Presidential Address and Conference.

7.15 p.m., Home Mission Demonstration.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8—Lygon-st. Church—

9.30 a.m., Conference (continued).

2 p.m., Conference (continued).

7.30 p.m., Foreign Mission Demonstration.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST. SOCIAL SERVICE RALLY. PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY HALL, Collins-st., Melbourne.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1944, 7.45 p.m.

Chairman, R. H. L. Sparks.

Addresses.—R. L. Williams, B.A., B.D., "God's Intention for the World." Robert Baelz, for six years a prisoner of war, will relate some of his experiences. A thrilling story. Programme by Malvern Church of Christ Girls' Choir and Malvern Concert Orchestra. Conductor, Claude Gadge; Organist, Max Balderson; Pianist, Mrs. E. Gadge.

The hall will accommodate 600 persons only. Come early to be assured of a seat.

WANTED

Wanted urgently, unfurnished house, 6 rooms, between Mentone and Frankston preferred, or in hills.—Mrs. R. C. Harding, 27 McBean-st., Parkdale, or ring Chelt. 986.

DEATH

CAMPBELL.—On March 16, Mary Lawson, beloved wife of the late William Edward, and loved mother of Edward, Jessie (Mrs. Coutts), William, Isabel (Mrs. Smith), John, Jean (Mrs. Burrow, Queensland), and Colin, loved mother-in-law of Eric and Reg. Privately interred Preston Cemetery, March 17. Asleep.

IN MEMORIAM

BROWN.—In loving memory of my mother and our grandmother, Nina Frances, who passed to the higher life on March 31, 1935. "Her earthly trials are over."

—Inserted by daughter Mabel, son-in-law Bert, and grandchildren Lewis and Irene Norton.

GULLOCK.—In loving memory of our dear ones, who passed away, Ellen, Feb. 16, Edwin, April 3.

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

—Their loving family.

PAGE.—In loving memory of our darling daughter Verosa, who died April 4, 1941; also our dear son Ray, who died on Nov. 15, 1942; dearly loved children of Mr. and Mrs. Page, Preston; brother and sister of Charles, Hawthorn; grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. H. Swain, Preston.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus."

THOMPSON.—In memory of our dear sister Mary Thompson, late missionary Harda, C.P., India, who left us on March 27, 1936.

YOUNG.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Ellen Young, who passed away on March 26, 1922; also our dear father, Robert Wellington, called to rest Jan. 16, 1911.

"Resting where no shadows fall,
In perfect peace they await us all."

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April 2—11 a.m., Mr. C. B. Nance-Kivell, B.S. Litt., B.D.

3 p.m., P.S.A., Mr. A. A. Hughes, M.L.A.

5 p.m., Anniversary Tea.

7 p.m., L.A.C. A. Cameron, R.A.A.F.

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March 29, 1944

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Christianity Outstrips the Church

Selfishness to Social Consciousness

NO one can study the religious life of the Orient without being impressed by the fact that Christianity in these lands has plainly outstripped the church." "This is a quotation from the report issued in 1931 by an important Commission of American Laymen, after extensive and critical enquiry into the work of foreign missions in the Far East, and summarises concisely the theme of this brief section. The number of Christians in China is not great—about two and a half million, including Protestants and Roman Catholics. But the 'leavening' influence of the church in the life of the nation is out of all proportion to its numbers. By organising relief measures on a large scale in times of famine, flood, pestilence and war; by its chain of well equipped hospitals and schools; by its many orphanages, blind schools, leper asylums, and institutions for deaf-mutes; by pioneer work in education for girls as well as boys, China has become convinced of the social function and force of Christianity. It has been largely responsible for the creation of a 'public spirit' which is, in its present form and on its present scale, an innovation in the national life. Christian missions have succeeded in turning the Chinese mind from a spirit of selfishness to a social consciousness."

"Christian" Spirit and "Public" Spirit Synonymous Terms

"There is no doubt at all that the spirit of Christ, the holy 'humane-ity' of his life, and his sacrifice in the cause of righteousness, have made a deep impression upon the Chinese mind and heart. So that the Generalissimo's call to his people to 'sacrifice' themselves in the present war for justice and freedom, presented in the terms of Christ's own life and death, struck a responsive chord in the soul of the nation, and quickened it to newness of life. Amongst large numbers of the people the 'Christian' spirit and the 'public' spirit have become synonymous, and the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross has become the popular example of that 'sacrificial' spirit which their great Christian leader has challenged his people to display. This spirit, exemplified by the Generalissimo and his wife, and which breathes in the church throughout the land; this readiness to suffer in a righteous cause, resisting to blood the evil things which the Japanese militarists seek to impose upon China, but at the same time seeking to repress all feelings of hatred for the Japanese people as a whole, is surely the one hope of 'bringing about a permanent peace among men as well as the revival of the Chinese people.'"—Extracts from "China Among the Nations."

CHIANG KAI-SHEK ADDRESSES NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL, CHUNGKING

GIVING an address at the National Missionary Council Conference, General Chiang praised the Christian church and its missionaries in China to-day, and said the "abolition of unequal treaties had freed the Christian church from all association with foreign imperialism or aggression." Speaking of missionary societies, he said: "We still need them, and welcome Christians from other lands who serve the people of China with true sympathy and devotion. Don't feel you are guests. You are comrades working with us to save our people and build a new nation. Christians from abroad and Christians in China are on the same footing and can work wholeheartedly together for the reconstruction of



Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

China," Chiang said. "From now on there should be much closer relations between the Chinese and Western Christians." He urged the church in China to proclaim more widely its teachings and to broaden the scope of its work, particularly in public health. "Let the church identify itself more intimately with the life and needs of the people and co-operate fully with the government and social welfare agencies and build a heaven in society."

JAPAN AND THE CHINESE CHURCH

RECENT developments in China show the way in which Japan aims to control and direct Christian work in occupied territories. A C.I.M. report says: "Bishop Abe (a Japanese bishop), who has been appointed to superintend the Christian churches in China, is now in Shanghai, and has met a number of Chinese Christian leaders to put before them his plans. A general synod to govern all the churches is to be formed, under his direction, to which all Protestant churches have to belong. It will be undenominational, but where particular groups have a sufficiently large number of congregations, each of not less than 300 members, they will be allowed to have a synod of their own. All organisations not conforming to this arrangement will be disbanded. All foreign money or foreign influence on the policy of the churches must be entirely eliminated. In due course all public mission prop-

erty will be confiscated. It is therefore necessary to get such property as is necessary for church use transferred to church ownership as soon as possible. The process of unification may be a little slower here than in North China, as there are certain cultural groups that do not favor a policy of uniformity. Bishop Abe is returning to Japan shortly, and expects to return in the near future to proceed

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

with the plan of federating the churches. The whole trend of events shows very clearly that the intention is to eliminate all foreign missionary effort, and here is a call for prayer." This, of course, is totalitarian form of control, but it is humiliating to the home churches, or should be so, that pagan Japan should have forced upon Christians a form of church union within a few months, which Christian groups could not do in hundreds of years.

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"Age of the Blue-Print"

A PARAGRAPH or two from a sermon by E. J. Davidson, minister of St. James, Sydney, which was reported in the press recently, is worth passing on. Mr. Davidson said, "The age of the blue-print is upon us. This is not good news for some because of implied restrictions upon freedom, though for others planning is the gateway to social salvation." He further said that if we went back to the doctrine of everyone for himself—and there were signs that many would like to—the devil would take not only the hindmost but the foremost, too, and all in between.

The Christian, realising the complexities of the problem, admits the need for techniques and appreciates the wisdom of thinking in terms of large scale organisations. There is, he said, something ominous in the blind faith some would seem to put in the power of external organisation to bring in a social Utopia.

The following will certainly appeal to many. Radical social changes are needed. But change in itself will only take us a few steps along the road to better living. The problem of human impulse, of twisted thinking, and selfish action, remains. By changing environment we can do much to change men, but in the final analysis environmental changes must go hand in hand with an attack on human selfishness. Those who say "Be good and society will be saved," are as naive as those who say, "Give us this ism and all will be well." Both need to face the problem of sin, and that cannot be faced without religion.

Methodist Synod

For our readers we cull a paragraph or two from two speakers at the Methodist Synod. B. R. Wyllie, Principal of Wesley College within the University, said, "When the war is over we shall proceed to build our monuments and our memorial hospitals to the men who died. Whether or not these men were victims of an illusion will be judged not by the memorials we build, but by our determination to create the world for which they died." He further said that Australia's self-righteousness had increased as she had been successful in attack. It was significant that there had not been a day of prayer since the Allies went on the offensive.

Mr. E. C. Summerlad, M.L.C., called attention to religious broadcasts, and said, "Non-denominational broadcast services would have a tremendous effect in bringing the churches together on common ground. Religious radio must be color-blind and creed-deaf, knowing no race or creed or group."

Synod was perturbed by the shortage of ministers. A number of married Methodist ministers and probationers are to be withdrawn from metropolitan and country circuits for appointment to circuits which otherwise would be without ministers. The shortage of ministers was brought about mainly by the need for chaplains.

We've Heard

That a new church has been started at Fairfield. A short mission was held there during the Christmas holidays. For the first two or three Sundays only four resident members were present. The mission brought in some very fine folk. A week or so ago 35 members broke bread on the Sunday morning. The church is self-supporting with two student preachers. A block of land has been purchased, and shortly a building is to be erected.

That Geo. Burns has resigned the work at Mosman, and has accepted an invitation to labor with the church at Rockdale.

That P. J. Pond is preaching for the church at Grafton, and there are signs of further advance.

That there are now fifteen students in the Bible College, and that they have all been placed with a church.—Ethelbert Davis.

Obituary

Mrs. A. M. Davies

THE church at Wolfram-st., Broken Hill, N.S.W., has been saddened by the passing of Mrs. Agnes Mary Davies. She received the home-call on Feb. 24 at Ballarat Hospital. Mrs. Davies came into the church during the Hinrichsen-Stewart mission in 1927. She was baptised by the late E. G. Warren, and continued faithful Christian witness. Of a quiet, unassuming disposition, our sister won the love and admiration of all. Mr. and Mrs. Davies left Broken Hill to reside in Ballarat, Vic., a year ago. Shortly after arriving there Mrs. Davies was stricken with a malady which paralysed spine and legs. She was hurried to a Melbourne specialist, but did not walk again. Transferred back to Ballarat Hospital, she lingered for eight or nine months. She was very patient, and suffered with Christian fortitude, gladly awaiting God's call. Mr. Saunders, of Ballarat church, was with her constantly until she fell asleep. The church extends sympathy to Mr. Davies (her husband), also to Mr. Bill Davies (son), and his wife, and to Mr. Davies' sisters.—E. M. Warren.

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- (2) Two churches, Georgetown and Canterbury-Earlwood, have gone self-supporting with full-time preachers.
- (3) Fairfield, new church started, self-supporting with student preacher.

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—E. C. Hinrichsen, Director of
Evangelism, New South Wales.

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Life's Urgent Necessity

(John 3: 7)

LET "Regeneration" rather than "Reconstruction" be the major word for to-day. But before we turn to any theological treatise on the subject, let us appropriate the vital simplicities of the third chapter of John. Jesus announces this necessity to one of the best types of men of his day: "You must be born over again from above." Regeneration is necessary for gross sinners whose demon-ridden lives are a woe to themselves and to all society. Regeneration is necessary for respectable citizens whose lives are inadequate, as they do "good" in their own way instead of God's. Regeneration is essential to real democracy.

Being "born again" you must believe God's Man of adequate testimony, for "whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." Moreover, you must be bold and forthright in your obedience. Wear the badge of baptised believer! Show your hand at every turn! Remember, "he that doeth the truth cometh to the light!" (After months of secrecy, Nicodemus came out to the light, as John's seventh and nineteenth chapters record.)

When a lady asked George Whitfield, "Why do you keep on harping on this one string, 'Ye must be born again'?" he blandly replied, "Why, surely, because you MUST be born again."—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

"In the hour to which we are all hastening, it will be of supreme value to have a faith in him who is the first-fruits of them that slept."

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The Australian Christian

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March 29, 1944

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