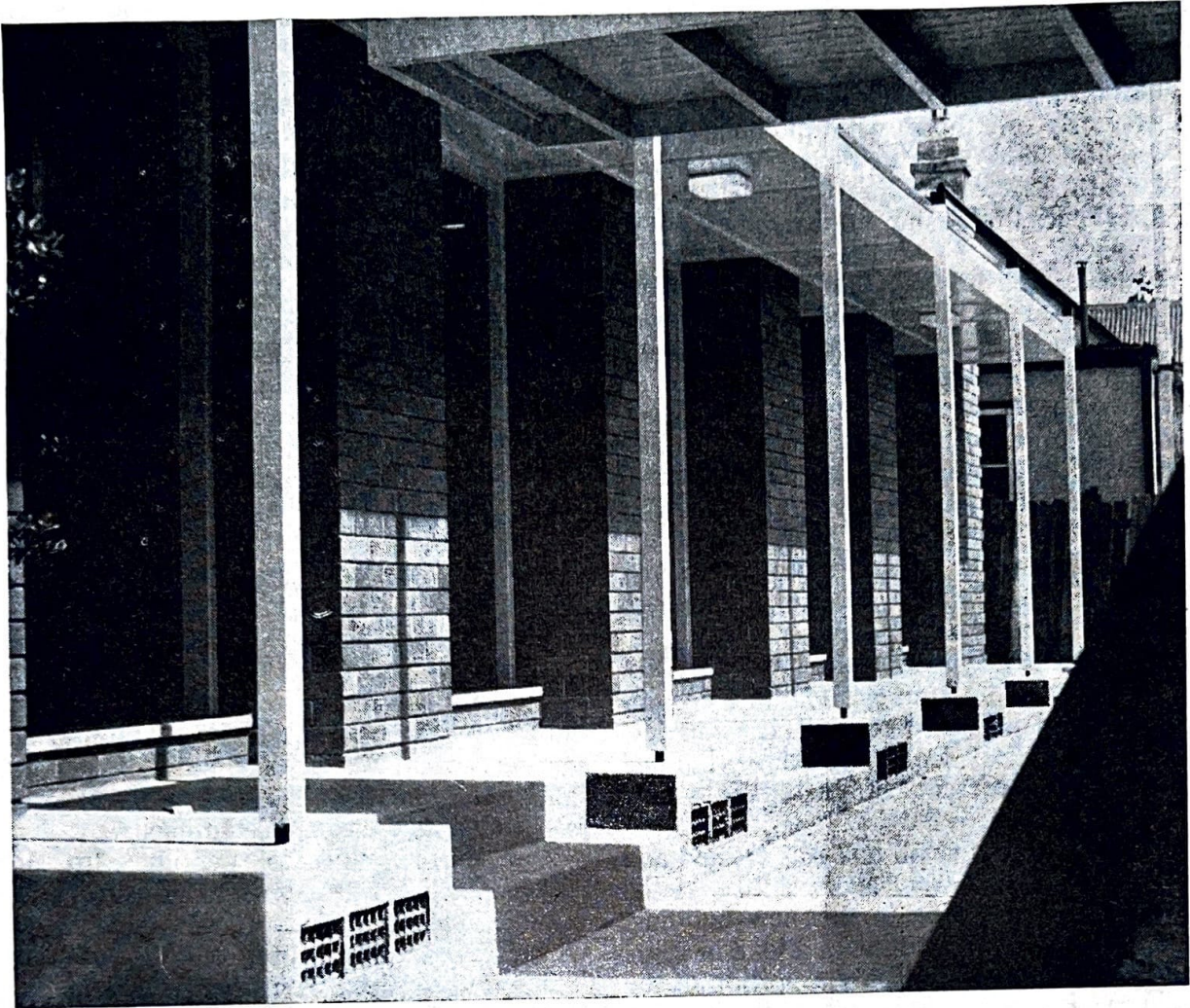


ROCKDALE EXTENSIONS OPENED



A kitchen and hall were opened by the Conference President during the 77th anniversary of the church at Rockdale on November 15th. Costing £8,000, a completely equipped kitchen and a double hall have replaced old and smaller facilities.

A target of £500 Temple Day offering was

reached, in addition to £700 given this year to F.C.C. Mr. C. G. Taylor was a most acceptable guest preacher for the day. Memories of a former ministry were revived when Mrs. Burns, in the presence of 150, cut the anniversary cake.

G.M.

1964

OUR ISOLATED SCHOLARS

At present there are 103 on the roll, with 58 receiving the Austral Learning Materials.

Each month we post "Home Scholar's Own", enclosed in used copies of the "Australian Christian". The Home Mission Dept. posts to each family a copy of the "Christian Messenger" and parents are thankful for these. Some of the Mothers are very isolated and lonely at times, and look forward to mail-day even more than the children. We would appreciate your used copies of the "Australian Christian", Missionary and C.W.F. News, Youth Mags., etc., but those no more than one month old

please. Any small periodicals, such as "New Idea" or the English Woman's Weekly, etc., are also appreciated.

Would you please post, or deliver, your used copies to Miss Cox, 172 Denison Road, Dulwich Hill, who would also be pleased to have names and addresses of children in Country areas who are not able to attend Bible School. Because of one Bible School Teacher's concern for a young scholar moving to the Country two years ago, we now have the parents in active membership in one of our Meetings.

50 YEARS WITH THE LORD

Fifty years ago, in 1914, a small group of Christian people began meeting regularly in the home of Mrs. Walters, a lady then residing in Guildford, a small outer suburb of Sydney. The majority of those who attended these services have now gone to their reward. Who could really say what aims were theirs save that they had the desire to worship God in this manner.

Whatever their dreams, aims and prayers may have been, one thing is certain. This was the beginning of the Church of Christ meeting at Loftus Park, Guildford.

As time passed the group moved their place of meeting to Coopers Hall — a small hall located above a shop in the main street of Guildford. At this time the group was blessed by the services of Bro. John Cattonch and it was there that these seven faithful souls first signed the constitution affiliating themselves with the Brotherhood in N.S.W.

It was also largely due to the efforts of Bro. Cattonch that a block of ground was eventually purchased at the corner of Hawkesview Street and Rosebery Road, Guildford, the site upon which the present church buildings now stand.

Eventually, too, a small hall was erected and the church meetings were again shifted as the members began meeting in this new building. This hall was to be something of a joke in years to come as it represented only a portion of the building which had been planned and its half-finished appearance brought many amusing comments from the passer by.

These early formative years were fraught with many problems, so much to be done with so little finance and man power to do it. At one stage the building was condemned due to faulty construction so that extensive underpinning of the foundations had to be done to render it safe.

However, due to untiring efforts by the faithful members and under the able leadership of such men as Bro. Clydesdale and Bro. Childs, the work flourished and grew.

Much help at this time was also given by the brethren from the Church of Christ at Canley Vale and Auburn and at such a time their assistance proved invaluable.

Two brothers in Christ who were associated with Loftus Park at this crucial period could relate not only the difficulties they met but also the amusing incidents as well. Both tell of the evening spent in fear and trepidation

when their home-made baptistry was first used. All through the service one or the other kept continual watch lest the structure collapse and disaster come upon them.

As the congregation increased need was felt for extending the building, and for this reason a small timber and fibro structure was added to the back of the chapel. Even with these additions the building was far too small and many, I am sure, could recall hot afternoons at Bible School anniversary time with well over 100 children crammed on the platform and some 200 parents and friends seated in the congregation. How those in charge were able to manage can only be guessed and had it not been for the intense desire to do the Lord's work, surely at this point they would have given up.

In 1946 the accommodation position was somewhat relieved by the acquiring of an additional building.

This hall had been originally erected at Greystanes and much of the cost had been borne by four sons of the Leask family. During the Second World War many of the young men had gone overseas and so this work at Greystanes had been discontinued.

Due to the efforts of the late Bro. John Adams the hall was shifted to Loftus Park and became the main chapel for worship and Gospel Services. As three of the Leask boys had lost their lives with the torpedoing of the Hospital Ship "Centaur", it is a fitting thing that this hall now bears the name of The Leask Memorial Hall in memory of the part they had played in its erection.

In 1953 a further dream was realised. The new chapel which had been planned for many years was opened. This was added to the front of the first hall erected at Loftus Park, and the half building was now complete.

Since 1953 a church manse was purchased and resold due to its unsuitability of position. The church has been able to purchase and now owns free of debt, the house and property adjoining the earlier church land. A church bus has been purchased for the purpose of transporting members from areas away from the church, and by the time this article goes to press, many of the formalities concerned with the purchase of a further block of land in the vicinity of the church will also be completed. This property will eventually be used for the erection of a manse, when occasion demands it.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

At present the church is experiencing a steady spiritual and material growth and much of this is due to the efforts of the present Minister, Bro. E. J. Penderleith. This man of God came to the church when assistance was sorely needed and those who were involved in his coming all agree that this was an answer to prayer. With him we are looking forward to many blessed times of service for Christ and many are looking on into the next fifty years with enthusiasm realising that with the Lord's help we can accomplish all things.

This brief history is probably one which has been repeated over and over in many corners of God's vineyard, but to us at Loftus Park it is an inspiration, for this is the history of the church we love.

This story was related by those who knew the church at Loftus Park even from the time it first began.

It was related on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations which were held on Saturday and Sunday 24th and 25th of October.

The Church Officers realised this was a time to be set aside for rejoicing, praising God and the meeting of old friends.

To this end a tea was planned for Saturday 24th and invitations were sent out not only to those of present membership but to all past members whose names and addresses were available. The response was so great that the halls were crowded as over 150 sat down to tea. The ladies of the church had excelled themselves with the catering arrangements and so a time of happy fellowship was enjoyed by all as old friends, separated for many years, again met and discussed the times of service they had once enjoyed together.

After tea a rally was held, and between musical items the previously outlined history was related.

Synonymous with Loftus Park is the name of Wakeley and because of his association with the original members, Bro. R. H. Wakeley was able to describe those early years. Following him were two faithful brothers (the builders of potentially collapsible baptistries) Bro. I. F. Torode and Bro. T. Walton, who had worked so hard through the difficult years of the 1920's and 30's.

Finally the present church secretary, Bro. F. Swann, brought out the more recent events and outlined some of the plans for time to come.

The Sunday Services of October 25th again saw the enthusiasm of the previous day. At the morning service the speaker was Bro. Mal

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

Leask the surviving brother of the four, he himself still a minister of the Gospel and a faithful worker for the Lord.

The evening service and the last of the celebrations was no less a time of blessing than the others.

The speaker was Bro. F. D. Craig, the minister of the Tamworth Church. Bro. Craig is an old Loftus Park boy himself and had travelled down to his home church to take part in their celebrations. The attendance had been approximately 100 at both morning and evening services and to those who had organised the proceedings this was the proof of the success of their planning.

So the celebrations were over and old friends had departed. Should we now sit back with complacency and say:

"We have accomplished this, so cannot we now take our ease?" The rich fool once said this and God rebuked him for his foolishness. NO! These meetings and memories which they stir should be an inspiration to us to be up and doing in the Lord's work. If this is so then the work begun in the home of Mrs. Walters was not in vain and the first fifty years with the Lord will have been but a prelude to greater things accomplished in His name.

B. Gough.

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CORRESPONDENCE

gifts;

Editor,
Christian Messenger.

Dear Sir,

The emphasis given to Home Missions in the November issue of the Messenger is right and correct and is an aspect of our work for the master that is vital.

I would point out, however, that the article by E. T. Hart entitled "The key word is Home Missions", although no doubt written with the finest of motives, viz: to stimulate our support of home missions, could well omit the humorous reference to the "old grey head" of a soul who appeared to have a burden to get the gospel into the whole world and gave the "regions beyond" preference in his stewardship.

It should not be forgotten that the key word in Acts 1:8 is "both". "Ye shall witness unto me **both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." This means that, simultaneously, the gospel is to be carried by us into Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth, and so it is an obligation to each one of us to have a part in spreading the gospel through the whole world by going, giving or praying. (I wonder how many of us, although not going or giving, at least regularly pray in a vital and intelligent manner by using a missionary prayer calendar and spending some praying time in every mission field of the world, including the home field each month?)

In the process of exercising our stewardship in this regard we should hear the words of the Lord Jesus, John 4:35, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest", and consider Mr. Hart's advice "Don't lift your eyes too high" in the light of the scriptural exhortation.

When one considers that, in the overall picture less than 10% of the funds of the Christian church go to over 90% of the world's population (those that do not speak English), and similar figures apply to preachers also, one cannot help feeling that the home front, although perhaps not home missions in particular, is getting the lion's share, and perhaps an old grey haired brother that gives twice as much to Overseas Missions as to Home Missions might well be giving less proportionately than he should, at least from the aspects of world need on a population basis, remembering that the Lord died for, and had a vital interest in, each individual.

It is argued, and on a good logical basis, that a stronger home front will mean greater outreach, to the "regions beyond". This is so. We would do well, however, to also study the way God has blessed individuals and churches who have sought first the "Kingdom of God", interpreting that expression as the simultaneous extension of the church on a worldwide front and have given more attention to the neglected uttermost parts. (There are areas in Japan where there are 4 missionaries to 1,000,000 people.) God honours and blesses in a unique way those who put the uttermost parts first in their overall missionary programme and this cannot be denied. Incidentally, I have never heard a satisfying reason why anyone should hear the gospel twice before everyone has heard it once (and note that Mr. Hart did not attempt to give one).

Let us exhort one another to give to conference departments showing the worth of the Department — and Home Missions is surely worthy — and leave to the individual to decide, in the light of scriptural command, the world need and his ability to help meet that need, which Departments he should give to and how much to each.

sincerely yours in Christ
F. W. Reynolds.

c.c. Federal Secretary,
C. of C. Overseas Mission Board,
53 Tarragon Street,
Mile End, S. A.

In fairness to Bro. Hart, I must point out that he in no way suggested we lessen our effort in the overseas field, he was, to a large degree, exploding the fallacy that all in our land have heard the gospel once. There are many on our own doorstep whom I believe have not really heard the gospel. It was to this task that he was seeking to turn our attention.

ED.

DEATH NOTICE

WALKER—On October 10th suddenly, at her residence, Pinelands, Crows Nest, dearly beloved wife of Alf; also mourned by Son-in-law Claude, his wife Doris, loving sister Martha and brother Dick of Gympie, also loved by brother Ted of Nambour, Q'land, loving sister Harriet of Belmore, N.S.W. Loved sister-in-law Lena of Gympie and Margaret of Coloundra, Q'land. In God's safe keeping.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER