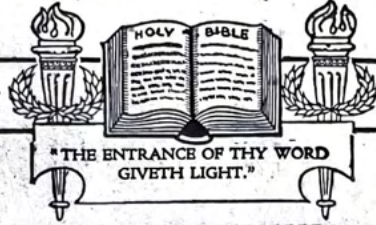


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The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

A Journal Representing



Churches of Christ

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne,
for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

Posted direct, 10/6 year. Foreign, 14/- year.
Through church agent, 2d. week.

VOL. XLVI, No. 50.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1943

Examined A Merciful Christmas

JESUS was born in a stable. He was cradled in a manger. To shepherds caring for their flocks on hills hard by Bethlehem, an angel made this startling announcement, saying, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." A short journey to the ancestral town of King David brought those humble guardians of the flocks into the presence of Joseph and Mary. There, in the stable, lying in a manger, wrapped in bands of cloth, they saw the new-born child. From the lips of rustic laborers, Mary heard words which confirmed her hopes that this Jesus, her first-born, would satisfy the yearnings of the ages and bring peace to men of goodwill.

AS Christmas comes and goes men remember the event proclaimed by the angelic choir, but often miss the full meaning of what occurred in the days when Cæsar Augustus decreed that the world should be taxed.

In those days God expressed his love for sinners in an act. We must be on our guard lest the basic element in divine love slip the grasp of the mind and we confuse it with a human sentimentalism. Men tend to love whatever appears valuable and beautiful—they have time for the person who, in their eyes, possesses the qualities of goodness. Whatever is scarred or marred and thereby made ugly is passed over. The criminal, hardened and made repulsive by evil living, repels human love. We shrink from the person who has failed to measure up to the standards of respectability. This brings us to a paradox. Our eyes have the subtle power of being able to pounce speedily upon the little imperfections in others, but are slow to perceive gross sins in ourselves. A man who complained loudly to a

stranger that all in his village were vagabonds, sought to prove his contention by saying, "See that man coming toward us. He is a good example. Look at his ferret-like eyes glancing suspiciously from one person to another. You couldn't trust a man with a face like his!" "Sir," replied the stranger, "you have failed to note it is a mirror we are approaching; that person you have described so accurately is none other than yourself." Each person is a sinner whether he realises it or not. Marred by the scars of sin, man lacks divine beauty.

To appreciate the full significance of the Christmas message, he must grasp that, although he has been made ugly by sin, nevertheless God has expressed, in the birth of Jesus, love for him.

IF we were to be dealt with on the basis of justice, we should all be found guilty, and would perish. An Australian statesman who is reputed to be very plain in looks was examining a recent photograph of himself, and someone remarked, "It does not do you justice, sir." Quickly he replied, "I require mercy, not justice." While there is a spark of humor in that statement, yet it expresses the feelings of each human being who has given any thought to the mystery of life.

Isaiah knew that the iniquities of Judah

and Jerusalem had caused them to be covered with "putrifying sores" so that they had nothing beautiful to recommend them to the Lord. Justice decreed that they suffer the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah; but the Lord showed mercy and saved a remnant.

WHILE we were sinners and deserving of the penalty of death which justice requires, the Lord expressed his merciful love for us in the Word who became flesh and dwelt in our midst. While pagan religions teach that men must beg and supplicate the gods for a show of mercy, Christianity reveals that God was so anxious to express mercy and compassion on sinful man, he sent his Son into this world as a propitiation (Rom. 3: 25), that is, as a Demonstrator of divine mercy. Christ "is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2: 2). God is in Christ, seeking to win back all who have wandered away.

WUR Christmas messages ought to emphasise how much God's love for us is enriched with divine mercy,

and that

"There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like a wideness of the sea."

A mercy human beings cannot understand:—

* "For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind."

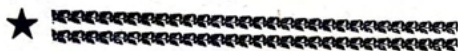
Christmas emphasises, however, a tragic situation: for it reveals God standing ready, and urgently longing, to show to man his love; but multitudes mock him, by spurning his demonstration of mercy set out in the birth of Jesus.

If men are to appreciate the full meaning of the event commemorated at Christmas, they must come to see it as a kind of "mercy seat" where they may go and be reconciled to God.



Fireplaces and Christmas

H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., a chaplain
in the Forces, writes of the inspiration coming
from the glow of the hearth.



THE commanding officer of a unit somewhere in Australia requested his officers to keep certain standards in the mess. He concluded his appeal thus: "Remember, gentlemen, this is your home." The unlined iron hut had little about it suggestive of home, and it was unanimously agreed to remedy this. The hut was lined with cement sheets, curtains were draped at the windows, colored lamp shades were placed on the electric lights, and these with other improvements all helped to make the mess more attractive and tended to create the much desired homelike atmosphere. Then it was decided to build a brick and stone fireplace. This added more to the homelikeness than any other improvement, and to the minds of some of us more than all the rest put together.

When winter comes again and tinted flames and glowing coals are radiating their warmth and brightness that fireplace will become the focal centre of the mess, and will provide many happy, homelike hours of fellowship for the officers. It has already given a warmth to the mind as later it will assuredly radiate warmth to their bodies. So largely did this last addition contribute to the attitude and atmosphere which the major was seeking that I suggested to him that a home might be defined as a fireplace with one or more rooms attached.

I.

We are not surprised to learn that, whilst the word hearth means primarily the place on the floor on which the fire is made, it is used also in a wider sense of the house itself and again of the family circle. A hearth is more than a place for fire; it is a place of fellowship.

I recall visiting the home in which Shakespeare lived. The fireplace and a mousetrap somehow impressed my mind. I can still appreciate why the fireplace should be so vivid in recollection. I imagined the literary genius enjoying himself before that fire on some of England's cold nights. I wondered how often he sat in pensive mood as the coals cooled off and the characters of his plays took shape in his fertile brain.

I thought of the importance of even a mousetrap when associated with the truly great; though I doubt if the trapped mice ever felt any special distinction in being caught in Shakespeare's trap.

II.

Surely much of the world's greatest literature has been closely linked with the fireplace both as to its creation and appreciation, for the hearth is associated with the deepest feelings and the noblest thoughts. That rare scholar, the late Dr. S. Angus, in his last book, "Alms for Oblivion," tells of his first introduction to Latin when he read his uncle's copy of a Latin grammar before a blazing logwood fire. "I had placed my foot on the first rung of the ladder of Latinity, and even from that modest height . . . I saw my juvenile vision of a new heaven and a new earth." Again later he tells of sitting between his uncle and a Jewish pedlar before a peat fire and learning at that fireside for the first time of the Jewish historian Josephus. How often new worlds of knowledge have been discovered by firesides!

III.

I recall reading years ago a striking suggestion concerning Jesus' words, "Ye are the light of the world." Eastern houses were often of one room, and the light of the fire that burned in the centre was the normal source of light. They also used candles, as is evident from Jesus' statement, "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house." The fireplace, however, was the more common and constant source of light. The passage loses nothing in the way of suggestiveness if read, "Ye are the world's fireplaces."

All that a fireplace means of fellowship, comfort and inspiration ye are to be to the world. Many a visitor to inland China has found the fire in the inn more conspicuous for its smoke than its light. Maybe that in this there is a warning for us. Jesus was concerned with the quality of the light. "Let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven," he said. No smouldering, smoky fire was sufficient; and though in magnanimous mood he declared he would not quench the smoking flax, his desire was to see it break forth into flame.

It has always seemed to me that Peter's denial of Christ was exaggerated by the fact that it occurred as he stood by a fire—the symbol of warm fellowship, even as the baseness of the betrayal by Judas is heightened by the knowledge that he shared a meal with Christ which should have been a pledge of loyalty. The glow of that fire should have helped Peter to maintain the inner glow of fellowship with, and loyalty to, Christ.

During the last war one of the popular songs was, "Keep the home fires burning." It is a call to those in the homeland to face the duties, fulfil the obligations, and sustain the loyalties of life. There is a dire need for this call judging by the disclosures occasionally made to a chaplain by men who know the bitterness of an extinguished fire. I am pleased that Margaret Scruton, whose poem, "For

Honor and for Her," has made such a clear call to men to bring back to the woman of their choice "a manhood free from shame," has written a further poem, "In Absence," which appeals to the women of our land to be true to life's highest loyalties. Here are two verses:—

While "he's" away—O woman-heart be brave!
The home that is, or home that is to be,
Bright with the promises that once you gave,
Lives in his dreams, a place of sanctuary;
Becloud them not with wrongs you shall regret,
But by your courage make them fairer yet.

While "he's" away—O woman-heart be pure!
Life's wholesome sweetnesses are grace enough;
Let simple goodness help you to endure,
And tread Truth's road, altho' its stones be rough;

Hold, and be held by love's eternal vow,
Nor any slackening of its bonds allow.

IV.

The discovery of fire must have been epochal for man. Sometimes I wonder if it is because it has been so inter-woven with the history of man that it awakens such deep and strong emotions within the human breast.

That there are deep inner stirrings and an overflow of kindly thought associated with fire is evident at a camp fire gathering at a youth conference.

Here around an enlarged fireplace we find it is far more than a source of physical comfort, it serves to awaken deep spiritual forces. When travelling I have sometimes found myself attracted to an inn by its title. Morning tea was partaken of half an hour early in Connecticut, U.S.A., one afternoon because of the lure of "Ye Olde English Inn," but the name that I found most appealing was "The Fireside Inn."

I wonder, if we who follow the Christ were all that he meant us to be when he said, "Ye are the light of the world," the church would make a similar appeal to the man of the street. Would it be to him a place marked by the warmth of fellowship, the light of knowledge, the glow of brotherhood—a "fireside inn."

Let us remember that Christmas has more to do with fireplaces than the traditional exploits of Father Christmas down chimneys. The true spirit of Christmas is the spirit of the hearth. Ye are the world's fireplaces.



"All they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

In the Fulness

of Time

The coming of Christ as an expression of divine intention in history is discussed by

E. L. Williams, M.A.



PAUL regarded all history before Christ as a period of preparation. It belonged to the childhood of the race when man was being prepared for the redemption of maturity. "We . . . when we were children, were held in bondage under the rudiments of the world; but when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth his Son."

The Historical Setting

The conquests of Alexander the Great had promoted the widespread use of a common



"All went to be taxed, every one into his own city."

Greek language as a vehicle of communication. Greek philosophers taught men to think, and made them ready to accept new truth. They turned thought to morality and to some idea of God, and provided a training in conscience.

The Roman Empire broke down national barriers, and provided unity, law and order, and lines of communication by land and sea.

The dispersed Jews established the synagogue wherever they went and spread abroad their faith in God, their moral code and their hope of a coming Deliverer.

Sick at heart and dwelling in a dark valley of history, the world was ready and waiting for the message of the Redeemer.

All these things made the world ready for the event of history. It was the opportune moment.

These are the facts of history. What is their meaning?

The Meaning of History

Our text and the historical facts which serve as a significant commentary tell us two things: (1) History is subject to that purpose of God. (2) History is subject to that purpose. Cf. Mark 1: 15; Ephes. 3: 11. The coming of Christ in the fulness of time is an expression of the divine intention in history. This intention, or purpose, is constantly being worked out and revealed. History is not merely a series of isolated and accidental events determined by man's struggle for material existence. It is a framework in which certain principles of life are being tried out and in which an ultimate purpose is being wrought.

This does not mean that man is robbed of freedom—that it is decreed beforehand what men and nations shall do, so that they can do no other. No exact map of the future is drawn by prophetic vision to which men and women must conform. But it does mean that what man does in his freedom will be used of God for his purpose. Whatever man does he will not thwart the purpose of God. If his way is in harmony with the divine intention, he will ultimately prosper; but if opposed he will break himself and his world to pieces. Only Christ's way works. Christianity is realism. This is the message of Christ as confirmed in history.

God is revealed in history as a judge. Not that he with personal and arbitrary ire has reached down with whip in hand to "take it out of" his guilty people. His judgments are in the nature of consequences which appear as the crises of history. Significantly enough the Greek word "krisis" means judgment. It has been said: "The war is not just something which has happened to us; it is an obscene, gigantic roc's-egg of a chicken come home to roost." The wrath of God is seen in history's judgments. It is not without meaning, but is subject to the purpose of God in that it expresses his judgment. There is no escape. Because we are inevitably members one of another the innocent suffer with the guilty. But if that suffering be voluntarily

assumed in the way of the cross it will be redemptive.

God also is revealed in history as Redeemer. Man may reject God's way and crucify Christ, but he is not destroyed, rather is he established. The resurrection is the proof and prophecy of ultimate victory for the purpose of God. He who came in the fulness of time gives hope to man. History is not a blind and crushing process, but the vindication of an ever triumphant purpose, and the promise of triumph in one far-off divine event. The ultimate forces are not material but spiritual. The determining factors are not the multitudes and majorities, but the creative minorities and the faithful remnant. The fit, whose life and cause shall prevail, are not the mighty but the holy, not the violent but the just, not those with large armies but those with truth. "Destiny waits in the hand of God, and not in the hands of statesmen."

Professor Charles B. Beard has drawn four lessons from history: "First, whom the gods would destroy they first make mad with power. Second, the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small. Third, the bee fertilises the flower it robs. Fourth, when it is dark enough you can see the stars."

"Why does God delay so long?" must have been asked by many in whom the lamp of hope burned. Some ask to-day, "Why did God wait so long?" and "Why does God wait so long?" "How long, O Lord?" There is so much suffering and injustice. The complete redemption of God is so necessary and so longed for. But God's ways are sure rather than spectacular. Progress is slow; yet the purpose of God revealed in history assures it. Christianity is no pessimism of an ever declining civilisation and a world growing worse. With realism it recognises the presence and power of evil forces and conflict, and shuns the glib optimism of inevitable, automatic progress; but with faith it holds to the present and final victory of the purpose of a Sovereign God and Father.

Racial development is exceedingly slow. This may explain why "the fulness of time," that is, the earliest possible moment, may seem so delayed to us. We should not expect great changes in human nature or in mankind as a whole in 2000 years. The changes that history has revealed since Christ encourage our faith in progress and the sure victory of the purpose of God. Sixty generations is a short span in the history of the human race and but a drop in the stream of infinite time.

If we could see the events of our lives and the world in the light of eternity, their tragic aspect may vanish like the stars before the rising sun.

The purpose of God is sovereign and sure. "In the fulness of time" is the true philosophy of history. It is a gospel.

Christmas Gladness

I HAVE only a little light at Christmas,
My glimpse of the heavenly story's dim,
But I like to shut my eyes and to fancy
I'm finding the manger that cradles him.
I like to picture the three kings riding,
And out from the darkened hills afar

A handful of shabby shepherds climbing
And glimpsing the way by the light of the star.
And the thought that it brings is a gleam of comfort
To desolate hearts when the world is grey,
For there must have been gladness for all at Christmas
When the Baby smiled from his bed of hay. —Mary Eversley.

The Christmas Spirit



Mrs. W. F. Nankivell, of Unley, S.A., asks for a practical application of the goodwill of the Christmas season to every-day affairs.

CHRISTMAS in a world of total war, filled with fear, brutality, hatred, misery and war! Is it difficult to think or say "Merry Christmas"? Yet in just such a dark hour in the world's history the Babe of Bethlehem was born. As we listen again to the angel's message, join the shepherds in their quest, follow the magi—star led, and kneel in adoration before the manger, we must seek to re-discover Christmas.

Human brotherhood, sympathy, goodwill, sacrificial love and sharing—surely these are of the spirit of Christmas. That spirit is the essence of the teachings of Jesus, the expression of his life as he lived it among the needy, the oppressed and sorrowful. There have been times when it seemed as if this spirit had been lost, but somewhere through the centuries the church has preserved it. Periodically it has been rediscovered and set before men as the supreme imperative of the Christian life.

Surely this Christmas of 1943 is a time when as never before we need to gather all the love and sympathy, goodwill and understanding which the Christmas spirit experience brings. Our resolve should be to turn them into deeds now and throughout the ensuing year that we be able to meet the tragedy and suffering of our stricken world with steady courage.

Christians, then, should earnestly endeavor to make every observance—home, church, community; every gift—family and otherwise; contribute to goodwill, understanding and sympathy.

It was into a world of wars, taxes, oppression, poverty and wickedness that God sent his Son, bringing new joy and hope to humanity, and a witness to the brotherhood of the human family. Ever since there have

been some who have believed in Christmas and all that it symbolises. We follow in their train. And inasmuch as we can prove our sympathetic understanding of the world's needs, by our steadfast willingness to enter into, and share its sufferings, so will we prove the reality of the spirit of Christmas.

When, rationing notwithstanding, on Christmas day and the days that follow, we sit down to bountifully laden tables, let us remember there will be millions hungry and numbers dying of starvation elsewhere. India, China, Europe call for help. May we find the means to relieve their need and share with them our abundance.

Because of the war and its demands, many will be far from home and loved ones, lonely and friendless. Shall we go out to find them, welcome them to our homes? Shall they, because of us, know that friendliness and lovingkindness do exist?

There may be in our midst—perhaps in an institution—children who have been deprived of their own home and family. There can be no ministry more genuinely Christian than that of bringing to some child a real experience of Christmas. Shall we give the treasured memories of a few days of a real home life to one of his little ones?

To-day there are many who are haunted by the dread of depression and unemployment when the war ends. Does the spirit of Christmas impel us as Christian citizens to apply our minds to these problems? Are we able to demonstrate our willingness and ability to co-operate with people of goodwill everywhere; to bring to pass that "peace on earth and goodwill among men" which Christmas envisions and the spirit of Christmas gives the power to make a reality? Christmas is not a myth or a mockery; but a fact and a faith. Let us then open wide our hearts and homes to our fellowmen, bringing to their need our offerings of sympathy, understanding and self-sacrificing love. So shall we enter into a richer, fuller fellowship with God and his Son; and come to know something of the real spirit of Christmas.

"A Quaker Minstrel"

A HYMN FOR DECEMBER (No. 91—DEC. 26)

IT was a great day for the Quaker boy on the New England farm when a friend came with a copy of Robert Burns's poems. His child mind revolved the thought of some day doing for New England what Burns had done for Scotland. It was a great day for the lad when the local newspaper published his first poem. It was another great day when the editor successfully pleaded that the youth be given opportunity for fuller educa-



The Star of Hope

"There shall come a Star out of Jacob!"
Was the prophecy often foretold
In the supreme hour of ruin
When the Spottler—revengeful and bold—
Had broken the chords of communion
Which God had established with man;
What a tragical spectre of sorrow
For the patriarch prophet to scan!

But he cried, "Oh, rejoice, Sons of Zion!
There is coming a King, who instead
Shall stand as a conquering leader
In triumph, to bruise Satan's head!"
This bright Star of Hope came at Christmas
And the gleam is yet lighting the way
So that all of earth's children may follow
With gifts for the Saviour, to-day.

—Katherine Schafer.

The Light that Shone

THE light that shone on Bethlehem
So many years ago
Brought cheer for all who hailed the star
And comfort for their woe.
The wise men left their books of lore,
The shepherds left their sheep,
To learn of God's new hope for men—
That night so calm and deep.

But there were those who paid no heed
To God's assuring Word;
Their eyes were blind to that lovelight,
Nor were their hard hearts stirred.
They went about their busy tasks
In home and mart and street,
Or, pleasure-mad, sang lusty songs—
That night, so calm and sweet.



To-day the world in darkness lies,
Beneath war's sombre cloud;
Our hearts are filled with doubt and fear,
Our heads in grief are bowed.
O Star of God, shine forth again,
O angel songs, increase
Till men shall everywhere rejoice
In great good will and peace.

—Thomas Curtis Clark.

tion. And it was a great and many-sided life that he went on to live—for over 60 years writing the songs of New England; giving the purity and resoluteness of his Quaker heart to every humanitarian cause; penning new challenges at every stage in the fight against slavery; working in the same cause as legislator and journalist; adhering with great tenacity to the quiet worship, the "thee" and "thou" of his Quaker ancestors and leaving

"A life-long record closed without a stain,
A blameless memory shrined in deathless song."

The literary critic may pillory the poems of John Greenleaf Whittier for their lack of technical skill, but of their spirit or of the wide range of knowledge and interests, the stainless purity of soul and the natural poetic gift they reveal, no possible doubt can exist. From the unsinging Quakers came a true song-bird, the melodies of whose heart are from decade to decade finding greater acceptance in the songs of the Church Universal.

"Immortal Love" is only a section of "Our Master," a poem of 38 verses, of which we use Nos. 1, 2, 5, 13-16. An almost equally well-known hymn uses No. 16, "O Lord and Master of us all" as its opening verse.—F.J.F.



CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS

If you would be happy, make somebody glad, Rejoice with the joyful, and comfort the sad; Be yours the message of love to fulfil, And spread the good tidings of love and goodwill. Remember the poor, to the aged be kind, Be feet to the lame, and eyes to the blind; Bring sunshine to many, though shadowed your way, And hearts you have lightened will bless you to-day."

SUPPOSE

SUPPOSE there had been no Christmas story and no Christmas! When "Merry Christmas" is on everyone's lips, fathers and mothers plan to make Christmas a day of joy for everyone in the home. But if the story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem had never come to us, we should be without this joyous time of exchanging presents and trying to make other people happy.

Perhaps if you think how much poorer life would be for you without any Christmas to look forward to, you will realise what it means

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

that in some obscure places where the missionary is not yet gone, the children have never heard the story of the Babe, and the shepherds, and of the wise men, and the angel's song of "Peace on earth, goodwill among men." Even in places where the story is known, its real meaning is not understood, and many people spend Christmas in a selfish way, instead of remembering that the Christmas spirit means giving, not getting.—Selected.

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—A PRICELESS GRACE

- Dec. 20—Gal. 5: 16-25.
- " 21—Eph. 4: 1-7.
- " 22—2 Tim. 2: 22-26.
- " 23—1 Thess. 2: 1-12.
- " 24—James 3: 13-18.
- " 25—Titus 3: 1-7.
- " 26—Ezekiel 36: 24-38; Titus 3: 8-15.

WELL might Paul, when dealing with the need of subjection to spiritual rulers, stress the imperativeness of gentleness; for this, as is made clear by parallel scriptures, is an indispensable grace for both rulers and ruled. Those in authority must not lord it over the charge allotted to them, always remembering that men can be guided but not driven. And the ruled must be "obedient, gentle, showing meekness toward all men." It would be a wonderful thing if there was an all-round revival of the spirit of meekness, for there can be no doubt that gentle souls exercise an influence for good such as can never emanate from harsh, unlovely natures.



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

W. R. Hibburt

JUST A COUPLE OF KIDS BUT WHAT SHALL THEY BECOME?

BURBANK said, "If we had paid no more attention to our plants than we have to our children, we would be living in a perfect jungle of weeds."

Whether this be an accusation or a simple statement of fact, it certainly hurls at us a challenge. We should vitally concern ourselves about our children and the materials which we provide for them and their teachers.

We may train the dog to perform at our command, but the training of a child involves more than slavish obedience. It involves the unfolding of life and interpreting of life's high purpose.

"Australia To-morrow" is being moulded in Australian homes to-day. Into these homes come radio programmes, newspapers, magazines and other bearers of influence good and bad. It is the mission of the church to provide Christian influence for the homes in this land. Are we supplying sufficient Christian literature in the Sunday schools for home reading?

Notes on Current Topics

"I Never Had a Chance!"

THE papers report the last words of a man electrocuted in America a few days ago for murder. There was pathos in his final message: "What do they expect? I never had a chance, anyway. I am 35 now—a robber, drug-addict and murderer. I learnt to drink liquor before I was nine. I never got past the first reader at school. I've got the taste of cocaine, morphine and marihuana." Whatever the case of this unhappy man, the sad truth is that great members of people are so handicapped as to have no decent chance in life. There are those who care and strive to help. But hosts of people hinder efforts at reform. Liquor, drugs, crime—the association works inevitable ruin. Yet for sake of gain men ruin their fellows and prepare them for a life of crime. Even in our beloved land we tolerate the conditions which wreck human lives.

Lord's Day Observance

The following three sentences of Dr. F. W. Boreham are suggestive "I have heard scores of sermons on 'The Proper Observance of Sunday,' and somehow I have never been impressed by their utility. One of these days some pulpit genius will preach on 'The Proper Observance of Saturday,' and then, quite conceivably, the new day will dawn. Every man who, under the melodious leadership of Robert Burns, has caught the inner spirit of 'The Cottar's Saturday Night,' knows exactly what I mean."

Some may question the first sentence quoted. Yet I, too, have heard many addresses on Sunday observance which were not helpful—sometimes because of a confusion between

Sabbath and Lord's day, or between law and grace; sometimes because of a spirit of legalism alien to Christianity; sometimes because the speaker made no attempt to show how the early church observed the Lord's day. The thought implicit in the other two quoted sentences, suggesting the need of an earlier preparation for the right observance of the day, is worthy of consideration.

Confounding Confusion

The heading was the title of a strong editorial note appearing some time ago in "The Christian Evangelist" (U.S.A.). The writer was protesting against the abuses of bureaucracies and political rancor, and pleading for the due blending of liberty and unity in church and nation. The following sentences have an application to our country as to others: "The battle of bureaucracies rivals in intensity and destructiveness the battle of the nations. . . . More bureaucracy will not solve the problem of too much bureaucracy. We are facing a like situation in the church. Efforts toward unity are neutralised by revived denominationalism. Federation breeds more federations and interdenominational committees multiply beyond reckoning and effectiveness. . . . To millions in the nation and in the church liberty and union have not yet been harmonised. Liberty to many is self-will and self-indulgence, and union for many is still the coercion and discrimination of vested authority. We have yet to win, in the nation and in the church, liberty in union, and union in the only thing that can make men free—self-reverence, self-knowledge, and self-control under the emancipating power of Jesus Christ."

—A. R. MAIN.

STATE NEWS

New South Wales.—The exhibition of Bible school and Christian Endeavor programmes and handwork proved of major importance. The exhibits were a comprehensive display covering all phases of youth work. The demonstrations and lectures added to the purposefulness of the venture. A Christmas camp is being held from December 25 to January 1, at Deep Creek, Narrabeen.

Queensland.—Over 40 will attend the Christmas Youth Camp this year, the first in this State since 1940. Annual prize-giving rally was an outstanding success. These functions are being used as an opportunity to evangelise youth. Ann-st. Y.P.S.C.E. have over 40 attending their week night meetings, which are preceded by a fellowship tea. Gympie and Rockhampton C.E. Societies report all-in effort to keep in touch with hundreds of men and women in the Services. Queensland N.C.R.E.A. has asked Mr. F. Collins, of S.A., to represent them at the meetings of the National Executive in Adelaide.

Western Australia.—It is camping time in the Western State from December 25 to January 1. In this period three camps will cater for young adults, boys and girls. The camps will be held at Waterman's Bay.

Victoria.—A total of 240 registrations have been received for Christmas and New Year camps at Mount Evelyn.

South Australia is ready to greet the New Year with a programme of purposeful activities. Teacher training courses will be held to keep teachers advancing and the standards high.

Here and There

We have several letters for Open Forum, which we hope to insert in next issue.

As Federal Conference Committee is now in Brisbane, all correspondence in connection with women's Federal work should be addressed to the Federal secretary, Mrs. G. E. Bates, Delville-ave., Clifton Hill, S.4, Brisbane.

After a short, severe illness the wife of Mr. C. L. Lang, preacher of church at Ormond, Vic., passed away on Dec. 8. Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mr. Lang, Ron, Jess and all who mourn the loss of a friend and co-worker.

An after-church open-air meeting was held last Sunday evening in Burke-rd., Gamberwell, Vic. This was arranged by the Eastern Suburban Officers' Association of churches of Christ and was under the leadership of Messrs. Patterson, Andrews and Elliott. Between three and four hundred people gathered to hear the messages in song and word. A number made enquiries, and at the conclusion of the meeting three young men made their decision for Christ. It is planned to hold similar meetings in the new year.

Mrs. Jame, widow of the late William Jame, a Chinese evangelist who labored in Australia under direction of the Foreign Mission Board, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 12, at the age of 64. She was an earnest member of the church at Queensberry-st., Carlton, Vic. We extend sympathy to the sons Norman and Samuel.

Carol, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Plummer, of Reservoir, Vic., gained a first prize and cup donated by Vera Buck at the Heidelberg Eisteddfod. Her contribution was an original piece of music—a three-part unaccompanied song for ladies' voices. At the annual speech night of the MacRobertson Girls' High School, Carol received the special prize for music, and after a year's private tuition she gained honors in singing Grade II.

Amounts received for Federal College of Bible annual offering to Monday totalled £1452/6/11, from 218 churches, showing a nett gain of £146/16/6 over 1942. Offerings in three States (Vic., W.A. and Tas.), show advances already, and Qld. is within a few shillings of 1942 total. Several churches have yet to report; and as the college books close on Dec. 31, F. T. Saunders will be grateful if church treasurers who have cash on hand will remit promptly. Delay in acknowledging money already received is due to the secretary's absence on holidays.

A. Schuurman, of the Netherlands Information Service, writes: "Despite the occupation of Holland by the German Army, notwithstanding Germany's efforts to propagate the Nazi creed throughout the Netherlands, a Dutch patriot has just finished translating the Bible into Frisian. According to an announcement in the 'Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant' of Oct. 23, Chaplain G. A. Wumkes has now finished the translation of the Bible into the Frisian language, and it is expected to be published by the end of October. This is the first time that a complete translation of the Bible has appeared in this tongue. Of the 1079 languages in which the Bible has been completely or partially translated, there are 179 only in which a full and complete translation is available. The Frisian version now becomes the 180th. It is worth recalling that 52 of the psalms were translated into Frisian by Gysbert Japix in 1668, the first edition of which consisted of 5000 copies, all of which were sold."

Professor Bollinger, after making 6000 autopsies, declared that every sixteenth male in beer-drinking Munich died of a "beer heart." Said he, "One rarely finds in Munich a faultless heart and a normal kidney in an adult man."

J. P. Perkins, in "The British Weekly," May 7, 1943, writes: "The pulpits of our land are sadly silent on the widespread evils of the liquor traffic, and when debating our methods after the war, scarcely any question will present more difficulties than that of alcohol. The brewers will use the Press and every means of increasing among the young the use of alcoholic drinks. . . . The most moderate indulgence in liquor seals the lips of preachers and workers among the working classes, and the perils are sufficiently known almost to nullify the influence of preachers who are not total abstainers."

W. Gale writes: "Our home mission annual offering deputations, which have been a busy but very delightful experience for committee members, are now concluded. The churches have received them with much cordiality and understanding. It is too early yet to forecast the annual offering amount. The concluding trip was one which looks like becoming an annual visit to the churches in Ballarat. Messrs. R. H. L. Sparks (conference president), J. Holloway (chairman, Home Missionary Committee), J. McG. Abercrombie (Advisory Board), G. L. Murray and the writer spoke in morning and evening meetings of the four Ballarat churches, including the anniversary services at Doveton-st."

The Correspondence Course of the College of the Bible has had a successful year with a good enrolment of students. The tutors have been T. Hagger, R. T. Pittman and T. H. Scambler. One student writes: "May I express my grateful thanks for the help you have given to me during the year. . . . This Correspondence Course is something that members of the churches of Christ should take up, for we do not know enough of the Restoration Movement." Several soldiers are on our roll,

one of whom writes: "I have found the studies most helpful, and I definitely intend as soon as possible to form a group in a church to do the course collectively." Next year's work will begin early in March, and the subjects for 1944 will be "Old Testament History and Religion," "The Fourth Gospel," "Religious Education," and "History of the Reformation," directed by Howard Earle, T. H. Scambler, K. A. Jones and E. L. Williams respectively. People who wish to do this work should write to the Principal, College of the Bible, Glen Iris, S.E.6, Victoria.

CHRISTIAN GUEST HOME

DEBT EXTINCTION CELEBRATIONS

ON Saturday last, Dec. 11, a large gathering assembled at the home to celebrate the extinction of the debt on the property. The aim of the women, led by Mrs. C. Gill, president of the Social Service Women's Auxillary, was £600. This was the amount of the bank overdraft on Aug. 13, when the women set their aim. To call the churches together to celebrate success was an act of faith. No one could say with knowledge that the required sum was in hand. As Mrs. Ward, the secretary, called the roll of churches and amounts collected were brought to the table, it was seen that £600 was very near, but whether it was realised was not known until Mr. R. A. Strongman, the treasurer of the Social Service Committee, announced the total of £641. The large gathering gave vent to their feelings in praise and thanksgiving, and sang the doxology. The total raised at the close of the day realised £740. An announcement which gave further cause for rejoicing indicated that a legacy of £500 had been allocated to the home. This amount with certain other earmarked monies and credits forms a nucleus of about £1000 which may be applied toward the establishment of a hospital in association with the home. Mrs. Waterman, the president of the Women's Conference, presided at the celebration. Mrs. Gill, speaking for the women, stated that they would carry on with the hospital project. She had every confidence that the amount needed would be raised. Two donations of £50 each have come to hand.—W. H. Clay.

Our Greetings

MAY readers, contributors, reporters and agents enjoy a Christmas full of hope and a New Year blessed with peace.

War-time restrictions prevent us sending individual greetings to those who have co-operated to make the paper a successful means of sending good news of divine love to those at home and abroad and to many young men and women in the Forces.

Because of numerous willing workers it has been possible to maintain the mission and ministry of "The Australian Christian." We look forward to the coming year with confidence; for we feel assured we shall continue to enjoy loyal support in this work of spreading the gospel through the medium of the printed word.

A. W. Stephenson, Editor.
D. E. Pittman, Manager.



News of the Churches

Queensland

Gympie.—Thankoffering has reached £50/15/-. On Nov. 28 an in memoriam service was held, paying tribute to the memory of Mrs. A. Davies. H.M. offering on Dec. 5 exceeded last year's, totalling £11/12/4, including Monkland's contribution. At night J. Kernick preached.

Monkland.—On Dec. 5 the J.C.E. conducted gospel service, with special participation by juniors. An offering for prisoners of war was received. The church also contributed £2/1/- toward H.M. offering. On Dec. 6 the J.C.E. completed its year's work with a Christmas games night, donating proceeds to Bible school prize fund.



FIVE SOLDIERS BAPTISED

LARGE MEETINGS: TWO DECISIONS

BRISBANE (Ann-st.).—Services continue to be richly blessed. Average communicants, 200. Five Allied Servicemen and Australian soldier were immersed, by Chaplain Sessions (U.S.A.) on Dec. 5. There were two other decisions.

Charters Towers.—Church anniversary concert was held on Nov. 26, when Chaplain Perry gave an interesting address to the children. Each item rendered was very pleasing. Prizes were awarded, and a basket of sweets given to every scholar. Meetings are well attended. The usual social hour is held after church service for benefit of Australian and U.S.A. Forces. Privates K. Hall and P. Esmore, of Melbourne, enjoyed fellowship with the church and rendered a musical item.

Annerley.—H. E. Greenwood concluded his ministry with the church on Nov. 21. F. B. Alcorn commenced an interim ministry on Dec. 5. Ladies' Guild honored older members of church at a special afternoon recently. Prayer and Helping Band have prepared four patchwork quilts which they are sending to the sisters' living link, Miss Joan Saunders, missionary to aborigines. At church yuletide social on Dec. 3, young people took the opportunity of presenting Mr. Greenwood with a number of books on youth work, in appreciation of his helpfulness to them during his ministry.

New South Wales

Bankstown.—On morning of Dec. 5 a service of thanksgiving was held. £200 has been paid off building debt in past 12 months. The meeting was well attended. Mavis and Hazel Cameron, Beryl and Jean Cox were received into fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were received by transfer from Victoria.

Rockdale.—During absence of Mr. Hinrichsen in Queensland, the church has been exhorted by Messrs. Baker and Carter; Mr. Carter has conducted gospel services. Messrs. Thomson and Griffith have returned home from hospital and have been able to meet in fellowship. Y.P.S.C.E. led prayer meeting in a capable and helpful manner.

Bexley North.—On Nov. 28 messages were delivered by T. P. Dale, social service secretary, and A. McAllister at gospel service. On Dec. 5 W. French, Hurstville, addressed church, and A. Rae, Marrickville, spoke in evening. A. McAllister was elected Bible school superintendent and Miss Pat Scholes secretary. Sympathy of the church is extended to the family of J. Pennington in their bereavement.

Ballina.—The work has now been revived, and meetings are to be held in local "Diggers' Hall" each Lord's day. The first service was held on Dec. 5, when A. Baker presided at the Lord's table and gave an address. There were 15 present. It is hoped that the meetings will grow.

Canley Vale.—On Dec. 4 there was a large attendance at a farewell social tendered to Mr. P. Retchford and Miss B. Webb, who were to be married on Dec. 11, and will take up the work at Gilgandra. A programme was enjoyed, and presentations were made on behalf of church members, Ladies' Church Aid and Girls' Club. Sunday evening was young people's night, and closing service of Mr. Retchford's ministry. Girls' choir rendered a chorus, and R. Hume read the scriptures. Good wishes of church members, and their many friends, go with Mr. and Mrs. Retchford as they enter a new field of service.

Ashfield.—Bible school anniversary was attended by about 250 people at the various meetings. On Sunday the scholars sang very acceptably, reflecting credit on R. Surtees, who trained them. R. P. Arnott was speaker morning and evening. D. Wakeley, of Burwood, addressed afternoon meeting, when kindergarten had its hour. Anniversary was continued on Tuesday, when P. E. Thomas spoke and prizes were distributed. A fellowship evening was held on Saturday, when Mr. Arnott gave a reading of "Enoch Arden," interspersed with musical and elocutionary items. On Dec. 5 the speakers were Dr. Verco in morning and Mr. Arnott in evening. Services were well attended.

South Australia

Forestville.—Church anniversary was held on Nov. 28 with good attendances. C. Schwab spoke in morning, and D. Hammer at night, when there was one confession. On Dec. 1 about 100 were present at tea, and J. T. Train spoke afterwards on his fifty years' association with churches of Christ. A presentation of two easy chairs was made by the church to Mr. and Mrs. Train. On Dec. 5 two young men were baptised, and three young people from Bible school made the good confession.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On Dec. 7 the Ladies' Mission Band held a successful gift social evening. On morning of Dec. 12 the service was broadcast, the first religious service to be broadcast over 5KA on its re-opening. Arrangements have been made for Grote-st. church to broadcast two morning services a quarter over this station. A. E. Hurren spoke morning and evening. Attendances at midweek prayer meetings are well maintained. On Nov. 30 the Bible school scholars gave a successful concert in aid of Christmas tree gifts.

Unley.—A special S.S. day was held on Dec. 5. Miss E. Messent spoke in morning. In afternoon the S.S. held an information test, after which all scholars were invited to homes of teachers and others. At night Mr. Nankivell gave a helpful address at youth service, which was very well attended. College of Bible offering totals £49/14/5, a record for Unley. Mrs. Dennis celebrated her 88th birthday on Dec. 6. Endeavorers are giving Christmas entertainments at Myrtlebank Soldiers' Home, Sunset Lodge and Home for Incurables. Service men in the fellowship recently included Max Holmes, Flt. Lieut. Kidd, L.A.C. Speers, of Melbourne, and Les Staples, of Hobart. Mr. Burns has written more than 130 letters to men and women in Services. In second year science course at University, Frank Nankivell gained honors in all subjects; in first year's science Don Bowes passed in all subjects, gaining honors in one. Colin Bowes secured two passes.

Prospect.—Cradle roll department, under leadership of Mrs. R. Bradshaw, held a Christmas party, which 27 young people with parents and friends attended. Services on Dec. 5 were addressed by C. Schwab. At night members of cricket club attended. Mrs. Moyle confessed Christ. Fellowship was enjoyed with N. Hall and Mr. Thompson, home on leave.

Queenstown.—Girls' Wattle Club held a successful "continental" on Nov. 20, nett proceeds of over £20 being given to Morialta Children's Home. Les. Partington, A.I.F., returned, was welcomed home on Nov. 28, when he gave the gospel address. Brethren who have delivered addresses recently include Mr. Brooker, J. Hall and C. Purdie. Two Bible school scholars confessed Christ on Dec. 5. Sisters' Bright Hour and Guild have held final meetings for year.

Fullarton.—On Nov. 28 C.E. Society held anniversary. Ken Dixon, chairman C.E. Department, gave a helpful message in morning. Special singing by Endeavorers under leadership of Mr. Craddock was enjoyed at night. W. Beiler gave an inspiring address. On Nov. 30 a social was given to Endeavorers. Under leadership of Miss A. Thompson the society is well maintained. Mr. Beiler has intimated that he does not seek further engagement after present term expires at end of January. Church and auxiliaries are in good heart. A personal letter from Mr. Beiler and a canteen order for 6/- is being sent to boys in Services from church and school. Mrs. Young and Mr. Wright have volunteered to teach in Bible school.

Western Australia

Perth.—On morning of Dec. 5 visitors included Mrs. Cruse and P. Cousins, of Victoria. J. K. Robinson gave a highly instructive talk. In afternoon teachers and scholars of Bible school had tea in church hall. At 7.30 p.m. a hearty song service was led by the preacher. Mrs. Robinson rendered a solo and Mr. Robinson preached. On Dec. 7 the C.E. and youth department held a Christmas service, and gifts were received for aborigines mission.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

BRANCH CHURCH ESTABLISHED: EIGHT CONFESSIONS

SUBIACO.—A complimentary social was tendered to 50 members who have transferred to Nedlands. Some of these were members here of many years' standing, but have been meeting at Nedlands. The church there is now self-governed. Subiaco has lost a few members of the board, including two elders, E. E. Nelson and S. H. Rodier. The girls' club held a successful fete and garden party at home of Mrs. Etheridge on Oct. 30, nett receipts being £36. Mr. Raymond is now superintendent of Bible school in succession to Mr. Olds, who continues meanwhile as superintendent at Nedlands. On Nov. 7, when Mr. Raymond preached, there were five decisions. On Nov. 14 there were three more decisions.

Tasmania

West Hobart.—On Dec. 5 C. N. Burn, K. W. Barton and F. B. Burt (College of Bible, Glen Iris) commenced a fortnight's mission with the church. Stirring addresses were given, Mr. Burt in morning and C. N. Burn at night. The theme of the mission is "The Quest for Conquest." A feature of evening service was the newly-formed young people's choir. Following evening service a farewell service was tendered to Ellerton Ashlin, who has been transferred to Wynyard. Mr. Ashlin, who is a church deacon, will be greatly missed, as he held several executive positions in the church, its

auxiliaries, and Southern District Conference committee. B. J. Golder will be carrying on as acting church secretary.

Victoria

Emerald.—Special services were held on Dec. 5 to welcome G. W. Barnett, who is acting in Mr. Alcorn's place during college vacation.

Kyneton.—At close of K. W. Barton's gospel address on Nov. 28, a young man from Bible class confessed Christ, and was baptised, with another, the same hour. They were received into fellowship by P. S. Ryles, who spoke at all services on Dec. 5. Mrs. R. Goudie rendered a solo.

Sunshine.—Mr. Bennett was absent in country on Nov. 28. Mr. Pietzsch was speaker in morning, and in evening the newly-formed boys' and girls' clubs had a church parade and enjoyed a felt-sheet talk by Mr. Turriff, of Kew. Sunday school picnic, held at Williamstown on Dec. 11, was most successful.

Cheltenham.—A tea followed by a youth service took place on Dec. 5. £25/5/10 was raised at an Australian tea on Dec. 7. Presentation of two hanging mirrors was made during evening to Miss D. LePage, who was married to Mr. H. Stevenson on Dec. 11. 32 cakes have been sent to members in Forces away from home.

Silvan South.—N. Kingston terminated his ministry on Dec. 5. He has conducted meetings very acceptably. There have been four confessions (adults) during the ten months he has been with the church. Three have been baptised. He will be succeeded by another student, Mr. Patterson, as from Dec. 12.

Oakleigh.—Chapel was filled on morning of Dec. 5, when Mr. Neighbour welcomed two new members into fellowship. Officers and Endeavorers visited Christian Guest Home on Dec. 8. H. S. Heath, representing Local Option Alliance, gave an informative address on Dec. 12. Ladies contributed £27 to Guest Home appeal.

East Malvern.—Speakers during November-December were W. E. Quirk, R. F. Geyer, L. G. Crisp and D. Cartmel. Sunshine Circle collected £5 for Oakleigh Guest Home building fund. Mrs. C. M. Ryall was visiting singer at fellowship meeting on Dec. 8. L. M. Fisher gave an informative talk on his Y.M.C.A. work. Offering for home missions was £7/16/-.

Ascot Vale.—Kindergarten Christmas tree and treat were held on Dec. 4. The toys were all made by members of church, and Mr. McConchie, of Malvern-Caulfield, assisted at the tree. Women's Auxiliary was responsible for donation of £11/10/- to Oakleigh Guest Home. Local Temple Day offering on Dec. 12 resulted in £116/3/-. Women's Auxiliary contributed £20; J.C.E., £2; Good Companions, £1; Mr. Thomson is laid aside, but making steady progress. R. Burns was speaker on Dec. 5. On Dec. 12 Dr. Kemp spoke in morning, Mr. Bensley at night.

Hampton.—H.M. offering is £25/4/-. Girls' Club held a social and sale of toys on Nov. 10. On the 11th kinders were given a Christmas party, and upper classes of school had an outing and supper. On evening of Nov. 12, young people assisted Mr. Evans, and an offering of £4/8/2 was taken for Local Option Alliance. Mrs. Smiley is in hospital after operation.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—A splendid morning meeting was held on Dec. 12, the service being broadcast; C. G. Taylor was speaker. The last Bible class meeting for year was held. In evening a young girl was baptised. Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Berry and Dorothy in the news received in that Stan., of R.A.A.F., has been posted missing; also to Norm Jame in the death of his mother. Fred Prittie was presented with a Bible by Endeavorers as a mark of appreciation; he was almost a foundation member of the society.

St. Arnaud.—A successful Bible school anniversary was held on Dec. 5. C. W. Jackel, of Horsham, gave helpful addresses to good congregations. Visitors were welcomed. Distribution of prizes by Mr. Jackel and a programme given by Sunday school scholars took place on Dec. 6. H. Hurren's messages at evening services during November were appreciated. R. Hall and C. Fletcher continue to render excellent service.

Ormond.—Mrs. Lang passed away last week. The church mourns her death, and sympathy goes out to the preacher, C. L. Lang, and family. J. Ritchie gave a good message at prayer meeting. On Dec. 14 F. W. Bradley spoke morning and evening. In morning, after service, the Ladies' Aid passed to secretary a cheque for their year's work for the church. This was most welcome, and thanks were expressed by secretary on behalf of officers.

Ararat.—On Nov. 30 W. Gale had discussions with officers and Ladies' Aid prior to an appreciated lantern lecture. On Nov. 27 Ladies' Aid held a sale of works in Ararat Town Hall, £40 being raised. Mrs. Erwin raised a considerable sum from making toys and children's clothes, and gave the church from her year's work £30, so that the ladies gave the church £60 to pay off principal of church debt. On Dec. 5 Mr. Randall spoke at both services.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Whittaker and Max Whittaker have been received by letter from Wangaratta, also one by faith and obedience. H. M. Clipstone addressed both services on Dec. 12. Fellowship has been enjoyed with men on leave, including L. Barwood, J. Houghton, E. Smart and G. Fountain. Endeavorers entertained Burwood boys at Zoo on Dec. 4. Gymnasium display on Dec. 2 was very successful. Home mission offering, £30/12/-.

Springvale.—Meetings on Nov. 28 were well attended. In evening four were baptised. In last few Sundays 12 have been received into fellowship. On Dec. 11 the Bible school held a successful Christmas treat at home of Mr. and Mrs. Davey, over 120 children and adults being present. Services on Dec. 12 were pleasing. 42 broke bread for day. Bible school broke record with 65 scholars present (three new ones). In evening service Good Companions and Explorers held monthly church parade, with good attendance. There were two confessions from Bible school. One adult was baptised during last week.



The Chapel at Ascot Vale.

Castlemaine.—The seventy-third anniversary of the church was observed on Sunday, Dec. 12, when a number of visitors and several recently recovered from illness were present. A. A. Hughes was speaker at three services and brought stirring messages. At evening service the Baptists combined and Mr. Brice, Baptist minister, presided.

East Kew.—Recent gospel meetings have been well attended and fruitful. On Nov. 28 a young woman made the good confession and a young man was baptised. On Dec. 5 a young man made his stand for Christ. Gospel meeting on Dec. 12 commenced early so that members could join open-air service in Camberwell, which was a very fine meeting. A Chinese night with the B. & F. Bible Society was held last week, local churches co-operating.

Parkdale.—On Dec. 12, at morning service, Mr. Francis, of Local Option Alliance, was speaker. At a prayer and thanksgiving service on behalf of those in the Services, choir and male quartette party helped with appropriate singing, A. W. Stephenson being preacher; 106 were present. During day 108 broke bread. Sympathy was extended to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Bryce, whose grandchild, Nancy Erskine, passed away on Dec. 7.

South Yarra.—C. Cole spoke morning and evening on Dec. 5. Auxiliaries are going into recess. Sunday school picnic was held at Cheltenham Park on Dec. 4. Visitors on Dec. 12 included Miss McLean, from Adelaide. C. Cole addressed the church; after gospel meeting ex-jockey Reid gave an illustrated talk and testimony. Captain Eric Lewis, of Colac, grandson of late D. A. Lewis, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in New Guinea.



HELPING OTHERS SPLENDID RESPONSE TO APPEALS: MANY ADDITIONS

NORTHCOTE.—E. C. Hinrichsen addressed Mission Band on Dec. 1. Arthur Arnott and Lois Edwards were united in marriage on Dec. 3. Bible school held a field day at Heidelberg Park on Dec. 4. Attendance for week at Hinrichsen-Morris services averaged 212, with 14 decisions. On Dec. 5 a boy confessed Christ. H.M. offering was £87/13/-, Christian Guest Home appeal, £41. On Dec. 12 161 broke bread and 160 attended evening service, when 14 were baptised and 4 others made the good confession.

Malvern-Caulfield.—At combined women's meeting on Dec. 8 occasion was taken to present Mrs. Buckingham with a gift showing the love and esteem of the ladies of the church. Over £12 was collected and given to Christian Guest Home. On morning of Dec. 12 Mr. Robertson gave the address. F. E. Buckingham preached at night. Girls' choir, under leadership of Mr. Claud Gadge, rendered items at pleasant Sunday afternoon service at Wesley church. Many visitors attended morning service.

Footscray.—On Dec. 7 Mission Band held final meeting for year; over £7 in donations was received for Christian Guest Home. Dec. 9, Mr. W. Jackson enthused young people's club with a lecture. Saturday last Y.P.S.C.E. entertained 60 guests at a Christmas tea, church officers, their wives, and the older members being invited. Afterwards community singing was enjoyed. On Sunday, 12th, excellent attendances marked day. A baptismal service followed gospel meeting. Sympathy is expressed for Mrs. W. Jackson in the loss of her sister; also Mr. W. Cousins in the passing of his father at the age of 97.

Black Rock.—Inspiration and help were the outcome of three special meetings held under auspices of Y.P.S.C.E., when stirring messages were received from Mr. Lumsden and Mr. Betts. 110 were present to hear Mr. Crawshaw give an illustrated address on the Mission to Lepers, and a collection of close on £7 was received. Three confessed Christ, and several reconsecrations encouraged all. Messages from Messrs. Wallington, Hardham and Morris, jun., have been appreciated. Ladies' Guild entertained mothers of Bible school scholars, including kindergarten. Approximately 60 adults in addition to children were present on Dec. 2, closing meeting for year. On Dec. 12 R. Pittman spoke in morning, Mr. Wallington at night, when one lady reconsecrated her life. First of combined churches open-air services for season was held at Black Rock on Dec. 12.

Ballarat (York-st.).—On Nov. 23 a fine concert was given by Young People's Club, assisted by visiting artists. The young people were trained

by Mrs. Edwards. Bettine Quayle was married to Cpl. E. G. Wagner, of U.S. Army, on Nov. 27, W. Feary officiating. On Dec. 5 J. Holloway and conference president were speakers for day. A successful sale of works was held on Dec. 11 by Young People's Club, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Edwards; proceeds approximately £20. The church mourns the loss of W. Alexander, who received the homecall going home from S.S. on Nov. 28. Sympathy is extended to his sister and brothers. On Dec. 12 Mr. Reed, Dawson-st., was morning speaker, and evening service was taken by Messrs. Feary and Edwards, it being a memorial service for late Mr. Alexander.

POST-WAR LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

The following statement has been issued by the Council of Churches in Victoria:—

With a definite conviction that the elimination from our social order of certain pre-war ways of life is essential if the people are to be freed from poverty, unemployment and other economic and social evils, noting developments and tendencies which are manifesting themselves under present conditions, and observing grave dangers to the individual and the nation in the present regimented way of life rendered temporarily necessary by the fact of war, the Council of Churches in Victoria urges the government in its post-war planning to give the fullest recognition to the following: (1) The absolute sovereignty of God, the immutability of his laws of reward and retribution, and the inescapable necessity, for individual and national wellbeing, of obedience to the principles of Christ's teaching. (2) The vital necessity of facilitating, to the greatest degree possible, the education of children and youth in those moral and spiritual principles without which complete education and equipment for the responsibilities of citizenship are impossible. (3) The necessity of making available to each and every child and youth the fullest opportunity of acquiring knowledge necessary to the development of individual aptitudes. (4) The necessity of making such economic provision as will bring the ownership of a home, employment and adequate remuneration for labor, of whatever kind, within the reach of all. (5) The necessity of providing that each citizen shall be free to determine his worship, and, as far as is possible and compatible with the general good, his occupation and his way of life. (6) The necessity for the preventing of monopolies, whether governmental or individual, exercising political or social control to the detriment of the individual or the State. (7) The obligation which rests upon governments to refuse legal sanction to ways of life proved by experience to be injurious to individual and national character.

NEW BOOK

FRANK C. HUNTING, youth director in N.S.W., has written a valuable booklet for use in young people's study circles. In seven helpful studies, with questions to stimulate discussion, the Christian life is covered from time of conversion till days of spiritual growth in communion and Bible study. The title of book is "Forward With Christ!" Price, 6d., posted 7½d. Order from Austral Co.

ADDRESSES

D. G. Hammer (preacher Forestville church, S.A.)—20 Canterbury-ter., Black Forest.

J. Northeast (secretary Fairfield Park church, Vic.)—"Rocklyn," 9 Rayment-st., Alphington, N.20.

J. E. Shipway (preacher Hindmarsh church, S.A.)—24 Osmond-st., Hindmarsh. Phone, L4972.

T. V. Weir (preacher Warrnambool circuit, Vic.)—12 Jackman-ave., Warrnambool.

INSPIRING WEEK'S MISSION

BUNDABERG'S THANKSGIVING SERVICES

AN inspiring week of evangelistic meetings and thanksgiving services, combined with twentieth anniversary of church, to commemorate wiping off of church debt, was concluded on Sunday, Dec. 5. Alf Hinrichsen, of Rockdale, N.S.W., who was the second full-time preacher, revisited after an absence of 12 years and conducted the week's mission. Attendance at each meeting was pleasing. The closing meeting, which was the gospel service, will long be remembered. Every available seat was taken up and many strangers were present at this and all other meetings. During the week one young lady made the good confession, and at close of concluding meeting two young girls accepted Christ, and three women reconsecrated their lives. Mr. Hinrichsen was welcomed at a social gathering on Saturday, Nov. 27. Many converts of 20 years ago were present, when Will Deoberitz depicted the growth of the work from the first mission conducted by E. C. Hinrichsen in 1923 up to the present day. Much of the interesting account was culled from the "Australian Christian" of Nov. 5, 1925. The church has been helped, and the preacher, A. B. Clark, has been encouraged. There were three decisions and three reconsecrations during the week. Kindergarten and Bible schools held anniversary tea, concert and prize-giving at the chapel on Dec. 5 and 6. Thabeban Sunday school held anniversary on Dec. 12. Aged Sister Laurison is seriously ill. Women's Guild and both girls' clubs have gone into recess for holiday period. £25 was presented to board of officers by Women's Guild towards purchase of a motor car, at the guild's final meeting for year.

Gift Suggestions

Scripture Writing Pads—with neatly printed texts on top left-hand corner. 12 changes. 8 x 6½, 1/8; or 10½ x 8, 2/-.

"Two Minutes with God."—Selections by Hugh Redwood, 1/9.

"Come ye Apart."—J. R. Miller, 5/9 or 8/3.

"The Destined Lord of the Universe," by Dr. D. S. MacColl. Studies in Book of Revelation, 3/9.

"Christmas Cheer for all the Year," by Fairlelie Thornton. Attractive booklet containing 31 devotional poems, 1/6.

(Postage extra.)

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FORDHAM-MUNRO.—With pleasure the 25th anniversary is announced of the marriage of Walter Albert, eldest son of the late Florence Eliza and Walter Montague Fordham, of North Melbourne, to Ella Lillian, youngest daughter of the late Sarah and Donald Munro, of Fairfield, celebrated at church of Christ, Chetwynd-st., North Melbourne, on Dec. 21, 1918, by Mr. A. G. Bennett. Present address, 184 Prospect Hill-rd., Canterbury.

DEATH

LANG.—On Dec. 8, at her residence, 9 Arnott-st., Ormond, May, beloved wife of Clarence L. Lang and dearest mother of Ron and Jess.

IN MEMORIAM

COOK.—In loving memory of my dear husband and our loving father who passed away Dec. 18, 1938.

Only "good-night," beloved—not "farewell";
A little while and all his saints shall dwell
In hallowed union, indivisible—
Good-night.

CURTIS.—In loving memory of our mother Jane Curtis, who passed away at Lockleys, S.A., Dec. 17, 1942; also our beloved father Herbert Curtis, who passed away at Balaklava, S.A., July 18, 1939.

—Inserted by his wife, sons and daughters.

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 15 (Wednesday).—The Victorian General Dorcas will meet in Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. All interested in this work are invited to attend.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, HIGH ST., PRAHRAN. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19.

A great day of sincere thanksgiving for the manifold blessings of the year.

Come and rejoice with us.

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11 a.m., T. Fitzgerald.

3 p.m., Young People's Hour.

7 p.m., Padre C. Young.

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Island Workers' Splendid Service

AS time goes on, it is inevitable that some overhaul must be made on the launch "Endeavour III." Even before the war our workers experienced difficulty in obtaining the services of an engineer, but now most available men are serving in the Forces. On a recent trip to Santo for stores and mail, American engineers helped to put the launch into better running order. Time did not permit a complete overhaul. What has been done will enable our workers to continue their splendid service in visiting other islands. When last writing, our missionaries were planning to visit Pentecost and Maewo, so that some of the young trainees could be taken to needy villages. These trainees will thus gain experience themselves as well as help outback places. The trainees will return to Aoba later for further studies.

Medical

Drugs being in short supply, our American friends have again come to our rescue. R. Saunders, commenting, says: "I do very little medical work. Chief reason being the talent and proficiency of Bro. Finger. Since my arrival here I have obtained as a gift from the American Forces in this area three handsome supplies of medicines. These have been, with the exception of some unobtainable compounds, adequate to our needs. I have been assured by the officers of the American Naval Hospital that it is the policy of the American Navy in particular and the United States of America Government in general to distribute medical supplies wherever urgently required. Surely such fine humanitarian work is worthy of high commendation, and speaks for the inherent worthiness of American democracy which does not differentiate between color, class or creed when human need clamors for the saving of life and freedom from pain. In continuance, I am assured that necessary supplies will be made available to us as we require them."

Bibles and Hymnbooks

Native Christians have been looking forward to securing adequate supplies of Bibles and hymnals. Some supplies came to hand and were eagerly sought, and further supplies are being sent. All these are in short supply in Australia and costs are high. Mr. Finger also mentions receiving 350 New Testaments from an anonymous source, and says: "We are taking some to the new churches and others to Pentecost. They will be very pleased to receive them, seeing they have been unable to purchase any. Praise God for such provision."

Preaching

Report for September reads: "We have preached in the villages of Nduindui, Navinti, Nankako, Natakaro, Saranavero, Lovandegutu, Amata and Naranveraweili. In some churches it has been our joy to welcome back into the churches some backsliders. I would commend the spiritual tone of many of our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ out here. I have, also, great faith in the fundamental teachings of New Testament Christianity; and I find the comparison between the results of various forms of doctrinal teaching showing the value of the simplicity and the truth inherent in all our teachings. Even these shrewd primitives can grasp with the child-like reasoning faculties the great verities of Christianity."

Practical Work

To help the boys to be more efficient in their school work, and with the object of helping them to value something that costs an effort rather than coming to them as a free gift, several school desks have been made. Each boy made his own desk out of discarded boxes and pieces of timber. A new cook-house has also been built for the trainees. All was done by voluntary labor and of donated or secondhand timber. This will mean much to

the comfort of the boys. One of the school boys writing tells what it means to be able to read and write, and what a joy it is to be able to go to some of the other villages to preach the gospel. He speaks of a fine garden they have, thus assuring fresh vegetables and fruit supplies. This boy comes from the south of Pentecost and tells how he looks forward to being able to return to his own village with the message. He concludes, "Once we were very unhappy; but through the teaching of missionaries many have come to know about the good news of God, and have learned to love the Lord Jesus Christ."

Educational

Mr. Saunders reports on the work of teaching during the past three months. Being a trained teacher, he has been able to approach his task in a more systematic way. In addition to the ordinary school subjects a good deal of attention is paid to the teaching of the Bible. An account of such Bible teaching will not be without interest. Old Testament.—"From Job 21-33 and Psalms 1-21. This is difficult to assess, because, although progress has been relatively slow, it has been very thorough. The script is explained word for word. Often the meaning of every second or third word has to be explained in pidgin or very simple English. Then the idea of each verse—allusions to customs, poetical figures of speech in which both Job and the Psalms abound—all have to be elucidated. If you open your Bible and consider the great difference in background between the Psalmist and Job to these insular awakening 20th century primitives you will understand why progress is so slow. For instance, Job's statement, 'He hangeth the world upon nothing,' required an explanation of the solar system. This is a vital piece of modern and yet ancient knowledge to help these people to see the fallacy of the strict sabbatarianism of the S.D.A." New Testament.—"Concluding chapters of John's Gospel and Luke 1: 6. I digressed to explain 'How we got our Bible,' and some of the history of the Christian church."

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.

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Obituary

Mrs. Clancy

ON Sunday morning, Nov. 14, Mrs. Clancy fell asleep in Christ at the age of 81 years. Our late sister united with the church at Bamba-rd., Caulfield, Vic., 23 years ago, during a mission conducted by E. C. Hinrichsen and L. Brooker. She was well known in this community, and highly esteemed by all. She had a kind word and smile for everybody. She loved Jesus Christ, and took a keen interest in the church, being a regular attendant at the services until a few weeks before the Lord called her home. Her remains were laid to rest in Box Hill cemetery. We extend sympathy to the son, who mourns the loss of a kind and affectionate mother.—H.M.C.

Mrs. A. Davies

EARLY on Friday, Nov. 12, Mrs. A. Davies passed away to be with Christ. At the mature age of 74 she still maintained an active interest in the work of the church, and only last year rendered great service when the half-yearly conference was held at Gympie. She was known for her cheerful disposition and for her simple faith in Christ. Born in Nash's Gully, Gympie, she resided here most of her life; was always active in her helpfulness. Married 54 years ago, her husband died in 1923, and she is survived by 8 children, 20 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, 4 of whom are in the Forces. She united with the church about 13 years ago during a mission, and ever since then her delight has been to have fellowship with Christ in the communion. Her body was laid to rest in Gympie cemetery on Nov. 13, and on Nov. 28 an "in memoriam" service was conducted in Gympie chapel.—A.J.F.

A. E. More

THE church in Moorooka, Qld., sustained a tremendous loss on Oct. 21 when, after an illness of only four days, A. E. More went home to be with his Lord. Born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, 80 years ago, he came to Australia, as a young man, arriving in Brisbane, where he settled and made his home. For 60 years he has taken his place among the leaders of the Restoration Movement in the Northern State, being one of the earliest pioneers of churches of Christ in Queensland. He became a member and deacon of the first church to be established in the State, when they first met in Creek-st., Brisbane, and later on in the old Temperance Hall. It was from this latter place that they eventually moved to the Ann-st. chapel. Being a lover of music, Mr. More in these early days took a prominent part in the work of the choir, in addition to his other duties. Later on he transferred from the city church to the fellowship meeting at Annerley, where again he rendered a great service to the brotherhood, and where his wise counsel and tempered judgment helped in building up a strong centre of New Testament Christianity. From Annerley he was amongst those faithful stalwarts who went out and pioneered the work in Moorooka, where later he became a trustee and life elder. Mr. More's ardent and constant plea, throughout his long years of witness, was for "the purity of the platform" which he guarded most zealously. He undoubtedly "used the office of a deacon well," and "purchased to himself a good degree." His life of deep piety was the finest testimony to his sterling worth and Christian qualities, and was the greatest recommendation of the brotherhood he so faithfully served. The high esteem in which he was held by all was seen in the large congregation which filled the church, and the larger gathering that congregated around the grave in torrential downpours to pay their last respects to a fine Christian gentleman. To Mrs. More and the two boys, Bruce and Keith, we extend Christian love and sympathy, "mourn-

ing not as others who have no hope," but as those who are looking forward to that glorious day of the Lord's appearing, when the shadows shall all flee away, and in resurrection, loved ones parted for a brief season below shall be united again in his Presence above.—T.M.K.

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(Matt. 21: 37)

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ministries for the saving of the world. Account
is taken of the ministries of abounding providence,
and the ministries of patient appeal
(Matt. 21: 33-36). Then attention is drawn to
the ministry of a supreme approach, the send-
ing of the Son (Matt. 21: 37).

God's Christmas hope is represented thus:
"What shall I do? I will send my beloved
Son: it may be they will reverence him when
they see him" (Luke 20: 13). Yes, here is the
wish, that men may see the real character and
likeness of the Father, that they may be
awakened to reverence and constrained to rela-
tionships of goodwill and love.

But there is the further wish and yearning
to forestall the stern necessities of retributive
justice. Our own hearts give a verdict for
the need of such justice even against ourselves
(Matt. 21: 40, 41), and the gracious Christ re-
iterates the truth (Mark 12: 9). Let us ac-
knowledge that God's Christmas wish is the
greatest of all.—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

*"If there were no Christmas, the
sum of human happiness would be
greatly diminished."*

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the exaltation of Jesus Christ and his
way of life.

May the Spirit of this Christmas
hasten the day for peace, freedom, and
goodwill to all men.

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