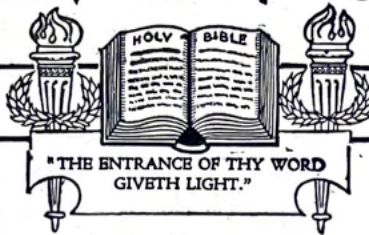


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Be Old and Happy

THE old year is dying: its place will soon be taken by a new year. If we can personify the old year as an aged creature giving up its spirit, we ought to be sensitive enough to learn how to behave toward the dead past. We should bury it. Our hopes can be realised only in the future. Nothing worthwhile and good can perish.

Not by dwelling on the events of the past shall we enjoy again the companionship of beauty, truth and goodness. If radiant joys shone around us once, we can never delight in them again by morbidly dwelling upon what has taken place. Happiness lies ahead, and not behind. We shall meet beauty, truth and goodness in the future, in unexpected places, if we cut ourselves free from the chains of the past and press onwards.

It is well known that happiness cannot be found by searching. We enjoy its light when we are engaged in some righteous and humanitarian service: it comes to us as a by-product of duty. F. W. Robertson, whose ministry at Brighton, England, from 1847 to 1853 was so full of promise and tragedy, wrote to a friend, saying, "I am quite certain that all our expectations of peace in this world are delusive, except so far as we resolutely address ourselves to duty as it unceasingly presents itself in form after form, otherwise, all soon gets disordered, and our hearts run rapidly down to discord." And Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you" and "you shall find rest for your souls."

HAVE you noticed that there is a general tendency for people to give up the duties of life as they grow older? Many think that they will enjoy themselves if they shed life's responsibilities. It comes as a shock to them to find how dull it can be to live in retirement. None can be too old to enjoy the spiritual blessings of life, provided they share, according to their ability and capacity, some real duty.

Professor C. G. Jung, an outstanding psychologist, has explained that the training of most people is deficient in so far as it is concentrated only on the needs of the early span of life. Young people are educated for a career that will enable them to satisfy the material wants of human existence. As they climb the hill of duty they enjoy adventures on life's highway. Their urge in life is to press onward,

Lifted Candles

*I HAVE seen such trust through deep distress,
Such shining faith when roadways have been dark,
Such valiant courage that memories bless
My life like music. I have caught the spark
From that high flame and held it to my own
Small candle's wick until a sudden light,
Brighter than anything I yet have known,
Kindled, and lit my way across the dark.
So for the sake of others I shall hold
My candle high. Perhaps it, too, may shed
A little radiant spark of flying gold
To light some blackened wick that long was dead.
God, from thy central powerhouse on high,
Bid that no flame of faith may ever die.*

—Grace Noll Crowell.

never to go backward. There is a goal to be reached. What zest is manifested by youth! Most are rushing forward to gain a material prize, and when they have secured it they know not what else to do. Then advancing age begins to present terrors. While trained to perfection to see material values, their eyes have become too dim to appreciate spiritual beauty and eternal goodness. For them death cannot be an essential link that will fulfil an eternal purpose and lead on to joyful experiences more thrilling than those tasted in mortal life. Darkness and gloomy forebodings raise fears that chill them and cause them to recoil into the past. The joy that accompanies duty's adventure is surrendered for the uncertain pleasures of reminiscences: such pleasures

are tainted with a feeling that is expressed in the wail raised by so many these days, "Things are not what they used to be."

PROFESSOR JUNG considers it is the duty of the Christian church to teach people how to measure up to the problems they must face as they enter the final stages of the earthly pilgrimage. He sees this tragedy in modern life that, while the church has the message more needful to-day, perhaps, than ever before, there is an increasing tendency for men to neglect the church. Many remain ignorant of those instructions that could make life successful and happy in old age.

Has not the church's programme in recent years tended to ignore the claims of those who are growing old? Emphasis has been placed upon the needs of youth. Of course, we must win and hold young men and women for the church, but youth soon grows old. Unless the church provides a progressive programme by means of which it covers the course of life from the cradle to the grave, it will suffer. One of the surest means of saving young people from falling into the curse of secularism is to build up a bulwark of aged saints who will find pleasure, not in dwelling on the past, but in bearing the responsibilities of a forward-looking life of spiritual adventure. Let enlightened old age interpret the deep mysteries of life to inexperienced youth. This duty, faithfully discharged, will add to age pleasure, and give purpose and meaning to life in those days when "the almond tree shall blossom." To do this effectively it is required of us that, no matter how old we may be in years, we must remain young in spirit, and consider life as an adventure that does not end in death.

WITH such a vision before us, we shall not fear temporal ills that may beset us, nor shrink from imaginary terrors of death and the grave, but "forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," we shall press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Checking Up and In

"I brought thee out . . . to bring thee in."—Deut. 4: 37, 38.

I HAVE just put down my book, a little nauseated I must admit, not so much by the Allied airman's vivid descriptions of his bombings and cannonings of enemy columns, as by the rakish way he tells of them. Then, while I have been reading, music of rich delight and refrains full of tenderness and pathos have been coming over the radio. Only this morning, amidst its glaring headlines of our war over enemy territory, the daily paper informed me that the Messiah would be repeated yet again in our city hall "owing to its unqualified success," whilst another column told of the unhappy Berliners singing hymns and praying amidst the ruins of their city.

Such is the world in which we live. It is a strange admixture of good and evil, tenderness and cruelty, strength and weakness, freedom and oppression—a condition known to every generation and recorded by writers of varying periods, from an unknown ancient Egyptian to the Hebrew psalmist and the English ploughman of Piers, right through to our own day, until we can say like Stephen Blackpool of "Hard Times": "It's aw' a muddle." Each nation has, or has had, its plan for a new world order as well as its post-war programmes, but we have learned that little reliance can be placed on those who talk about "a sweet" by-and-bye if they do not try to make "a sweet" here and now.

In our own particular day we have been led to realise that in knowledge of how to live as individuals (ethics) or of how to live together as communities (politics), the world as a whole has made little advance on the ancient Greeks. But in the power of production and destruction we have enormously outstripped every preceding generation. Distance has been eliminated, tremendous strides have been made in the science of medicine, whilst there has been a great change of thought in sociology. Where we once learned that the ruins of Athens or Rome were the monuments of a great civilisation, we now recognise them as the crumbling and silent witnesses to a decadent civilisation. That Rome's power, for instance, did not wane because her subject peoples failed to pay their heavy levies or that she herself failed to raise an army or lacked a fleet, but she fell the same way as Nineveh and Babylon—through becoming corrupt at the heart and practising the great vices rather than the great virtues.

Again and again has national history demonstrated the precept of the word of God that "righteousness exalteth a nation" and that whatever men may say about "national resources," "economics" and the like, her lasting strength, her power to lead, are found in her intelligent faith, her moral forces, her practising of the great virtues, purity, love, truth, unselfishness. This fact has been made manifest in those few vallant souls who have appeared here and there in every decade, shining forth like gold in its prison of quartz, encouraging that minority who had not bowed the knee to Baal and saving their generation from utter destruction.

And yet with all the knowledge of the past and that gained in the present, we have been falling badly—and that because our advance in spiritual life has not been commensurate with our power over things.

Perhaps as this year closes it would be

Wilkie J. Thomson, basing his article on "I brought thee out . . . to bring thee in," Deut. 4: 37, 38, writes on checking up on past and checking in on future.

good for those who have been brought out of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son, to enquire into how far we have helped to balance our world by our own spiritual lives.

The Future

Whatever be your answer to that question, determine now that by God's grace 1944 will not only find you a better Christian than you have ever been, but ready to do greater things for Christ than you have ever done. After all, God has a purpose for you, possibly so great that it is still unrealised by you. For this he has "brought thee in."

This Year Also

J. E. Brooke, writing on the parable of the fruitless fig tree, points to our opportunity of bearing fruit in this coming year.

IN a vivid little dialogue, Jesus pictured a farmer, coming each year to a fig tree in his vineyard, looking for fruit, but finding none—then telling his workman to cut the useless thing down.

This is a parable of our lives, especially applicable at this season. Our souls are like trees in the garden of God, and the Great Gardener looks to us to be fruitful for him. But looking back over our lives now, what good things have we brought forth?

The fruitless fig tree stands condemned, because it was false to its own nature. The fig tree was made, in the first place, to bear fruit. That is the law of its being, the aim and end of its existence.

How delightful it is to see a tree, year after year, quietly and efficiently doing its appointed task and producing its expected harvest. But how disappointing is a tree which blocks the operation of natural processes, and stubbornly refuses to fulfil the purpose of its life.

"Herein is my Father glorified," said Jesus, "that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be disciples. I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain."

This is what is expected of us because we are "trees planted by the Lord," and because his Spirit dwells within us. And if we are not fruitful, then we are being false to our own nature.

Then secondly, the barren fig tree had this grave fault—that it was unresponsive to the influence of the seasons. It had passed through summer, autumn, winter and spring, and sun, wind and rain had done their best for it. But for all the ministry of the elements, it had not profited in the least. It remained as sullen, as stubborn, as ungrateful, and as unprofitable as ever.

Have our lives been like that? We, too, have passed through the varied experience of the changing seasons. We have had our times when the "summer sun" has glowed upon us in brightness and warmth, times of rich gladness and love. What have we to show for them? We have also been through the weep-

The new year is a time of resolutions which are excellent things if they are good, and are kept, for the new year brings with it new days and new possibilities. And in the days to be we can make our lives count for Christ in such a way that our own nation and generation shall feel its impress and Australia become more than a mere food arsenal of the world. There is still need of the Max Muellers and Elizabeth Frys—men and women of faith and daring.

Let me make a few suggestions that may help.

1. "Set thy heart toward the high road."—Jer. 31: 21.

It is the golden road, the road that leads to happiness because its terminus is in the city of God. It is the road of self-forgetfulness, of free giving, of "pouring light and life into each hour." If more were to set their feet upon this highway, there would be no question of the blessing that would come to our country, for it is the way of righteousness.

2. "Press on to the goal for the prize of God's high call in Christ Jesus."—Phil. 3: 14. There is no higher call.

(Continued on page 611.)

ing winter time of the soul, when clouds of gloom have oppressed us, storms of sorrow have swept our hearts, showers of tears have fallen, and the cold ache of pain has chilled us through. But as winter is necessary to the tree, so it may be fruitful to our souls. If we are responsive, God can moisten the soil and nourish our souls, even with our tears.

Have we passed through another year of these experiences, unresponsive, and unproductive? In one of his poems, Robert Louis Stevenson prayed,

"If morning skies and summer rain,
Knock at my sullen heart in vain,
Then, Lord, thy most piercing pleasure take,
And stab my spirit broad awake."

Yes! If the seasons of the soul pass over us without effect, if neither the warmth of joy nor the chill of sorrow can produce any result, if all life's experiences are wasted on us, then of what poor timber our lives are made.

But worst of all the sterile fig tree was disappointing to the Great Gardener. God watches our lives year by year with eager gaze. How generously he has cared for us, sending in season sunshine and shower, conditioning the soil of our environment, even using pain to prune us to his purpose. And all the time he has been watching, hoping and yearning for some sign of spiritual fruitfulness in us.

Does the master of the vineyard sound too impatient when, after three years of watching and waiting for the tree to bear, he gives the order, "Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground"? That is only simple justice and sensible horticulture. But no! God's patience is never quite exhausted. At the workman's intercession the farmer decides to give the fruitless tree another chance. It shall be spared and be cultivated "this year also."

So our barren lives have been granted another chance. Shall we not in the coming year strive to justify the Great Gardener's patience, and retrieve the emptiness of all the wasted years with a bountiful harvest for his honor and glory.

The Christmas Message

H. J. Paterson, M.A., writes a seasonal word on the subject of true peace.

"GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men," sang the angelic choir on that first Christmas morning. We seek peace for the sake of a world suffering in agony. Young men in New Guinea and Australia wish for peace, and I imagine that no nation really wishes other than the fulfilment of the anthem sung that morning so long ago.

How to Get It

This is the question of paramount importance. And someone replies, "By a smashing victory of arms." Someone else more generous may say, "By a magnanimous peace treaty—a generous and negotiated peace," but another will say, "No, we must beat the enemy to its knees and until it is absolutely helpless."

But true peace comes not that way, for it is the bequest of Jesus Christ. "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." We may have a peace some other way, but real and lasting peace comes only through and from our Lord Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. This peace we may have even while a war rages and loved ones are in danger. Jesus was close up to the cross, but he could speak of his peace. But all about us are folk with no peace. There is a great strain upon them. We see it in buses and trams and trains. We are part of a fevered world anxiously awaiting the next news from a terrible battle front or air field. It is dreadful. Yet Paul in the Roman prison could say, "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep (garrison) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Not Dependent on Circumstance

If it were so, then we could never truly sing that lovely hymn, "Peace, perfect peace."

Peace is a thing of the inner life—of the heart—and is not dependent on a bigger income or a better business, or the cessation of the war or better health or upon any other such thing. There is ample evidence of it in the experience of real Christians—Paul and John. Bunyan in prison; St. Francis, Wesley and Sundar Singh in poverty; George Mathieson in his blindness; Kagawa in the slums of Japan: all bear testimony. When this war ends it will seem like Paradise for a month or two, but dissatisfaction and disruption and corruption and revolt of all kinds will come again unless we learn of the Christ Child who teaches us to be about the "Father's business."

Do You Wish the Inner Peace?

There is no way but in the surrender of the will to God. Absolute faith in him is the way. There never can be any peace so long as self is dominant. We can no more have it in life than we can have it in the home if self is first. There must be a yielding to the eternal love of God. Because his love for God and the race was supreme, Paul could be at peace in a raging sea or in a prison cell. In addition to faith and love there must be obedience. That follows from the surrender of the will. David Brainerd, missionary to the Indians, having accomplished his work, and knowing the forests were full of changed men, said, "O, the peace, composure and God-like serenity of my frame! Heaven must differ from this only in degree, not in kind."

"Peace! perfect peace! with loved ones far away?
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they."
"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Our Young People



W. R. Hibburt

BUNDLES OF WISHES

SEASONAL greetings have gone forth from churches to the young men and women away from home in the various services. Who can estimate the value of a letter that is a link with home and church? What sanctifying influences emanate from letters received from those who represent the cherished things of life. Parcels are gestures of goodwill and create good cheer. It is heartening to have our chaplains speaking in confident terms concerning many of our Christian young men. Many chaplains are concerned for their lads when they return home knowing that they will only be satisfied with religion that is tolerant, related to life and concerned about big issues. The paragraph that follows was written by Chaplain C. J. Robinson when he returned to Victoria.

WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME

Johnny and his pals have been doing a fine job in the Services guarding our shores and endeavoring to stem the tide of horror that threatened to engulf us. We are very grateful to Johnny and his friends for the security we feel to-day.

But Johnny has been displaying splendid loyalties of another kind, keeping his witness clear for his Great Captain and quietly introducing others to his Leader. We're mighty proud of him, and the "gang" for their faithfulness; and when at last they come marching home and have been initiated into the mysteries of being "demobbed" and fitted out for civilian life, we'll be looking for Johnny to step into the big job awaiting young people in these days of opportunity. He'll be wiser for his experience, and perhaps a bit discontented with things as they were, and that's a healthy sign. What a privilege to be young in these days! Don't hinder Johnny when he comes home to help save the children from another horror like this war. Thanks, Johnny, and may God find you a big place in his field!

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman.

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT YOU!

WOULDN'T this old world be better
If the folks we meet would say,
"I know something good about you!"
And then treat us just that way?

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy,
If each handclasp warm and true,
Carried with it this assurance,
"I know something good about you?"

Wouldn't life be lots more happy,
If the good that's in us all
Were the only thing about us
That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy,
If we praised the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me.

Wouldn't it be nice to practise
That fine way of thinking, too?
You know something good about me!
"I know something good about you!"

—Selected.

"Why did you tear the back part out of that new giftbook?" asked the long-suffering wife of the absent-minded doctor.

"Excuse me, dear," said the famous surgeon, "the part you speak of was labelled 'Appendix,' and I took it out without thinking."

The Family Altar

TOPIC—"THE WORD WAS GOD"

- Dec. 27—Matt. 16: 13-23.
- " 28—Eph. 1: 1-14.
- " 29—Phil. 2: 1-11.
- " 30—1 Col. 1: 9-23.
- " 31—Heb. 1.
- Jan. 1—John 1: 1-28.
- " 2—Isaiah 35; John 1: 29-51.

AT the very commencement of his gospel record, John writes in unmistakable terms concerning the great doctrine of the God-head of Jesus. He was "with God" wrote John, from the beginning; not before him or after him, but identical with him, for he "was God." So that he was not a creation, but the Creator; not merely a life-giver, but the source of all life. How transcendently greater is this doctrine than that which represents him as "the best of men, but man at best"! Such an one could be but a pattern to men, but never their Saviour. Our only hope is in the knowledge that the word was God, yet became flesh, in order that he might be to men the perfect exemplar of holiness, and later, by dying upon Calvary's cross, become their only Saviour.

"God's thoughts come up from eternity, and to eternity they reach."

A 1943 REFLECTION

SUPPOSING 1943 were your last year on earth and December the last mile of the journey you've trod. . . . After all your struggles, how much are you worth? How much can you take home to God? Don't count as possessions your silver and gold, for to-morrow you leave them behind, and all that is yours to have and to hold are the blessings you've given mankind. Just what have you done as you journeyed along, that was really and truly worthwhile? Do you feel your good deeds would offset the wrong? Can you look o'er your life with a smile? We are only supposing—but if it were real, and you invoiced your deeds since your birth, and you figured the profits you've made in life's deal—how much are you really worth?

A 1944 REFLECTION

LOOK not mournfully into the Past,
It comes not back again.
Wisely improve the Present,
It is thine.
Go forth to meet the shadowy Future,
Without fear, and with a manly heart."

—Longfellow.

Sectarian Bitterness in W.A.

R. Raymond reports on the unfortunate war among religious bodies, on a new Christian hospital and signs of improvement in moral standards.

A WAR within a war" is how one writer thinks of "The sectarian fight waged over the air to the disgust of all sensible persons." The Roman Catholics started it with "The Catholic Answer." This has been broadcast for many months. Their statements are so obviously inaccurate, and to many of us so offensive, that most of us felt that some reply should be made. So it began. The Presbyterians in their session "Through Presbyterian Eyes" have left no doubt as to the quality of their Protestantism. From some speakers we have been reminded of the terrible things done by Roman Catholics in the bad old days. One writer has accused the representatives of several religious denominations of attacking one another's religious beliefs with "a bitterness reminiscent of mediaeval times." The title of our own session has been changed to "The Bible Answer." Mr. Wiltshire, he it said, without fear of contradiction, has dealt with his topics with dignity and frankness. His every word justifies the title the session has been given. Our broadcast is from the same station as "The Catholic Answer," and strangely enough no sooner does the Roman Catholic speaker conclude than Mr. Wiltshire comes to the microphone. There are not a few good people who regret that sectarian differences should be stirred up at such a time as this when we should be firmly united. One wonders, after hearing the several broadcasts, whether the union of God's people can come about in our day.

A Hospital Venture

Early this year, indeed on the first day of 1943, two nursing sisters, both now members of the Subiaco church, took over the management of a private hospital in Subiaco as a venture of faith. Sister B. G. Hill had only a few months previously returned from India where she had completed a term of five years with the Landour Missionary Hospital in the Himalayan Mountains. Miss Hill was desirous of starting a Christian hospital here in W.A. Being without funds she was able to raise loans from interested people, and the venture was started. God's blessing has been upon it from the beginning.

The sisters have made it a practice to pray in the theatre with every patient before operation. Devotions are conducted morning and evening, Lord's day evening services are held, and every opportunity is taken to speak with the patients about the things of the kingdom. There have been several decisions for Christ. The hospital is now in process of being incorporated under the name of Bethesda. The objects of the institution are to "provide a registered hospital to be conducted on Christian lines for the treatment of medical and surgical cases at fees determined by the board, having in mind that Christian workers and persons of inadequate means may be accepted at reduced rates or without payment." The objects also cover the dispensing of benevolence and the conducting of religious services on the premises. The board consists of the present writer as chairman; C. R. Burdeu, foremost in every good work, secretary; Matron Hill and Messrs. W. S. Bown and E. E. Nelson. The work will grow and the board is now seeking larger premises.

W.A. Morals

Brig. J. W. Dent, formerly Western Australian Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army, has left here to take up a new appointment in Victoria. In a press interview before he

left he expressed the view that the lax moral standards existing in W.A. in the earlier part of the war have been, to some extent, overcome. "We are beginning to realise, women as well as men, that the present moral condition of the community will so definitely affect future homes and future generations, that there has developed a greater moral responsibility for the future." Because I think the Brigadier is in a position to know, I am glad to publish such favorable findings.

Missionaries

Only a few of us were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of our out-going missionaries as they passed through W.A. As many as could be reached by telephone were advised of their presence at the Central Office on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 27. Their departure was unexpectedly delayed a little and they were able to have fellowship with the Fremantle church on the Lord's day morning.

Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

(Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory crossfiring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.)

HONORING THE LORD

I HAVE noticed from time to time that on special occasions our different churches of Christ have called in to address the gatherings those of other denominations who, while no doubt they do much commendable work, ignore the commands of Christ, i.e., baptism and the Lord's Supper. I ask: "Is this honoring to the Lord?" first of all; and secondly, "Can we get any real spiritual help from those who ignore his commands?" I understand there is only real fellowship with those who are the friends of Jesus, and his word says, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you."—E. G. Rose, Dimboola, Vic.

□

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I HAVE never been able to sit silently by when I thought a friend of mine was being misrepresented. Hence this note in reference to the letter by Mr. R. C. Edwards in the issue of Dec. 8. I have been a constant reader of "The Christian Century" for about twenty years, and it has been a most helpful and stimulating, as well as a most comprehensive and provocative influence on my thought life. I would categorically deny the statement that the "Christian Century" is no friend of the churches of Christ. The journal is interdenominational, and is widely read by people of many religious persuasions through all the world. But the editor is a loyal member of the churches of Christ, who is not afraid to declare his allegiance to our great movement. True, he will at times review movements and tendencies in our churches in a discerning, and if necessary, a critical way, but that is one of the marks of a friend (Prov. 27: 6). It is also a process to which we need occasionally to be subjected for our own good. The "Christian Century" is broad, in the sense that it does not regard truth as a compact package that can be wrapped up, sealed, signed and delivered to the recipient, but as a vast

field for adventurous investigation and un hindered quest. Hence it opens its columns to all shades of thought, liberal or conservative. Any man who loves to face the great issues of thought and truth and reality will be richly blessed if the "Christian Century" comes regularly to his table. He will not necessarily accept either the "modernist" or the "fundamentalist" (ugly words both) statements that he reads there. We should be prepared to face the problems of religion and life in the same fearless way as did our fathers in the faith.—T. H. Scambler.

□

CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM

UNDER the captivating title of "The Soft South Wind," Mr. Patterson writes soothingly, and gently touches upon the church and the kingdom of God. In answer to the question, "What is our objective?" Mr. Patterson states that for some it is heaven, and for others it is the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. He concludes his essay thus—"It may be through the strain and storm and stress of things she (the church) will at last be able to realise the kingdom of God on earth." What this is meant to convey does not seem clear, but the idea appears to be that the church and the kingdom are separate institutions, and that through the church the kingdom will be "realised."

There is much confusion about these organisations. Some declare that it is wrong to use the Lord's prayer because the kingdom has been set up. Others insist on using it regularly, and then contradict its pleadings by praying for the extension of the kingdom (an unscriptural term). Many use the words church and kingdom of the same institution.

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar definitely reveals that God will establish the kingdom (an everlasting one) which will smash all existing earthly kingdoms, and supersede them. This was the kingdom that Jesus taught his disciples to pray for. Paul reveals the mystery of the church, its purpose, and its destination—heaven (Ephesians 3). It seems clear that the church had no mandate to set up the kingdom, nor has the church any connection with it, except and only in so far as the church's relationship with Christ after—the resurrection.—C. K. Milne, Hawthorn, Vic.

MR. PATTERSON'S contribution to the "Christian" on the kingdom of God is worthy of consideration and further pursuance. It doubtless will cause many to revise their thinking as to the belief in the justification by war of one or many nations putting others right or bringing in that new order that is claimed for the world. One would have liked to have heard our brother and others that write upon this subject, the kingdom of God, speak more of the manner and the time of its inauguration and the consequences therewith. We are wont to speak of the kingdom as it is associated with the suffering Saviour rather than the victorious Messiah. He predicted a time in the then near future when those that would not have him to reign over them should be brought hither and slain before him when his armies should be sent forth to burn up their city. In the first place this necessitated his kingdom coming in power at a stated time, not the precise day or hour, and it is as clear as a sunbeam when it was to take place, Matt. 24: 29 says immediately after the tribulation of those days. Mark 13: 24 says it was to be "in those days after that tribulation," thus referring to specific conditions that they themselves would live to see and by which they would know that their deliverance or redemption was drawing nigh. H. T. Anderson says the kingdom of Christ began in authority at Pentecost and came in power at the end of the age immediately after the destruction of Jerusalem.—T. Johnston, Launceston, Tasmania.

(Continued on page 611)

Here and There

There will be no issue of "The Australian Christian" next week. Will reporters please note?

Chaplain W. A. Wigney's father passed away in Horsham, Vic., on Dec. 3. Mr. Wigney, sen., was a well-known and respected man in the Kaniva district. His passing will be greatly regretted there.

Great Britain's Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, is worthy of the many tributes being paid him in many parts of the world. We join with a great company of admirers in wishing for him a quick recovery from his illness.

The many friends of Miss Amelia Scarce, of South Yarra church, will be glad to know that, in the recent examinations held by the University Conservatorium, she has been awarded the Diploma in Music, with first class honors in all subjects except two.

At Kaniva, Vic., the home mission offering to date is £134. Visit of W. Gale on Nov. 28 was enjoyed. Christmas services were conducted at Yearning and Kaniva on Dec. 19. The former meeting was in conjunction with Methodist folk, and a happy time was enjoyed. Special music brightened each gathering, and Christmas messages were delivered. Fellowship has been enjoyed with visitors, including soldiers on leave from Darwin.

William C. Kernan, director, Christian Institute for American Democracy, writes: "Freedom, in the Biblical sense, does not appeal for its authority to man's consent at all, but to the act of God in creating man in his own image and in endowing him with rights which cannot be separated from his person. If, therefore, we want to see freedom and equal rights secured everywhere in the world, it is more, not less, knowledge of God and his Word that we need. Stop the missionary movement? Indeed not. Step it up!"

A delightful concert was given by the ladies' choir of Victorian churches of Christ in Lygon-st. chapel on Dec. 13. The thirteen choral items were carols and were pleasingly presented by the choir led by Miss M. E. Pittman. Assisting artists were called on for more than double measure. Misses F. Cowper and L. McCann with Messrs. A. W. Wallington and G. Craig contributed much to success of this Christmas concert. Dr. W. A. Kemp, chairman of college board, expressed thanks to ladies and artists for the treat given and for help afforded to college, to which institution the proceeds were donated. About £25 was raised. As a result a new organ has been purchased for the Chown memorial chapel. After the concert the choir and helpers were entertained at supper by Mrs. R. McColl, of Lygon-st. church.

At monthly pleasant Sunday afternoon at Nth. Fitzroy, Vic., on Dec. 5, Mr. A. A. Hughes was speaker, and his subject, "Parliament and the People." He paid a great tribute to the influence of the Protestant churches in the campaign for his election to the Caulfield seat in the State Parliament; there was complete union by the members of all Christian bodies which resulted in victory. He contended that Christian principles should underlie all enactments by the State. The people must elect members to Parliament who would carry out their duty to the people by observing such principles, and placing legislation on the statute books of the country in accord with the teaching and principles of Jesus Christ. The address was greatly enjoyed by a fine audience. Brunswick City Band rendered selections, and Miss Violet Jackson sang several numbers, very effectively.

Some students of the Federal College of the Bible entered this year for subjects in the Melbourne College of Divinity. The decision to do this work was not made until well into

the first term, and it was not possible to cover all the first year's course in the M.C.D. Ten students participated, some sitting for four subjects, some for three, and some for two. The results were highly satisfactory for the initial year's work, showing that the standard of work done in our college compares favorably with that done in all the theological colleges of Australia and New Zealand, for the M.C.D. draws upon all Australasia and even further afield for its entrants in the examinations. The following results were secured: New Testament in English: F. B. Alcorn, C. B. Cartmell, D. W. Cartmell, A. G. Macdonald, L. G. Crisp, W. J. Evans, R. H. Hindman, J. A. Hindman, V. Quayle, K. W. Barton. New Testament Exegesis: F. B. Alcorn, J. A. Hindman, R. H. Hindman, V. Quayle, D. Cartmel, A. G. Macdonald. Church History I.: F. B. Alcorn, C. B. Cartmell, D. W. Cartmell. New Testament Greek I.: C. B. Cartmell, L. G. Crisp, V. Quayle.

At Prahran, Vic., during gospel service on Dec. 12, four young people were baptised. The ladies at final meeting for year presented Mrs. Young with a handbag. During past few months extensive work which will be an asset to working of Bible school was done by several brethren. Ron Thornton has resigned as school secretary upon entering Air Force, and Mavis Perrin has been appointed to this position. The church suffered a great loss by the home-call of Mrs. Ward. Young people of church at a delightful evening made a presentation to Jean Long prior to her marriage to Alf. Hulme on Dec. 18. Y.P.S.C.E. at final meeting for year entertained older members at a social, each guest receiving a gift. Chaplain and Mrs. Young have completed a year of happy and helpful ministry with the church, and special thanksgiving services were held

on Dec. 19, speakers being Messrs. Fitzgerald, L. Brooker and Chaplain Young. During gospel service Prahran City Band assisted. The Mayor, Cr. Ellis, was present. Dinner and tea were provided for friends. The thank-offering, which is being set aside for rebuilding Bible school, amounted to over £93.

Gardiner (Vic.) Sunday school combined with East Malvern and held picnic at Mt. Waverley on Dec. 4. T. Hagger exchanged with J. E. Allan, Glenferrie, on Dec. 5, and preached gospel at night. Two members have been received into membership by faith and baptism and Miss Bell by letter. Mrs. E. McCann has resumed after several months' absence on account of accident, and Miss V. Sheehan, organist, has suffered a broken arm. On Dec. 12 A. L. Gibson exhorted church, and in evening the choir, augmented by Hartwell members, rendered Christmas music. Mr. Hagger conducted meeting, and Chaplain Allen, of U.S. Army, gave a message. Sympathy has been extended to Harold and Jessie Ward in the loss of their mother, and to Mr. Morris and family in the loss of wife and mother. Doug Kinnear, R.A.A.F., and Harold Watkins, A.I.F., home on leave, were married on Dec. 4 and 11 respectively. The five week-night united intercessory services concluded on Dec. 16. Each of five local ministers took charge of a meeting, and social fellowship was enjoyed after each meeting. The choir had a break-up social on Dec. 18, and opportunity was taken to make presentations to Miss Jean Lilburn on behalf of choir and church members. She is kindergarten superintendent, chaplain of P.B.P. Club and evening organist, and has resigned on account of transfer to Drouin. Dec. 19 was observed as thanksgiving day for success of property fund appeal. Mr. Hagger spoke at both services; and in absence of choir at Hartwell for evening service, Prahran quartette party rendered items. Sunday school donated all offering for day and toys to Sutherland Homes.

Notes on Current Topics

Thirteen Wolf Cubs Drowned

THE dreadful tragedy at Grafton, in which thirteen Wolf Cubs, aged from eight to ten years, lost their lives, has aroused much sympathy throughout the State. Twenty-eight Cubs and three Boy Scouts, returning from their annual picnic, were crossing the Clarence River in a punt. The boys were frightened by a wave and crowded to one side of the punt which unbalanced, so that the boys were thrown into the river about 250 yards from the bank. Despite speedy help and heroic rescue work, 13 were drowned.

"Advance Australia Fair"

Much curious discussion has recently centred round "Advance Australia Fair." It provokes the inquiry, When is an anthem not an anthem? The Prime Minister's contribution to the discussion is unusually interesting. He is reported as saying: "The Minister for Information (Mr. Calwell) is perfectly entitled to request the motion picture theatres to play 'Advance Australia Fair,' or any other anthem, if he thinks that it will help build morale. The leaders of the motion picture industry are equally entitled to carry out his request if they so desire." So we are still free to hold our own opinion in this matter. In days of undue regimentation, this is cause for gratitude. Mr. Curtin's words reminded me of Abraham Lincoln's famous response to the appeal for a recommendation of a book: "Those who like this kind of thing will find this the kind of thing they like."

Truth and Romish Doctrine

I cull a few sentences from the report of a sermon given by a Roman Catholic priest in

St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. "Truth was the same to-day as in the time of Christ. It did not stand or fall by what men thought about it, or the manner in which they treated it. Truth might be questioned or even contradicted, but it was still the truth, imperishable and eternal. The Gospels showed clearly that Christ demanded belief in his teachings. He taught positive and definite doctrines, and would not modify, even in the slightest degree, one single doctrine of the religion he established. . . . Not only did Christ give the apostles authority to establish a religion, but he also placed the obligation on those who heard his teaching to accept it.

Whatever else the address contained, it taught these valuable truths. I could wish that all Roman Catholic and Protestant preachers would regard them. But certain reflections come. If it is the teaching of Christ (whether given personally or through the medium of his inspired apostles) which is to be accepted and taught, and never modified in the slightest degree, what becomes of a vast amount of Roman Catholic doctrine? A papal Vicar of Christ and earthly head of the church, special priesthood, sacrifice of the mass, transubstantiation, Mariolatry, purgatory, indulgences, auricular confession, and a host of other things are foreign to the scriptures. According to the statements of the cathedral sermon, these and all else not taught by Christ must be rejected. Our Lord himself said that men of his day made void the word of God by their traditions. So does Rome to-day.

A. R. Mann

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth.—Home mission offering reached £69/5/2. On Dec. 12 the service was broadcast. Choir rendered music and J. K. Robinson gave an inspiring message. At 7.30 p.m. Mr. Robinson preached and several visitors were present.

Harvey.—On Nov. 27 Mr. Bamford (captain) opened tennis court for play. J.C.E. held anniversary service on Nov. 28, when Mr. Bamford spoke to a crowded meeting. A picnic was held by C.E. at the coast. A special meeting and sale of goods for home missions realised £5. Kath Jones is back in hospital very ill, as is Doug Fryer, who spent most of his youth with Harvey church, and is now residing in Meckering.

Queensland

Monkland.—Bible school prize-giving and Christmas tree took place on Dec. 12, when scholars sang special hymns and all scholars and cradle roll babies present received a prize or gift from the tree. There was an excellent attendance of parents and friends.

Maryborough.—On Dec. 3 a good programme and Christmas tree were enjoyed. A social was held on Dec. 10, at which men of church entertained sisters. Dec. 12 was held as a day of thanksgiving for lifting of building debt. A youth rally was held in afternoon. At gospel service H. Greenwood preached to a good meeting. He was guest speaker for day. A number of members were absent through illness and holidays. Alan Price has not yet improved. Visitors included Miss Cox, W.A.A.A.F.

Gympie.—Kindergarten and cradle roll Christmas tree was held on Dec. 11, when a large assembly met in hall. At same time J.C.E. held Christmas tree in a private home, under superintendency of Miss D. Smith. Home mission offering of Gympie and Monkland has passed objective and risen to £15/0/4. United Sunday school council is planning a series of teacher training lectures early next year, the various schools in the town participating. Women of church have contributed £1/1/- for aborigines living link fund.

MANSE BOUGHT

SERVICE MEN ATTENDING SERVICES

ALBION.—Members of Forces have enjoyed fellowship recently, including Cpl. Curry (U.S.A.), Gnr. Murray (Ashfield, N.S.W.), Cpl. Vapiopoulous (Bambra-rd., Vic.) and Pte. Pease (Enmore, N.S.W.). Children's Day service was held on evening of Nov. 7. Items were rendered by Sunday school scholars, and £10 was contributed for overseas missions. All young people's auxiliaries have gone into recess after a successful year. Boys' Club has decided to change to an Explorer Club in new year. College of Bible offering was £13/11/8, and home mission offering £30. Average attendance during October was 93. The church has purchased a manse next door to the chapel.

Tasmania

West Hobart.—The Burn-Burt-Barton mission continued each night over past week. Addresses were inspiring, but attendances not up to expectations. Newly-formed youth choir rendered special music at evening service on Dec. 12. B. J. Golder has been appointed church secretary, following transfer of E. Ashlin. Home mission offering this year is a record for the church for some years.

Invermay.—Attendances have maintained a fair average. Harold Stevens was present on leave on Nov. 7. Sister Lynex has left hospital and is improving. On morning of Nov. 28 E. A. Stevens spoke at a teachers' recognition service. Bible school anniversary took place afternoon and evening with excellent attendances. S. H. Wilson was speaker for day. Two Bible school scholars took their stand for Christ. The children sang splendidly under baton of E. A. Stevens. Celebrations were continued on Nov. 31 with demonstration. The children voluntarily gave up prizes this year and contributed the amount approximating cost of prizes to Chinese Relief Fund. Miss Ann Chung Gon was present to receive the cheque, which was presented by superintendent E. A. Stevens. She thanked the children and entertained with conjuring. Bible school picnic was held on Dec. 4 at Rockerlea.

Launceston (Margaret-st.)—On Nov. 28 the church welcomed home Neil Burn, from College of Bible, and had a fine message from him at gospel service. Ken Barton, of the college, has also arrived home, and is engaged in mission work together with the other Tasmanian students, Mr. Burt and Mr. Burn. On Nov. 24 Mrs. Davidson, of Borneo Evangelical Mission, showed slides of Borneo, and on Nov. 23 Miss Matthews showed C.E. Society pictures of mission work in Papua. News has been received of the death of Chas. Smith with tragic suddenness on Nov. 20. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Smith and her sons. Mrs. Wilmot, sen., received the home-call on Dec. 7, and sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Wilmot. Newly-formed Bible class helped conduct monthly service at Home for Invalids in November, and on Dec. 13 held a tea and business meeting. On Dec. 12 Miss Riley was welcomed by transfer and Mr. Ruston was also received into fellowship.

New South Wales

Canterbury-Earlwood.—Members praise God for results of Dandenong mission, and rejoiced in home-coming of E. C. Hinrichsen and V. B. Morris on Dec. 5. Gospel message from I. A. Paternoster and exhortation from O. Turner on Nov. 28 were greatly appreciated. Young people held an outdoor sale of gifts on Nov. 11; proceeds were £26/10/10.

Paddington.—There were good meetings on Dec. 12. At breaking of bread T. Spencer was speaker. Gospel service was conducted by Mr. Greenhalgh. A large division of St. John's Ambulance was in attendance. There was special music, and Mr. Greenhalgh gave an excellent address. Y.P.C.E. Society spent an evening at Kingsford at invitation of the young people there. Christmas tree, music and games made the occasion enjoyable.

Wollongong.—A visit from R. Greenhalgh, of Paddington, was appreciated on Dec. 5 and 6. At morning service on 5th a young man, recently baptised, was received into fellowship. Sunday school roll and attendance have gone up by leaps and bounds in recent weeks and roll now exceeds 100. It was 65 before the "Happy Hour," which, together with, very active work by the Sunday school visitor, Mrs. Witherwick, has been responsible for the increase.

Georgetown.—On Nov. 28 Mr. Amos spoke at worship, and Welfare Officer S. T. Earl, of Y.M.C.A., spoke at night. Albert Wright was speaker at 11 a.m. on Dec. 5, and R. V. Amos conducted gospel service, when Ted Moran and Ron Watts confessed Christ. Newly-formed Boys' Club has over 20 members and 4 officers. The club held a camp on Dec. 12, and conducted church service at Mark's Point. Georgetown services were both conducted by Mr.

Amos. Ladies' Guild conducted "break-up" party at Benevolent Home, under leadership of president Mrs. E. Oswald.



SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

WITHIN FOUR YEARS 120 ADDED TO CHURCH

POCKDALE.—After four years' successful and happy ministry with the church, A. Hinrichsen resigned to take up work at Canterbury-Earlwood. During his ministry the congregation has steadily grown, and he has had the joy of seeing over 120 added to church. Finances are in excellent condition, having risen from average of £5 weekly to over £16 for all purposes. Building debt has been completely wiped out. All auxiliaries are doing good work, and the church is in excellent heart, with average of 150 breaking bread. Mr. Hinrichsen will preach his farewell messages on Dec. 26. A. L. Carter will conduct services over holiday period.

Mosman.—Fellowship has been enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. Holden, Oakleigh, Vic.; Mr. Carson, Bordertown, S.A.; and Mr. Gray, Coburg, Vic. During November services were marked by improved attendances. Bible school increase campaign has so far yielded 16 new scholars who are maintaining attendance. Thirty-fifth anniversary on Dec. 5 was addressed by F. C. Hunting in afternoon. Scholars and parents were entertained at tea, after which Mr. Hunting gave a special address to parents while Geo. Morton screened Biblical pictures for scholars in school hall. At night Chaplain Capt. A. E. Forbes, D.C.M., preached powerfully; scholars assisted with special music. Anniversary concluded on Dec. 7 with presentation by school of "Heralds of His Story." Awards were presented by president of Mosman-Cremorne Sunday School Council (W. K. Hunter). John Date, R.A.N., has been welcomed on return from overseas; C. Donaldson and P. Ryman are home on Christmas leave from New Guinea. Ladies' Aid in closing year's work has presented £13 to church treasurer.

South Australia

Norwood.—The church was pleased to welcome home from Darwin Ron Sage on leave. Last Sunday evening in each month the boys in Services are remembered at a roll-call, and an offering taken so that comforts can be sent to them. A. J. Ingham also reads at gospel services extracts from letters of boys of Services. Bible school Christmas tree was held on Dec. 16.

Bordertown.—Meetings have improved in numbers of late. Mr. and Mrs. Russell are commencing their tenth year of ministry with the church. Mr. Albright, of S.A. Alliance, spoke on morning of Dec. 5. Mr. Peet, of Morialta Protestant Home, preached at gospel service on Dec. 12. On Dec. 8 C.E. had a letter-writing night to men and women of the Forces. Mrs. Hould, Mrs. W. Smith, Mrs. Carson are home after several weeks in hospital.

Prospect.—Kindergarten department under leadership of Mrs. Mackenzie held a Christmas party on Dec. 11. Junior department (Mrs. Terrace) had a day's outing at seaside. Services on Dec. 12 were addressed by C. Schwab. There were good attendances. Fellowship was enjoyed with visitors and B. Barrett (on leave). Owing to ill-health C. Schwab will relinquish his work as preacher of the church. Happy fellowship has been enjoyed during his ministry with the church. Ladies' Guild held annual picnic at Botanic Gardens on Dec. 8.

Hindmarsh.—On Dec. 2 an induction service was held to mark beginning of J. E. Shipway's ministry. This was followed by an enjoyable

welcome meeting and social. Attendances have recently improved both morning and evening. The manse has been renovated, and Mr. and Mrs. Shipway have taken residence. Recently a girls' gymnasium was formed and a demonstration was held on Dec. 9. Kindergarten Christmas tree took place on Dec. 17. The home-call came to Mrs. Hitchin on Dec. 3, and sympathy of church is extended to her loved ones.

Col. Light Gardens.—The home mission representative, J. E. Shipway, spent a helpful day with the church. Nov. 28 was children's anniversary day. Thanks are tendered to helpers from Mile End, especially Miss Moore, who conducted, and to all others who did their part to make it successful. A gift of books was made to Mr. Drummond, who has resigned as superintendent after several years' service. L. Curtis has consented to take over this work. Dec. 17 was the day for kinders' Christmas tree, and on Dec. 21 a farewell was given to Mr. and Mrs. Pike.

Owen.—Miss Annie Harkness has received a call to Adelaide Memorial Hospital to commence training in nursing. Many friends met in her home for a farewell social. Speeches were made on behalf of church, Bible school, J.C.E., Red Cross and other bodies. She was church organist, Bible school teacher and J.C.E. superintendent, and will be greatly missed. Work of the church and auxiliaries continues steady. Members of Toc H were present at gospel meeting on Dec. 12, W. Thomson being preacher. Bible school held F.M. demonstration and Christmas tree on Dec. 17.

Berri.—A series of meetings held during A. Anderson's visit to district began with a meeting for ladies on afternoon of Nov. 22 at which Mr. Anderson spoke, musical items were rendered, and afternoon tea was served. In evening a service was conducted for men of church, whom Mr. Anderson addressed. On Friday a social was held. On Nov. 28 the Bible school held anniversary services. Mr. Anderson was speaker and the singing of the school was splendid, under conductorship of A. Clarke and assisted by instrumentalists. On Monday the concluding service and distribution of prizes took place.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

GREETINGS SENT TO MEMBERS ON SERVICE

WAMPOONY.—Forty-fourth anniversary of opening of church building was celebrated in November. W. Russell addressed all meetings on Nov. 7, and also public meeting on Wednesday after tea-meeting. Items were supplied by helpers from Bordertown and Mundalla and by local members. On Dec. 5 Mr. Allbright, of Temperance Alliance, solicited help to carry on the work against the liquor trade. E. Peet, of Morialta Protestant Children's Home, was speaker on Dec. 12 and received promises of cash and grain on behalf of the institution. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have removed to Bordertown, and were presented with a travelling-bag as a token of esteem from the brethren. Christmas greetings have been sent to all members away on Service.

Balakiava.—Bruce Clark has been received by faith and baptism. Y.P.S.C.E. held a happy social evening, about 70 being present. Dorcas gift afternoon for missions realised about £5. Young Ladies' Guild has given £5 for missions. The guild has also handed church treasurer £35 towards overdraft reduction. Geoff Whiting was welcomed home from Glen Iris, Junior C.E. held a Christmas party on Dec. 10. The superintendent (Mrs. J. Curtis) presented small tokens to Joyce Hutson and Ivan Roberts for winning scripture hunt competition. Services on Dec. 12 were conducted by W. Pearl and Geoff Whiting, A. Hutson being at Long Plains.

Cottonville.—Church and auxiliaries show healthy progress. Average attendance for morning meetings during November was 107, and for evening services 67. On Dec. 5 there were 89 present at gospel service. Mr. Brooke's messages are inspiring. On Dec. 12 Ron Munro, a young man from Bible school, confessed Christ. The church had fellowship with Bryce Wilson, from Whyalla, and Neil Coventry, R.A.A.F., Mallala. 52 kinders were present at school on Dec. 5. A young people's social was held on Dec. 11. A combined C.E. meeting was held on Dec. 19 at 10 a.m., after which the societies went into recess for two Sundays. Christmas tree was held on Dec. 21 for kinders and those on cradle roll. Most of the 16 boys in the Services have acknowledged receipt of Christmas cake.

Flinders Park.—Junior and Intermediate C.E. Societies held annual rally on Nov. 30, when J. E. Brooke, of Cottonville, was speaker. The chapel was crowded, and societies as far as Berri and Gawler were represented. C.E. Societies had a very successful year in spite of many members being absent on active service. The following officers were elected for coming year: Superintendent, G. Houston; secretary, Bill Wallace; treasurer, Rhonda Jones; missionary, Rhonda Francis; prayer committee, Phyllis Parker; sunshine committee, Ivan Smelzkoff. S. E. Matthews has tendered his resignation as preacher after 11½ years' faithful service, and will begin his ministry at Whyalla in the new year. Frank Smelzkoff has gone into the Air Force and has left for Melbourne. On Dec. 12 G. Houston was morning speaker, and in evening S. E. Matthews preached, when a young married woman made the good confession.

Cowandilla.—The work is going on very well. During absence on annual leave of F. Hollams, fine messages were enjoyed from P. R. Baker and W. Green. On Nov. 17, at the chapel, the marriage took place of Ruth Trowbridge and Ronald Godfrey, R.A.A.F., by Mr. Riches and Mr. Hollams. Bible school has gained four new teachers and many new scholars. Girls' Club held a successful concert and is continuing to do good work. Sister Newcombe is new secretary of Y.P.C.E. in place of K. W. Dixon, who is now State C.E. president, and has been doing good work for church at Torrensville, preaching and exhorting on Nov. 14 and on Dec. 12. Mr. Hollams has accepted the invitation of the church to serve a further term of twelve months. Plans are in hand to brighten gospel meetings in new year. Much good is being accomplished by the scripture instruction in State schools. Mr. Hollams is handling three schools.

Winkie.—On Nov. 21, Bible school held anniversary. A. Anderson addressed church, and gatherings afternoon and evening. The pageant, "Stories of Jesus," was presented in afternoon. In evening special singing was a feature. On Monday the pageant was again presented, and Mr. Anderson spoke. The secretary (Mrs. R. Robertson) and superintendent presented reports. Books, and certificates gained in examination, were presented. On Dec. 6 a social was held to bid farewell to Mrs. Lawrence, who has been obliged to leave the district because of ill-health. A Bible was presented to her by Mr. Johnson on behalf of members. Jean Searle is home for a few weeks. Mrs. Searle has been in hospital with an injured knee. Mrs. Jack Searle is in hospital. Don Hunt has had an operation to nose and throat, and is in hospital at Barmera. Mr. Johnson conducted combined service at Berri on evening of Dec. 12. A married man confessed Christ.

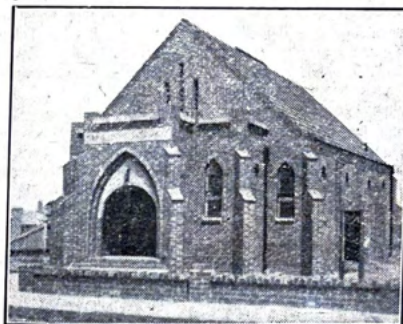
Victoria

Emerald.—Last Saturday the Bible school held a picnic, about 70 children and adults journeying to Kallista. On following Lord's day G. W. Bennett's messages were appreciated.

Bayswater.—On Dec. 5 Mr. Bethune exchanged platforms with Mr. Burns. Dec. 19 was Temple Day. Mr. Clay spoke at morning service.

Wedderburn.—Services keep up well. The church is considering letting evening service lapse on account of being without a preacher. Some aged members have been very ill. Sunday school anniversary was held Dec. 12, when R. Twiddy distributed prizes to every scholar.

Frankston.—On Dec. 12, second anniversary of opening of chapel was happy and memorable. J. E. Austin (chairman Properties Corporation) presided in morning, and C. Robinson gave an inspiring address. Thanksgiving



The Chapel at Frankston.

service in afternoon was presided over by R. Hinde (secretary). Greetings were given by visitors, and a challenging address by J. Wright. Thankoffering was taken, and aim of £50 exceeded, £55 now being in hand. At gospel service J. K. Bond gave a powerful address. All services were well attended. Soloists were Miss Hodson, J. Wright and J. McKenzie. On Dec. 19 J. K. Bond was speaker at both services. A presentation was made to J. McKenzie, college student, who has been a great help to church during year. He will be greatly missed.

Hampton.—Dorothy Yarde was married to H. C. Arney, A.M.F., on Dec. 18, C. G. Taylor officiating. On morning of 19th Miss A. Davis, A.W.A.S., was home on leave. J.C.E. conducted Christmas mail. W. J. Evans gave seasonal addresses, and at night conducted a baptismal service.

Hamilton.—All departments are in good heart. Mr. Chivell gives inspiring messages. When he went to Portland to exhort the church there, Chaplain Jones gave a farewell message on morning of Dec. 12. Mrs. W. G. Hadden is in hospital. The church enjoyed fellowship with two Kaniva brethren on leave from New Guinea. Boys' Club raised £9 towards parcels for members of church serving in Forces.

Camberwell.—On Dec. 19 Christmas services were well attended; 110 communed during day. Mr. Vercoe, of Methodist church, spoke in morning and R. L. Williams addressed evening meeting. Amplified recorded sacred music was introduced into the service. Several young men home on leave were in attendance, also some visitors. Good Companions' Club, 2nd degree, conducted a successful concert in aid of Services fund.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—Miss Frances Calway was received into membership at morning service on Dec. 19. C. G. Taylor delivered Christmas addresses. Special anthems rendered by choir in evening were appreciated. Miss Allen and Mrs. McColl were recipients of gifts for their work in kitchen during year. A happy afternoon was enjoyed by kindergarten children at Christmas treat on Dec. 18. Offering for Christmas cheer amounted to £4. The secretary is away on business and greatly missed by church.

Castlemaine.—Two young persons from Bible school confessed Christ at close of Mr. Curtis' gospel address on Dec. 19. A successful Christmas tree was held by kindergarten department.

Parkdale.—The choir visited Christian Guest Home, Dec. 17, and sang carols. Kindergarten teachers entertained children and parents on Saturday afternoon. Services on Dec. 19 were well attended, during day 96 broke bread. At close of gospel address Ken Erskine confessed Christ.

Middle Park.—On Dec. 12 Mr. Ryles, who is assisting during Mr. Whiting's vacation, addressed morning service acceptably. Mr. Stewart delivered a good gospel address. D. Rothery was welcomed home on leave. Kindergarten Christmas tree was held on Dec. 18, also a tea and Christmas social given to Bible school scholars and parents by teachers. Mr. Dowell, R.A.A.F., and Mr. A. Myers, A.I.F., are progressing after operations.

Carnegie.—On Dec. 19 East Malvern quartette party assisted in evening service. Miss Iris Wilson, of Carnegie, was soloist. After the address by L. E. Snow a lady made the good confession. The church has been saddened by news that Walter Manning, formerly an officer of Sunday school and active church worker, has been reported missing in air raids over Germany. On Dec. 11 a concert by Malvern-Caulfield girls' choir was well attended and successful.

CHAPEL IMPROVED

ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS PARTY

NORTH FITZROY.—R. Enniss gave fine messages morning and evening on Dec. 5, and at gospel service 4 young people confessed Christ. Mrs. Halliwell sang two solos. Mission Band held a successful meeting on Dec. 8. Topic, "The Courageous Life." Sympathy of members is extended to Mr. Tom Williams, who suffered bereavement by the death of his wife. Home mission offering (including duplex envelopes amounts) was £36/7/9. Improvements to church property have been completed, and appearance of building has been greatly enhanced. Home mission offering now stands at £38/2/- (including duplex envelopes amount). On Dec. 11 Miss Marj. Clark (granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Swain) was united in marriage with Mr. Scriven. On Dec. 17 a Christmas social evening was enjoyed by a splendid gathering. This was arranged by choir; everyone received a gift from Christmas tree. At Christmas service held on evening of Dec. 19, singing by choir and soloists was enjoyed. At close of Mr. Enniss's address two young ladies confessed Christ.

Collingwood.—On morning of Dec. 12 Mr. Atkin (Northcote) brought an appreciated message. In evening T. Fitzgerald preached, and two young people were baptised and welcomed into membership. On Dec. 18 Christmas treat for kindergarten was held, whilst in evening a splendid meeting of Inter-church Fellowship was held. On Dec. 19 Mr. Johnson (Prahran) exhorted the church. A Christmas service was held at night with T. Fitzgerald preaching and Mrs. Muir rendering a message in song.

Coburg.—Kindergarten, instead of the usual Christmas tree, gave gifts to church. On Dec. 14 the Good Companions entertained ladies of church at a social. Cradle roll leaders entertained mothers and babies on afternoon of Dec. 16. On morning of Dec. 19, Ladies' Guild presented church with a good offering. Evening service was well attended, and choir sang carols and anthems. Mrs. Carthew is improving after serious illness, and Miss Olive Russell expects to leave hospital soon.

Essendon.—Christmas services were held on Dec. 19 with very good attendances. At gospel service the choir, under E. Ferbes, rendered Christmas anthems and Miss G. Kemp sang a solo. At conclusion of a fine address by W. E. Jackel Betty Watson took her stand for Christ. At a Temple Day held recently £272 was raised to reduce building debt. The library commenced by Mr. Jackel during past year proved a blessing, and is to be extended by addition of several books from collection of late A. E. Illingworth, immediate past minister of the church.

Ascot Vale.—Donations made by J.C.E. to Royal Park Children's Welfare Home included 35 story books and 56 comics; to Bethsaida Aborigines Mission, 7/6; Cumeruogunga Christmas treat, 5/-. Women's Auxiliary celebrated sixth birthday on Dec. 14. Officers were appointed for 1944, and a collection taken for St. Kilda Blind Babies' Home. A wedding gift was presented to Mrs. Foch Wolinizer from ladies of church. Mission Band closed a successful year. Money raised for year was £36; £24/10/- for overseas Christmas cheer. Over £20 was raised by one sister.

Swan Hill.—Meetings were well attended on Dec. 2, when H. Walmsley commenced his ministry. Public welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Walmsley was given on Dec. 3. Gifts for manse pantry were donated by members. J. Leach, of Ultima (district conference president) presided. Representative speakers gave greetings, including Mr. Chancellor (Methodist), Mr. Eadie (Presbyterian). Greetings were received from C. P. Hughes, A. B. Withers and Lieut. Martin (Salvation Army). Mr. and Mrs. Walmsley responded, and supper was served by the ladies. Bible school scholars, teachers and friends enjoyed Christmas treat at local park on Dec. 15.

Gardenvale.—On Dec. 5 morning speaker was V. C. Stafford (Cheltenham); evening, T. R. Morris (Brighton). Bible school anniversary was held on Dec. 12. In morning Mr. Nance-Kivell spoke at a teachers' recognition service. Splendid singing was rendered in afternoon by scholars under conductorship of Mr. Machin. L. Brooker's illustrated message was appreciated. Presentation of prizes was made to kindergarten by him. R. Goldsworthy preached in evening. On Dec. 14 a social was enjoyed by scholars and friends, and prizes were presented to scholars. Mr. Rust is leading Explorers in good service. On morning of Dec. 19, in absence of Mr. Nance-Kivell, who was ill, W. Andrew spoke. In evening the

church joined with circuit at Brighton in a choral service. The choir under D. Lang excelled. Mrs. Lunn is still confined to her home. Mrs. W. Andrew has not improved in health. R. Goldsworthy has resigned the ministry of the circuit. He will conclude on Dec. 31. The churches appreciated his services, and a presentation was made on behalf of circuit.

Northcote.—The church is happy to report that within past three months 34 have made the good confession. For same period £435 was received in offerings, £190 of this being for brotherhood appeals, etc. On Dec. 14 Amy Gracie and Norman Edwards were united in marriage. 46 Christmas greetings (33 parcels and 13 canteen orders) have been sent to men in Forces. On Dec. 15 K.S.P. and P.B.P. clubs held a combined hike. On Dec. 16 C.E. Societies united for a Christmas social. On Dec. 19, 162 broke bread, and 136 attended gospel service, when a feature was items rendered by choir under leadership of J. H. Tinkler. Three decided for Christ.

Surrey Hills.—The church is grateful to B. J. Combridge for his splendid messages and ministry during the "Loyalty Crusade," an unusual and impressive feature of which was the pulpit discussions by B. J. Combridge and G. J. Andrews on Thursday and Sunday evenings. Temple Day offering on Dec. 18 amounted to £64, with more to come. Home mission offering to date, £18. Boys' gymnasium annual demonstration, and "dads and lads" night, were great successes. At 3 p.m. on Dec. 19 P.S.A. with carols by S.S. scholars and excerpts from Dickens' Christmas carol by L. E. Stevens and 5 o'clock youth tea were greatly appreciated. Large congregation at gospel service and one confession.

Footscray.—Ladies' Aid raised £31 during year. Parcels have been sent to members in Forces. At social on Dec. 14 over £40 was received from auxiliaries for renovation fund. Kindergarten Christmas tree was held Saturday afternoon and S.S. social at night. Kindergarten conducted visitors' afternoon on Sunday. Y.P.S.C.E. arranged tea at 5 p.m., Mr. Cairns, Yarraville Baptist preacher, being guest speaker. Efficiency prizes were awarded J.C.E. members. At Christmas gospel service messages in song were rendered by H. Easton, the quartette, senior girls, and choir led by H. Halstead. A special young people's choir illustrated Mr. Ritchie's sermon with song, and by building up a model manger scene. After 11 years' leadership, H. Easton has relinquished S.S. work at Yarraville.

Christian Order Movement in N.Z.

Our New Zealand correspondent, G. R. Stirling, writes on measures to bring the will of God to bear on life of Dominion.

THE Campaign for Christian Order has completed its second year with a special series of sermons in all participating pulpits. These followed the material that appeared in "Action," the Christian Order manifesto. The whole purpose of the preachments was to bring the will of God to bear on the life of the Dominion in all of its parts.

Now the Campaign for Christian Order ceases to exist as such. But what is more important, the Christian Order Movement goes on. All the permanent features of the campaign continue. Its gains are being consolidated. The director, F. H. Robertson, goes back into the Presbyterian ministry. The campaign office moves to Christchurch to become the office of the National Council of Churches. The National Council of Churches, which ran the campaign through its sub-committee in Wellington, is now entrusted with the work of carrying on the Christian Order Movement. To do this they have appointed

a full-time secretary. He is H. W. Newell, M.A., B.D., Congregational minister for Wellington city. Mr. Newell has always been close to the pulse of the ecumenical movement in New Zealand, and amongst other things is chairman of the New Zealand Student Christian Movement.

The immediate plans of the National Council are to continue the Christian Order Movement through Christian order weeks, special publications, and the setting up of special commissions. These commissions are to spend 1944 on enquiries into all aspects of New Zealand's life in relation to the Christian message. They are to bring their reports to a nation-wide ecumenical conference to be held at the end of 1944. What was originally the National Campaign Committee in Wellington is to organise the conference.

A Unique Gathering

It would have been in the realms of im-

possibility a few years ago. But that it happened is a testimony to the growth of the spirit of unity amongst the churches here in New Zealand. The National Council of Churches Area Committee in Wellington called together a meeting of ministers to discuss plans for a Christian Order Week in Wellington. Ninety per cent. of the ministers in all of Wellington were present. The few who were away were unavoidably absent. The ministers were entertained to tea by the Quakers in Friends' House. At the meeting that followed, the chairman was the Bishop of Wellington, and of the three speakers one was an Anglican, one a Presbyterian and one a preacher of churches of Christ. The meeting decided unanimously to press forward with a Christian order week.

"The Earth is the Lord's"

That the Christian Order Movement is catching on is seen in something that happened recently in Wellington. In connection with the campaign, there has been a great deal of stress on the Christian attitude to the land, culminating recently in the issue of a special booklet on this subject. An official, high up in the Agricultural Department, himself not a Christian, was heard to remark, "The churches are beginning to realise at last that 'the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof,' and we'll have to take notice of them."

Presbyterian Assembly Appoints "Lay" Moderator

For the second time in its history, the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand has appointed a "layman" to the position of Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. The appointee is Mr. T. C. Brash, of Wellington. Mr. Brash undoubtedly deserves this high honor. He was the founder of the Bible Class movement amongst Presbyterians, and served the church with distinction in many other ways. Mr. Brash is well known and highly respected in ecumenical circles, being a member of the National Council of Churches, the National Inter-Church Youth Council, and treasurer of the National Campaign for Christian Order. Mr. Brash also distinguished himself in the Civil Service, being controller of dairying before his retirement a few years ago. Since his retirement he has given the whole of his time to the service of the Christian church of New Zealand.

ADDRESSES

- Miss R. Caddy (secretary Port Fairy church, Vic.)—Barclay-st., Port Fairy.
- B. J. Golder (secretary West Hobart church, Tas.)—Howard-rd., Glenorchy.
- S. Sherriff (secretary Brooklyn Park church, S.A.)—Holbrook-rd., Underdale.

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BIRTHS

HOLT (nee B. Winch).—On Dec. 11, at "Eppworth," to Flying Officer and Mrs. C. B. Holt, formerly of Hobart, Tas.—a daughter (Jennifer).

LEE (nee Lambert).—On Nov. 30, at Williamstown, to Grace, wife of A. E. Lee—a son (Kenneth John). Both well.

MARRIAGE

HULME-LONG.—On Dec. 18, at Prahran church of Christ, Priscilla Jean, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Long, of South Yarra, to Charles Alfred, R.A.N., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Hulme, Footscray.

DEATH

ERSKINE.—On Dec. 7, Nancy May, dearly loved and only daughter of Glenda and Fred (R.A.A.F.), aged 6 years, and beloved little granddaughter of Percy and Mary Bryce, of 47 Como-pde., Mentone. "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON.—Loving memories of our loved one, Adiel J. L., called to higher service Dec. 27, 1936.

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.

—Inserted by his wife, sons and daughters.

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 their sons and daughters.

McPHERSON.—In loving memory of our dear sister May, whom God called home Dec. 24, 1942.

A wonderful sister only lent;
One of the best God ever sent;
A beautiful smile, a heart of gold,
The very best the world could hold.

—Inserted by sisters Elsie and Milly.

MOYSEY.—In memory of our beloved parents, who were called to higher service on Dec. 26, 1926, and Nov. 14, 1924; also our dear brothers, Syd., called home Feb. 3, 1924, and George, May 19, 1932; also Annie (Mrs. W. P. Lawson), June 17, 1943. Our treasured memories.

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New Indian Co-Worker's Greeting

MR. JOHN BAIRAGI, of whom mention was made in issue of December 1, has sent his first letter to Australian brotherhood. We take pleasure in announcing that this worker has accepted an appointment with the Indian mission for at least two years. The Board have written Mr. Bairagi and assured him of a warm welcome from the home churches as he undertakes his new work.

"A fortnight before sitting for my final examination, in April last, I had applied for, and had been granted, a position of a Y.M.C.A. secretary, in connection with the war programme in Iraq. Soon after, there came to the Principal of the College, a letter from Mr. Coventry enquiring about a worker for Baramati. I gave up the idea of going to Iraq and accepted the invitation from Baramati, because it had come without my seeking and because my teachers also advised me to accept it. So far I have had no reason to regret my decision. I come from the Fiji Islands. I am a convert from Hinduism. I owe much to the Australian Methodist Church, and in particular to one person from New Zealand who was my first teacher, and through whom I was brought to Jesus my Saviour, though my experience of regeneration took place quite independently of any human agency. Since my conversion there developed in me a strong desire to study the languages in which God's revelation was originally recorded. With this in view, I came to Serampore on my own account, and by God's help I have been enabled to get a working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. I am now quite happily settled down to work here, and shall from time to time contribute articles that shall be of general interest to the readers of the 'Australian Christian.'"

INDIAN CONFERENCES

Annual Church Conference

THIS conference was held at Baramati, Oct. 25 to 27, under presidency of Mr. H. R. Coventry. Sixteen fraternal delegates came from Dhond, Shrigonda, Diksal and Baramati, whilst the P.I.V. and Mukti Mission were represented. An average attendance of one hundred members were present at conference gatherings. Annual reports showed that there was steady progress, though church attendances had been somewhat affected because many of our younger men were away serving in the Forces. Thirty-seven new members were added to the church during the year—twenty-eight from Baramati, and nine from Dhond. Interest was centred round the home mission work undertaken by conference at Patas, nine miles from Dhond. Mr. Bhaskarrao Hiwali is stationed in this promising centre, and during the year an evangelist's house was built, costing approximately £90. Mr. Hiwale is reported as working very hard, "earnestly, enthusiastically and honestly," and every hope is expressed that good results will be seen in the near future. The devotional sessions of conference were of a high order, and members have returned to their various churches feeling strengthened for future tasks. We are indebted to M. Y. Gaikwad, conference secretary, for above report.

United Church Conference

The 18th conference of the Nira Bhima Valley Christian Convention was held at Baramati from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1, under the leadership of Dr. K. L. Kolhatker. Delegates from more than twenty districts representing several missions were present; more than one hundred and thirty-one people coming from outside places. It is estimated that at least four hundred people were present at all or most of the gatherings. Leading men from the various missions discussed Christian themes, and on Sunday morning Lord's Supper was observed,

when more than two hundred people were present. Despite war conditions and high prices, the conference was voted a success by all. Such gatherings have the advantage of bringing Christian people from various centres and strengthen the ties of Christian brotherhood. Such conventions will mean much to the future of Christian work in India.

FAMINE RELIEF

SEVERAL amounts have been received for the relief of suffering peoples in India and China, and have been remitted to the countries concerned. The National Missionary Council of Australia have given time and consideration to the question, but difficulties have not been overcome making possible a united drive. They have recommended that for the present each mission society make known to their people the need and the desirability of help. To this end it is suggested that each mission handle its own funds and send amounts forward through their own workers on the field. The Federal Board have endorsed this proposal, and make it known that they are open to receive monies and will forward to India or China. To simplify matters, it would be advisable to endorse such monies "famine relief," and Board will make allocations as deemed desirable. It is hoped that during the next few months the situation will improve. Already the Australian Government has sent 170,000 tons of grain to India, and further shipments are anticipated. There is also a promise of a better harvest in India and more efficient organisation in handling so that distribution will be more even. In September a Calcutta report states:—

"A sample survey of destitutes in Calcutta in the present food situation, undertaken by the staff and students of the Department of Anthropology, Calcutta University, is nearing completion. How far the present distress has affected the economic basis of, and sociopsychological relations within, the family may be gauged from the fact that no less than 24.4 per cent. of the families have disintegrated." It adds: "Husbands have driven away wives and wives have deserted ailing husbands, children have forsaken aged and disabled parents, and parents have also left them in despair. Brothers have turned deaf ears to the entreaties of hungry sisters, and widowed sisters maintained for years by their brothers have departed at the time of direst need."

GREETINGS TO BROTHERHOOD

THERE are few words in the English language more expressive than the word "brotherhood." It is so expressive in itself that to attempt an explanation almost takes away its full charm and meaning. No one is more conscious of the ties of brotherhood than

the Federal F.M. Board, the State F.M. Committees and missionaries on the field. We are conscious of the Christian understanding, sympathy and prayers of our people throughout Australia. To one and all we say, "God bless you during the Christmas season, and his presence be with you and yours during the coming year. May the coming year bring to us what we do desire—peace and goodwill."

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Checking Up and In

(Continued from page 602)

Do not let past failures deter you from pressing on to this high purpose. If needs be forget the things that are behind and make this "high call" the one supreme thing in life. I have on my desk a book of sermons written nearly a century ago. Here are a few titles with some extracts: "The folly of mourning the dead past," "Rising on stepping stones of our dead selves," and "Yesterday has no claim upon to-day. You have no right to kill to-morrow by the remembrance of yesterday," "He who spoils to-day because he spoiled yesterday is a thief and a robber; for he is robbing his own soul of future good, and robbing God of duty and his brother man of his rights," "There must be a divorce between the past and the future, except we can join them as Christ did to new endeavor and new faithfulness." In a sermon on "Wisdom at the eleventh hour," he says, "And so we say to those who cry that they have only one hour left; shall that be wasted because it is a fragment?"

"Have you missed in your aim? Well the mark is still shining.

Did you faint in the race? Well take breath for the next.

Did the clouds drive you back? But see yonder lining.

Were you tempted and fell? Let it serve as a test.

"It is never too late to begin rebuilding. Though all into ruins your life has been hurled.

For see how the light of the new year is gilding.

The wan, worn face of the bruised old world."

3. And finally—remember that we have been redeemed by "the Son of the Most High" who is himself a "high priest over the house of God."

We need have no fears, but can go forward in perfect trust, for is not the promise given, "Certainly I will be with thee"?

"Offer to God thanks as a sacrifice,
And pay your vows to the Most High;
Call to me in your hour of need,
Then I will rescue you, and you shall honor me." (Psalm 50: 14, 15, Moffatt.)

Obituary

William Alexander

THE suddenness of the death of W. Alexander shocked the members of the church at York-st., Ballarat, Vic., following as it did the violent deaths of Mr. Mayne and Mr. Lowne in recent months. Mr. Alexander was on his way home from Bible school, when he was overtaken with a seizure and fell in the street. He was hurried to hospital, but died in a couple of hours. He was a member for more than 40 years, and was 63 years of age. A cripple from birth, his physical deformity was no barrier to a life of loyal service. A man of deep-rooted convictions, he was a telling example of fidelity to the cause he loved. As teacher in the school, and as a church officer, he will be sadly missed. Sympathies are extended to members of the family, especially to his sister Rose, whose sacrifice, courage and devotion to her brother for many years have been the hallmark of Christian love. H. Edwards and W. G. Feary served at the house and graveside, the funeral being largely attended.—W.G.F.

Mrs. C. L. Lang

THE beloved wife of Clarence L. Lang, preacher of Ormond church, Victoria, passed away on Dec. 8, after a short but severe illness, and was laid to rest in the New Cheltenham Cemetery on Dec. 9. The service in the

home was conducted by Messrs. W. R. Hibbert, T. H. Scambler and W. Gale. At the graveside the service was read by Thos. Hagger (who took her confession at South Yarra on Jan. 13, 1895), assisted by R. T. Pittman and W. Gale. The large number of floral tributes received was but one of many evidences of the high esteem in which our loved one was held. Mrs. Lang was a beautiful Christian, of simple faith, unobtrusive and gracious. She was an ideal preacher's wife, and was beloved by all the churches to which her husband ministered. Mrs. Lang was best known by those who visited her home, for there the real charm of her life was seen and felt. Our sister had no social ambitions but concentrated upon her home, where her humble graciousness was like a beautiful fragrance. To her son and daughter, Ron and Jess, and to her husband, we express the loving Christian sympathy of the whole Victorian brotherhood.—W. Gale, conference secretary.

Edmund John Paternoster

A FORMER preacher of the churches at Stirling, East and Aldgate Valley, Prospect, Hindmarsh, York and Maylands, S.A., E. J. Paternoster passed away at his home, Millicent, in the south-east, on Nov. 27. He had not been in the best of health for some years, and retired from the work of the ministry in consequence. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Paternoster, of Salisbury, and a brother of Ira A. Paternoster, of North Sydney, and Mrs. Coombes, of Gawler. In 1923 the conference honored him by electing him to the position of president, a position he filled with characteristic consecration and dignity. During his business career he gave gratuitous service to struggling churches, helping such churches as Maylands, S.A., to become strong enough to engage full-time men. "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit." Many mourn his passing, and the sympathy and prayers of the brotherhood will be offered to Mrs. Paternoster, the widow; Mrs. Ottaway, daughter; Mr. Trafford Paternoster, his son; and other members of the family.—F.C.

Open Forum

(Continued from page 605)

A TESTIMONY

AS the preacher of the Dandenong church, I would like to pass on to the brotherhood a few of my impressions, and others, which came to my ears during the very successful evangelistic campaign conducted by E. C. Hinrichsen and V. B. Morris. It is with regret that I have to mention that a certain amount of opposition came from the denominational bodies, when they realised that many of their faithful members were attending the marquee night after night, and were becoming interested in the New Testament message. The young people from one church were exhorted not to go near the tent; but this only aroused the interest of older ones who were able to think for themselves. Rather foolishly, one minister preached against the ordinance of "Christian Baptism," the result being, I had the joy of baptising at least eight adults from that body during the same week.

One devout denominationalist, after attending the services nearly every night during the first four weeks, found herself being convicted and ceased coming; but went and told her minister that he would have to change his type of sermon and preach the gospel like they do at the church of Christ. A man, who holds a responsible position, who stopped coming was asked the reason, and he replied, "If I went I would have to give in." Another pulled up his horse delivery, and said, "I thought I would like to come and say that you men have made a wonderful impression in Dandenong." As a young preacher, I just wondered how I would get on with these men, but

I can assure you that I have had the most wonderful experience of my life.

The clear resonant singing of Mr. Morris was a joy and inspiration to all. The final service and thankoffering was just marvellous. There was no pleading—hands went up quicker than the missionary could say, "Thank you." The church is in good heart—attendances have increased 90 per cent. We thank God for these great servants who did such a mighty work for the kingdom in Dandenong.—R. Will Marshall, Dandenong, Victoria.

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(Deut. 33: 25)

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Eric found the suggestion of reverence in Exodus 3: 5. Like Moses, we come to places where we should tread softly and hush ourselves in respect. "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Nancy saw the suggestion of readiness in Exodus 12: 11. "Thy shoes on thy feet" was the wise order for a people preparing for their deliverance.

Bob noted the suggestion of responsibility in Deut. 25: 10, which says that a man who neglects his duties is to be dubbed, "Him that hath his shoe loosed." The grand reassurance suggested in Deut. 33: 25 was passed on by Marjorie. God will aid and care for his people, according to varying conditions and changing roads. "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."—G. J. Andrews.

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present, and trembling for the future.*

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