

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

A Great Year for the Brotherhood

Howard Earle, Secretary Federal Executive.

1954 promises to be a great year for the Australian Brotherhood. Three major projects claim our interest and vigorous support.

Canberra

Gordon Stirling takes up residence, with his wife and three daughters, in the National Capital, this month.

He will begin his ministry with the church at Canberra on Sunday, Jan. 31, under the direction of the Federal Home Missions Committee.

The whole brotherhood is behind this cause. It has been launched at the request of Federal Conference. Splendid co-operation is being won in all the States from churches in raising the necessary quotas. We look forward to one hundred per cent. response to the call to prayer on Jan. 31 and continued support for the maintenance of the cause in the National Capital.

Commonwealth Campaign

Mark and Mrs. Rutherford will conduct their campaign throughout the Commonwealth from May 29 to Aug. 29.

This may well be one of the greatest ventures ever made by churches of



Christ in Australia. It holds the potential for the greatest advance of the Restoration Movement under the Southern Cross.

The Rutherfords are leaders in their fields. Mr. Rutherford is Associate

Director of Men's Work in the American Brotherhood. He is a dynamic speaker and will inspire the men of the churches to implement the four point programme he comes to introduce.

Mrs. Rutherford is a Counsellor of the Women's Work in the American Churches. Her contribution will be in guiding group leaders in the Christian Women's Fellowship and instructing in visitation evangelism in which enterprise she has been a most effective worker.

The Commonwealth Campaign is possible through the generosity of the United Christian Missionary Society and a score of sponsors in Australia.

Federal Conference

The Twenty-fifth Federal Conference will be held in Brisbane, Aug. 19-26, under the leadership of C. R. Burdeu.

The Queensland brethren are keen to have a large delegation from each State and have offered hospitality in church homes to all who desire it. They will be gracious hosts and have plans for the richest fellowship possible during Conference.

Registration forms are available from the secretary of every church in Australia. A rush of registrations will assist and encourage us all.

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C. G. Taylor, B.A., Editor. A. R. Haskell, Manager.

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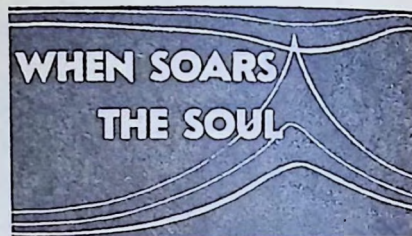
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



The crowd joined in the attack on Paul and Silas, and the Philipian magistrates had them stripped and beaten. After beating them severely, they put them in jail, and gave the jailer orders to keep close watch of them. He, having had such strict orders, put them into the inner cell, and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, suddenly there was such an earthquake that the jail shook to its foundations.—Acts 16: 22-26 (Goodspeed).

As Paul and Silas sang, they had an unseen audience. The other prisoners were listening to them. The word in the Greek has special significance. It is used of listening to God. As they listened these prisoners became aware of a longing for something "afar from the sphere of our sorrow." Their hearts were touched to wonder and wistfulness. Paul and Silas were unconscious of this unseen audience . . . Mark Rutherford tells us that after the publication of his Autobiography in which he told the story of his own difficulties and struggles, he received a surprising number of letters from people who told him he had been describing their own case. We all have an unseen audience and we ought to remember it. If life has wounded us, do we go about with a shadow on our face and complain about the injustices of life? Or do we reveal in our bearing and speech the serenity which is more than courage, and which comes from seeing through the storm One Who bids us be of good cheer, for he has overcome the world? —Dr. James Reid.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.—Francis of Assisi.

A. J. FISHER, surrounded by cards in his Perth manse, feels . . .

The After-Glow of Christmas



The angels came and went, but the song still echoes around the world. The shepherds saw the Babe in the manger, and then they just had to broadcast the news. Wise men worshipped and then disappeared in the distant East, but their gifts are remembered each year as tokens and presents pass from one to another on Dec. 25.

Approaching Christmas-time, I visited many homes, and it was lovely to see arrays of beautiful cards on mantle-pieces, or spread out on strings around the walls, all bringing memories of absent friends, distant places and other days. And now I look over the stack of lovely cards which we have received, and I pass on some impressions which they make after Christmas has gone.

Unity Amidst Diversity

What an amazing variety of cards, not two alike! Beautiful floral ones. Lovely scenes from all over the world. Birds and animals. Sacred and secular subjects. Plain cards and elaborate costly folders. Yet all focus attention upon the expression of goodwill and testify to the abiding influence of Christ. In many ways they tell the same story of "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."

Time and Distance Bridged

From the same street that we live in, from distant Eastern States, from the other side of the world—our cards have come to this little home in Perth. From friends of to-day and dear ones of the years gone by, from old and young, they come, all ignoring the years and expressing their kindly thoughts and good wishes right here and now. Good timing in despatching, efficient service by the Postal Department, and arduous hours by the postmen have brought them to our letterbox from India, America, England, New Zealand, every State of the Commonwealth, right to our door in time for December 25. How the world has shrunk! How we are reminded that the artificial divisions of race and country all break down before the Babe of Bethlehem!

The Tie That Binds

In varying degrees of emphasis, one thought emerges from all the cards. We are not strangers but friends and brothers in Christ. Some cards may only hint at this, but many of them have a deeply spiritual note, and thus

they witness to a living faith in the Christ. Even some which have a touch of humor help us to remember that the angel came to bring tidings of great joy, and so we can "rejoice in the Lord always." At Christmas time strangers greet strangers, and both are the better for it.

Artistic Beauty

Perhaps no one dared to send us a card designed by the modern surrealist school, although some which we received reproduced the work of Indians, Aborigines, and famous artists, and some were pencil sketches, water colors, or oil paintings. Among those which we received were many very beautiful ones. In fact, one was so lovely that it has been framed and hangs in my study. As a matter of interest I classified the cards with the following results:

Floral designs, 30 per cent., Biblical designs, 25 per cent., Scenes, 22 per cent., Symbolic designs, 10 per cent., Simple greetings 10 per cent., Birds and Animals, 3 per cent.

It may be that the weird grotesque ideas of some modern artists did not lend themselves to the Christmas spirit, for after all it is a fact that "all things bright and beautiful . . . the Lord God made them all." Christmas lingers in the mind as an expression of the things that are pure, lovely and of good report.

We Cherish Them All

The whole collection of cards we received is very precious, but one or two stand out as of extra value or interest.

One is a simple card, with a cut-out flower pasted on it. It comes from the Cripple Children's School, and is made by one of the little cripples. With its greeting is the message:

"With love from the children. Thank you for driving us."

It is their touching way of expressing gratitude for transport to and from the school and their homes.

A card came from an Indian Christian, a native educationalist in one

of the Mission fields. It showed the manger scene and bore an inscription in Hindi. We treasure this.

An inexpensive card came from an Eastern State, with a verse which beautifully expresses the abiding Christmas message in this text and quotation:

"My peace I give unto you."
Peace like a river in fulness expanding,
Deeper than knowledge and past understanding;
Peace that Christ left with us till he appears,
Fill you with gladness and flow through the years.

What Will We Do With Them?

Of course, they will be kept for some time and examined with renewed appreciation. But do not then destroy them. They are too beautiful for that. Why not send them to the Aborigines Mission Stations or the Children's Hospitals? Youth clubs could spend an enjoyable night pasting them into exercise books, and so making scrap albums for hospitals, orphanages, etc. Some may be used as cut-outs for the kindergarten classes. Thus you will pass on the joy of Christmas. Let its glow continue to spread around and so illustrate Tennyson's words:—

Our echoes roll
From soul to soul,
And grow for ever
And for ever.



BOOK OF FAMILY WORSHIP

"For those who will be using the 'Book of Family Worship for 1954'—whether at the Family Altar or in personal devotions—there is in store a happy spiritual pilgrimage and a Scripture treat. The brevity and yet the completeness of the Scriptures chosen are a triumph of selection as is the appropriateness of the well chosen themes. The prayers are at once suggestive and stimulating. Of special appeal is the prayer for 'New Settlers.' The intercession for 'The Sick' is moving.

"Altogether this little booklet is a credit to its compiler and to the Committees he represents. Its use throughout 1954 will be a blessing to us.

"May it be given the opportunity it merits!"—R. M. Wilson, Tasmania.

(Obtainable from Austral. 4d. per copy, plus postage.)

G. P. PITTMAN, Parkdale, Vic., from the vantage of long years of service,
salutes

The Power of Gratitude

It was gratitude that brought the Samaritan, healed of leprosy, back to Jesus to fall on his face at his feet giving him thanks and glorifying God with a loud voice. Faith healed his body, and gratitude healed his soul.

Where are the Nine?

The nine Jews who failed to return were healed by their faith in Jesus, but smitten with the leprosy of the soul—ingratitude.

Possibly they did not return just because the Samaritan did. Why should they follow the lead of a foreigner and a heretic? The Jews once said to Jesus, "Thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil." Their theory evidently was that all Samaritans were devil-possessed. Bigotry and intolerance hardened their hearts against gratitude to Christ. Ingratitude prevented them from rising to the height of faith reached by the Samaritan, who evidently saw God in Christ.

The nine Jews thought they were fine fellows to go straight to the priests as Jesus had commanded them. They forgot that they could return first to Jesus to thank him, and afterwards show themselves to the priests to get their bill of health. Gratitude would have saved them from the form of obedience without its spirit.

It is a wonder they did not go away in a rage like Naaman. Their faith saved them from that stupidity, but gratitude such as Naaman showed would have saved them from ignoring their debt to Jesus.

If they could have known the omniscience of Jesus, who knew that all the lepers had been cleansed, although the nine were out of sight at the time, they would perhaps have returned along with the Samaritan.

Nine-tenths is a large proportion, but it is probably not too large for the multitudes in Christian lands who never attend church, read the Bible, enjoy the Christian service, hold family worship, or give thanks to God.

A minister in a crowded district kept records of his visitation for over twenty years, and found that out of two thousand sick persons who had told him they would lead a new life if they recovered, only two of them showed by their conduct after restoration to health that they were

grateful to God. Two out of two thousand!

In the majority of churches, where the Lord's Table is always an after-service, it is generally seen that only a small minority remain to commune, while the large majority, who have joined in all the prayers and praises of the preceding service, go away feeling no obligation to show their gratitude to Christ in the Supper, which is essentially a thanksgiving for salvation.

The causes of ingratitude are many and various. A few of them are callousness, sluggishness, hard-heartedness, thoughtlessness, pride, self-satisfaction, envy, cowardice, scorn, meanness, worldliness, procrastination.

Give Thanks to God!

Shakespeare makes King Lear say "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." Some evidently think that it does not matter to God whether we thank him or not as he does not stand in need of our gratitude, but we may be sure that our heavenly Father feels more keenly than earthly parents the serpent-bite of ingratitude.

All lepers were shut out from the cities of Israel for the sake of the people, and those who are not healed of the leprosy of ingratitude may find themselves shut out from the City of God, if they do not repent.

The Prayer Book says "it is very meet) right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to God," and yet there are many Christian families that never even give thanks at their meal-tables.

All life is an outflow from the life of God, and to shut our eyes to his love is to fall back into darkness, forfeiting the spiritual strength which always comes with the acknowledgement of his mercies.

Gratitude brings into the heart the full assurance of faith, banishing all doubt, and if any man should be tempted to imagine that he has committed the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit, let him praise God for all his good gifts, because that sin consists essentially in obstinate, unchanging hatred to Christ and ingratitude to him.

Wordsworth, deeply moved by the thanks of a poor old man to whom he had rendered a small service, wrote:

"I've heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds

With coldness still returning;

Alas! the gratitude of men

Hath oftener left me mourning."

There is something in gratitude that touches the deepest feelings of our hearts, and all gratitude moves the great heart of the Father of our spirits.

The Joys of Gratitude

Gratitude is in itself a delightful sensation that heightens the power of enjoyment. It may be called a sixth sense that opens a new world to the mind, and adds new realms to our experience.

Our love grows as we express it, and we only advance as we become experts in gratitude. A thankful heart increases the joy of work, and the glory of true wisdom. Wealth is redeemed from sordidness by gratitude expressing itself in gifts to others. Gratitude is looked for by men; how much more by God. There will be no unthankfulness in heaven, and we should strive to banish it from earth.

In cold climates, under the great waterfalls, huge icicles form immense stalagmites, gradually rising up until they threaten to freeze the very river whose overflow formed them. Divine favors, frozen by our ingratitude, rise up against God himself, and oppose the free flow of his mercy and loving-kindness to men.

Gratitude is the love through which faith works, and it has inspired most of our hymns, and is a vital element in all worship. The gratitude of one unfortunate woman, saved by Jesus, won from him a prophecy of worldwide and undying renown. The greatest sinners become the greatest saints through the power of gratitude.

Thanksgiving, thank-offerings, praise to God and gratitude to him are commended and commended hundreds of times throughout the Bible. Almsgiving in gratitude to God is taught in both Old and New Testaments, and in the day of judgment all acts of kindness towards the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned, the naked and the homeless will be recognised and rewarded as if done to Jesus himself, and the King of Glory will declare his gratitude personally to all who have so acted. As Jesus is grateful to all who render

(continued at foot of next column.)

WOMEN

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

**Women's Federal
Missionary Education . . .
Syllabus, 1954.**

DEVOTIONAL THEME:

"FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT."

- February, Love, 1 Cor. 13.
- March, Joy, John 15: 1-11.
- April, Peace, James 3: 5-18.
- May, Long suffering, 1 Thess. 5: 1-14.
- June, Kindness, Luke 10: 25-37.
- July, Goodness, Matt. 5: 1-16.
- August, Faithfulness, Luke 12: 35-48.
- September, Meekness, Psalm 25: 1-9.
- October, Self-Control, Mark 15: 1-20.
- November, Gratitude, Luke 17: 11-19.
- December, Stewardship, Matt. 22: 15-22.

TOPIC PAPERS. THEME:

**"NEW VENTURES FOR CHRIST."
IN**

- February, Queensland (Home Missions).
- March, Queensland (Youth Work).
- April, Western Australia (Home Missions).
- May, Western Australia (Social Service).

(continued from previous page.)

such services to others, we also should be grateful to him who rendered us the greatest service of all in his life and death.

When an immense multitude of Moabites came against King Jehoshaphat to battle, the king prayed to God, and by divine direction a large company of singers went before the army as they marched, and when they began to sing and praise and give thanks to God, we are told that the Lord set liers in wait against the Moabites, and they were all destroyed, so that the armies of Israel did not need to fight, and God made them to rejoice over their enemies and the fear of God fell on all the surrounding nations. Gratitude to God will give us the victory over all our spiritual enemies through Jesus Christ our Lord. If we glorify God he will glorify himself; if we praise him he will prove himself praiseworthy. If we thank God from whom all blessings flow, greater and greater blessings will flow like a river from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

- June, Australian Capitol Territory.
- July, Search for Greater Unity.
- August, India.
- September, New Hebrides.
- October, Native Missions.
- November, Good-Will to New Australians.
- December, Women's Work.



Programme for February

Devotional Theme: "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT."

R. McCallum, N.S.W.

CALL TO WORSHIP.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and shew ourselves glad with psalms.

HYMN.

No. 41, "O come, loud anthems sing."

PRAYER.

"O God, who hast given unto us thy Son to be an example and a help to our weakness in following the path that leadeth unto life, grant us so to be his disciples that we may tread in his footsteps: for his Name's sake, Amen."

MEDITATION.

"Fruits of the Spirit" . . . LOVE.

A young preacher for his first pastorate went to a cold climate, where some fruits and vegetables that grew in the garden at home were there, only grown in glass houses. Where he boarded he soon became as "one of the family," and when he said he thought tomatoes should ripen out-of-doors he was told to go ahead and try.

The plants grew well, flowered, and there were promising clusters of green tomatoes hanging from the bushes when he went on his holidays. He returned early one morning, and whilst seated at the breakfast table he saw through the window that there was a beautiful red tomato showing on one of the plants. With "I said it could be done" he rushed out to pick it, only to find that an imitation had been tied on and the

green one had advanced no further than when he went away.

In our devotional meditations this year, we are to think about "fruits" which are not subject to climatic conditions, for the same fruits can be grown in the heat of Africa or in the cold of Labrador. However, there is one condition necessary:

Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

LOVE, a fruit of the Spirit, will develop according to our abiding in Christ, and without it, even good deeds appear on closer scrutiny to be imitation or undeveloped fruit.

BIBLE READING.

1 Cor. 13.

PRAYER.

"Almighty and Eternal God, who hast revealed thy nature in Christ Jesus thy Son as love, we humbly pray thee give us thy Holy Spirit to glorify thee also in our hearts as pure love, and thus constrain us by thy Divine power to love thee with our whole souls, and our brethren as ourselves: that so by thy grace we may be fulfilled with love, and evermore abide in thee, and thou in us, with all joyousness, and free from fear or distrust: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

HYMN.

No. 172, "Breathe on me, Breath of God."

BUSINESS.

MISSIONARY LETTERS.

PRAYER FOR MISSIONS.

SOLO.

TOPIC.

"New Ventures for Christ" (Fortifying Frontiers in Queensland).

HYMN.

No. 611, "The gospel banner lift on high."

PRAYER.

"Grant, O Lord, that all whom thou dost choose to work for thee may this day labor in union with thy holy purposes and in living unity with thy dear Son Jesus Christ, that by the power of thy Holy Spirit they may accomplish far more than they ever know, and work not for results, but for the single love of thee." Amen.

BENEDICTION.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Calling Brotherhood to Prayer

They were tense days during World War II, when thousands of people throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations flocked into the churches, and poured out their hearts' petition to God for the very preservation of the lands we loved, and for the safety of our own lives. Our King had called us. The aerial Battle for Britain; the impending invasion of the British Isles by a military machine so vastly superior in strength and equipment; the evacuation of Dunkirk; the turning back of the enemy from the outskirts of Port Moresby—in each circumstance our very need led us to the throne of God in earnest prayer.

They were great days, too, for we sensed again the power of the living God, Who heard and answered the pleadings of the people. Many took these things for granted, but to multitudes it was a reassurance of the overruling Providence of the Almighty, and it left a deep impression.

At times we are all prone to overlook the power of prayer. In the beauty of its language and even in the familiarity of the everyday habit, we may tend to miss its power. Prayer does two things—it prepares our own hearts, placing us in an attitude that makes us receptive even to the things for which we pray; and it links us with the Great Source of all wisdom, love and power. How foolish we sometimes are in neglecting this great fellowship and relationship with our Creator.

Almost coinciding with Australia's National Day is the commencement of greater brotherhood witness in our nation's capital. It is the culmination of many years of careful thought and preparation. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest pieces of brotherhood co-operation in the homeland, and we thank God for its realisation.

The presence of the Federal Houses of Parliament has made Canberra a strategically important centre, but it is also now emerging as a great city with an immediate population target of 42,000 by 1958. We as churches of Christ have a contribution to make to the people who are so closely associated with the framing and administration of our national way of life. We believe it is an opportunity we must grasp with both hands, and sleeves rolled up. It is our high privilege to proclaim the message of salvation, in Christ and the inspiration he gives for life, and to call all Christians to unite and shake the world with the witness of the Church of Jesus Christ.

In Washington, capital city of the United States of America, the witness

Donald K. Beiler, Chairman, S.A.
Canberra Committee

of our brotherhood has been established for many years. One of America's Presidents, James Garfield, whose efforts to purify and reform the administration of that country are known to us, was a member of our American brotherhood. Alexander Campbell, pioneer of our movement, was given the honor of addressing both Houses of Congress, and in



G. R. Stirling, B.A

these and many other ways, we have made a contribution in the "high places."

In Canberra, ambassadors from many countries reside, and together with Members of our Federal Parliaments, thousands of civil servants of many Government Departments, scores of adolescents and boys and girls will provide the field for evangelism. Into this situation we move on Jan. 31. Dare we embark on so great an undertaking without the sure undergirding of the power of God in the service we are undertaking for him?

Many have made generous gifts to make this move possible. Of the £15,000 needed immediately, more than £12,000 has been contributed,

and there is no doubt that this requirement will be fully met as we all get a vision of the opportunity that is ours. Our present members in Canberra are faithful and enthusiastic. Chairman of the Officers' Board, Sydney Moignard, writes: "We have glimpsed a great opportunity to advance his cause in this city. The responsibilities will be a practical test of our faith and vision. A new year of vital work is very near, and we need your prayers to help us plan with wisdom, and move forward with courage into 1954."

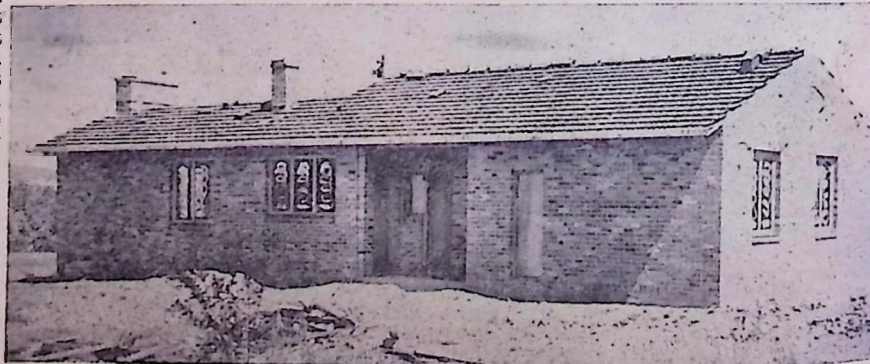
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stirling and family have dedicated themselves to the task and are laying at the feet of the Master their consecration and enthusiasm. Their ministry of 8½ years in South Australia has been monumental.

THE CALL SOUNDS OUT TO EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN OUR AUSTRALIAN BROTHERHOOD TO FORGE A CHAIN OF PRAYER ENCIRCLING OUR LAND ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, invoking the blessing of Almighty God upon the launching of this greater witness in the principal city of our Nation.

IN COMMUNION SERVICES AND IN GOSPEL SERVICES—LET THERE BE PRAYER; AMONG THE ENDEAVORERS AND IN THE BIBLE SCHOOLS—LET PRAYERS ASCEND; FROM PERTH TO BRISBANE, and from every fellowship between and beyond; IN OUR PRIVATE DEVOTIONS AT MORNING AND EVENING—

LET US UNITE IN PRAYER,

and may Jan. 31 be a rich experience for us all, and especially for the brethren who will be so vitally engaged in the work for which we are praying.



Newly-erected manse, Canberra

MISSIONARY NEWS

(Notes supplied by
A. Anderson, sec. F.M. Board.)

WOMEN'S EVANGELISTIC WORK (Annual Report, Baramati)

(In view of the fact that Hazel Skuce will be home on furlough early in the New Year this article has a greater interest in that it tells of the work she has been doing in recent days.)

We continue to give praises to our Heavenly Father for his continued mercies and for his watch, care, and for the mercies we have received in this past year.

The staff this past year has consisted of two trained Biblewomen and two trained nurse-Biblewomen. Since June we have been happy to have Miss Roberts come and join us.

Two Bais went into the United Theological College for training in children's work.

During this past year we have continued to hold the Children's classes in Baramati and the surrounding villages. Our classes continue to grow. In these classes we have some very bright and promising children, and it is in the years to come that we will reap the fruits of the seed now being sown.

The work among the women continues in Baramati and the nearby places. There is always a ready response wherever we go in Baramati. From the contacts that have been made at the Friendship Centre we are able to enter into the homes. Our need is more time to be able to visit these homes, and spend time with the women. Two of the girls from the Centre now in Teachers' Training wish to become Christians. It is my prayer that at Christmas time these young ladies, while they are home, will follow their Lord in baptism. I had a very happy time with them in Poona at the Training College the other week.

The work at the Welfare Centre continues to go on steadily. There are disappointments and encouraging incidents here from the work among the mothers and babies. One of the mothers whom we helped for a number of months has told me of her desire to become a Christian, and we have her husband's permission, but as yet the father-in-law will not consent. As both the husband and wife live

in the father-in-law's house for the present they have to abide by his decisions.

The Adult literacy report will be given by Mr. Waghmode. The women have done very well in their learning.

We have paid visits to Shirsaphul and a number of visits with Mr. Dixon to the more distant places. We also thank Mr. Heard for making his car available to us.

As we enter into this new year of service for our Master our prayer is that we may see greater works done for him and souls added daily to his Church.—Hazel Skuce.



BARAMATI FRIENDSHIP CENTRE (Annual Report)

During my absence the work at the Centre was efficiently conducted by Miss Skuce and Mr. Heard, who greatly endeared themselves to the members there. The number at the men's side is now 422 adults, and 150 boys. The number of regular Bible readers is 20.

On the ladies' side, the number is 915 adults and 55 girls. A good number take part in indoor games, and many are taught knitting and needle work.

One Brahmin has confessed himself a secret believer in Christ, and a couple of Maratha girls have expressed their desire for Christian baptism.

The Centre has made some impact on the educated and caste people of the town. It has broken down caste distinctions and religious prejudice and antagonism to Christian Missions.

People have shown an extremely friendly attitude to the Christian enterprise.

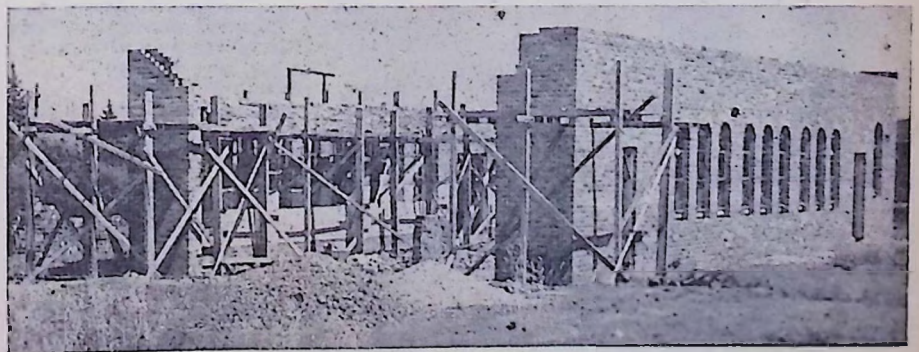
Bibles and Scripture portions have been distributed freely, and accepted gladly by the members. Our stock of Bibles is exhausted; but due to the generosity of certain people in Australia this stock will soon be replenished.

Some of the members of the Friendship Centre welcomed the Federal Secretary and expressed their appreciation of and gratitude for the Centre. The move was entirely a spontaneous one on their part. It seems to have been the dawn of a new era in this part of our world. They also expressed the opinion regarding the inadequacy of the present accommodation which fact seems to have convinced the Federal Secretary. It was a good thing for the representative of the Australian brotherhood to meet the recipients of such Christian benefits asking for more.

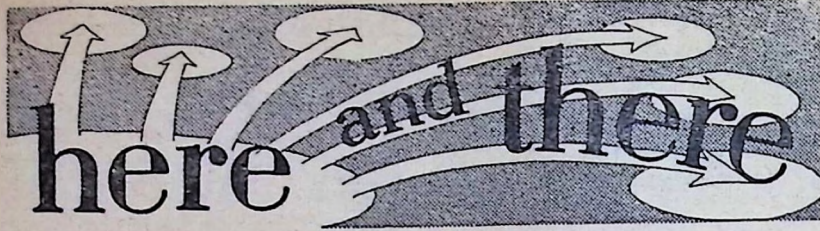
In conclusion, I wish to thank the Brotherhood at home for their continued support, and also to churches and individual persons for their special contributions of money, magazines, knitting materials and other paraphernalia, which have added to the usefulness of the Centre as a Christian institution with vast possibilities of the future.—John Bairagi.



On the occasion of its 150th birthday the British and Foreign Bible Society is publishing a first edition of 100,000 copies of the Jubilee Bible for young people. This is the Authorised Version without note or comment. It is complete, but so arranged that the Bible narrative flows on in an uninterrupted fashion; passages, especially in the Old Testament, which are concerned with genealogies, itineraries specifications and measurements, and other technical matter, are placed in three columns on the lower half of the page, in their right sequence and of equal importance, yet not impeding the Bible story.



All-purpose building, Canberra, in process of erection



We are glad to note the names of at least two of our preachers among those who have now qualified for their Arts degree; A. A. McRoberts (Maylands, W.A.) and H. Gross (Ascot Vale, Vic.). We congratulate these and others who have gained examination successes.

Former students of the College of the Bible who are studying at an Australian University and are eligible for assistance through the T. E. Rofe Settlement should contact the secretary (K. A. Jones) immediately, indicating their progress in studies.

K. W. Barton, L.Th., who has been ministering to the church at Taree, N.S.W., has accepted a call to the church at Warrnambool, Vic. R. Saunders, of Bexley North, N.S.W., is concluding his ministry with the church there, and will soon begin his new work at Hamilton, Vic.

Mrs. Ruby J. Oliver, 67 Rochester-rd., Balwyn, E.8., Vic., reminds those who are interested in the support of Bible women, that she would be pleased to receive donations from regular subscribers as soon as possible, and that she would be glad to welcome new contributors to this worthy fund.

Newcomer to the Victorian Sheffield Shield cricket team selected for the northern tour is Lewis Carter, an active Bible school teacher, morning president and former officer of the church at Brighton, Vic.

The Austral has received from U.S.A. a limited quantity of A Functional Church Organisation (W. M. Wickizer). This booklet is an invaluable aid for preachers and churches preparing a planned programme, many ideas and suggestions being contained in its pages. Price is 1/6 (1/9) each.

E. R. Sherman, B.A., Dip.Ed., concludes this month his six years' ministry with the church at Maylands, S.A. prior to commencing educational work at Moe, Vic. G. M. Mathieson, of Hawthorn, S.A. has accepted a call to Maylands and will begin his ministry there in May. Meanwhile, A. H. Wilson will lead in an interim ministry.

The Tasmanian local committee of the Vic.-Tas. H.M. committee is arranging a visiting speaker for Devon-

port each month. The December visit on Dec. 27 took the form of an after-Christmas service. K. Younger (reader), N. Monson (solo) and C. J. Orr (speaker) took part in the morning service. The evening service was conducted by K. Younger and items were given by the party from Launceston, with G. J. Foot as speaker. Items were a duet (Mr. and Mrs. K. Younger), quartette, (Lynette Wilmot, G. J. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. Younger), and these together with Mrs. G. J. Foot, Misses L. Holden and M. Edwards rendered a group item. R. Pitt, snr. was organist. Good attendances, a fine spirit, and rich fellowship ensured a very enjoyable day for all.

In one of those letters which light up an editor's New Year mail, Mrs. W. H. Leng (Horsham, Vic.) says, "I find the 'Christian' very helpful and interesting. I have been a constant reader for 34 years and would not do without it." Thanks, Mrs. Leng—and all like you!

Other responsibilities have made it necessary for D. W. Hibburt, B.A., Dip.Ed., to relinquish his work as news editor for this journal, after a year of helpful service. A member of the Austral staff will in future edit news of the churches. Reporters are asked to help make these real "news" columns. Report fortnightly if possible, rather than long monthly or quarterly reports. Please record important events promptly; items dating back more than a month lose interest and may be deleted from reports.

The Centenary Conference Sermon, "A Divine Imperative," delivered by Principal E. Lyall Williams, M.A., in the Melbourne Town Hall on April 5, 1953 has now been printed by the Austral at the request of the Victorian Literature Committee. Copies are available from the Austral at 3d. plus postage.

Fourteenth church anniversary services at Morwell, Vic., were successful. Dr. Oldfield was guest speaker at morning meeting, also at P.S.A. Items were rendered by Miss P. Preston, Dr. Crooks and a party from local churches and World Convention Choir recordings were enjoyed. Prejudice was shown at evening service. B.S. is increasing and two scholars have made the good confession. Ladies'

Guild made presentation of £100 to the church. Ladies' stall realised £42 and it is hoped to have bi-monthly stalls. Christmas parcel was sent to Guest Home. B.S. and parents enjoyed break up social and prize giving. Scholars participated in fancy dress. Companions and Explorer clubs invited parents along for Christmas social and kinder was visited by Santa Claus. A number of visitors have been welcomed during recent weeks.

J. E. Shipway has commenced the eleventh year of his ministry with the church at Hindmarsh, S.A.

Features of the thirtieth anniversary of Bundaberg church, Qld., were inspiring services, addressed by S. Vanham, Conf. Pres.; a sit-down tea, attended by 130; and a sacred concert. Manse offering benefited by £35. F. D. Craig is present minister.

World Convention Opens New Headquarters Office

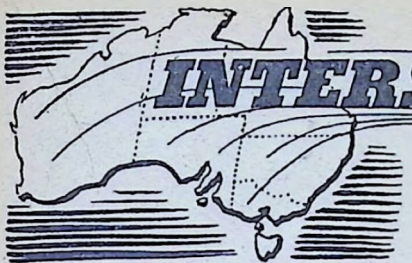
Word has been received from Jesse M. Bader, General Secretary of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, that a new office has been opened in the Flatiron Building in New York City, located at 23rd Street and Fifth Avenue. The address is Room 902, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

This new headquarters office for the World Convention was opened in this new location on Jan. 1. The office secretary is Imogene Mitchell, who has served in the National Council of Churches as Dr. Bader's secretary for 22 years.

Dr. Bader will plunge at once into preparations for the Fifth World Convention to be held in Toronto, Canada, Aug. 16-21, 1955. Also, the plans and programme of the Convention's Study Committee, of which Dean O. L. Shelton is the chairman, will have immediate attention.

Dr. and Mrs. Bader will visit Great Britain this year. They will leave New York on April 20 by Pan-American and will return on May 16. Mrs. Bader is the Vice-President of the United Bible Societies of the world. This organisation, representing 24 countries, meets in London the last week in April. She will preside over some of the sessions. Following the Convention, the Baders will visit the churches of Christ in Great-Britain in six or eight centres before returning home.

The opening of a headquarters office for the World Convention in New York City was upon action of the Executive Committee at its meeting in Toronto last October.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Valmae Williamson, Hartley Jolly, Deane Butson, David Smith, Carol Paul, Brian James, Gwenda Tregloan, Mary Pickup, Bruce Berry, Vivian DeBoo, Annetta DeBoo, Whyalla, S.A.

Mrs. Edwards, Keith Cockburn, Gladis Rooney, Daphne Rühle, Mr. Rooney, Moorook, Qld.

Allan Wissman and Ernest Steffan, Bundaberg, Qld.

Pat Scott, Claremont, W.A.

Phyllis Knapp, and A. J. Rogers, Perth, W.A.

Miss Gillam, Audrey Slater, Trevor Holmes, Warwick, Qld.

Fay Wellington, Maryborough, Vic. Maureen Zanos, Warrnambool, Vic. Joy Stanley, Robert Read, Morwell, Vic.

Robert Wright, Trevor Jones, Norwood, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Firman, Wagga, N.S.W.

Miss M. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Lahey, Geelong, Vic.

Karin and Ewald Radzic, Wangaratta, Vic.

Dick Duckett, Ararat, Vic.

Robin McCann, East Malvern, Vic.

Samlyn Hattam, Elizabeth Bremner, Wendy Stamp, Lynette Cooper, Jeanette Taylor, Malvern, Vic.

Membership

Mrs. G. A. Fielding from Fremantle, W.A. to Perth, W.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Schirmer, from Rockhampton, Qld. to Bundaberg, Qld.

Ruth Harling, from Kingaroy, Qld., to Bundaberg, Qld.

Mrs. McKinnon, Miss. M. Sunderland, Claremont, W.A.

Sis. Dean from Toowoomba, Qld., to Maryborough, Qld.

A. Burns, Georgetown, N.S.W.

R. A. and W. P. Jarvis, Emerald, Vic.

Mrs. N. Chambers, Cowandilla, S.A.

Mrs. Harrison, G. Harrison, from Sth. Melbourne, Vic. to Essendon, Vic.

Marriage

Maureen Annear to Geoff. Ferrar, Launceston, Tas.

C. Templeman to C. Cobb, Maryborough, Qld.

Marjorie Miller to Harold Blyth, Wagga, N.S.W.

Betty Rapley to Les. Kavanagh, Wagga, N.S.W.

Cath. Ashmead to Keith Andrews, Wangaratta, Vic.

Dorothy Joyce to Gordon Pollard, Warracknabeal, Vic.

Muriel Drew to Richard Baldry, Essendon, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Dr. H. L. Lucraft, Perth, W.A.

Mrs. R. Prince, Nedlands, W.A.

C. Cutt, Claremont, W.A.

Mrs. Gemmel, Maryborough, Vic.

Mrs. Richardson, Devonport, Tas.

A. M. Goldsworthy, Essendon, Vic.

Mrs. A. E. Ferguson, Essendon, Vic.

Mary A. Holyoak, Hornsby, N.S.W.

Tasmania

Launceston (J. A. Luff).—Combined Invermay-Margaret-st. Christmas Fair on Dec. 12 raised £96 for C.O.B. refurbishing, day concluding with fancy dress Christmas party. Y.W.F. finished year of activity with special programme on Dec. 7, at which offering of £10 was received for U.N. Children's Relief Appeal. Programme included nativity play. Explorers, and Good Companions' Clubs held combined Christal social. J.C.E. conducted special Christmas service on Dec. 20 to which parents and friends were invited. B.S. put on a Christmas play reading Dec. 20. Special Christmas service was held on evening of 20th with appropriate singing by choir, service being preceded by specially recorded music. Redecorating of chapel interior including laying of carpet has been almost completed. Service on Dec. 6 was broadcast over TNT. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. R. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Scott-Brown, Miss M. Sparkes and B. Crowden (Vic.).

Nubeena-Highcroft (E. W. Taylor).—Service on Christmas night at Nubeena was well attended; carols, solos, play and recitations expressed the spirit of Christmas. Annual B.S. picnic held on New Year's Day was

marred by rain. Attendances at B.S. and C.E. at Highcroft have increased. B.S. picnic was held, many visitors attending. Concert at night was well attended, bringing anniversary celebrations to successful conclusion.

Devonport.—Speakers during Dec. have included Messrs. Pitt, Burt, Byard and Stevens. Assistance of local and visiting singers at gospel services has been appreciated. B.S. and kinder dept. held enjoyable Christmas party. Several Y.P. attended camp at Dover.

Western Australia

Lake-st., Perth (A. J. Fisher).—Broadcast services continue effective ministry. Church has formed Sunday hospitality committee for visitors. A. G. Elliott (N.S.W.) has addressed church while on holidays. Church picnic and cricket match took place at Monger's Lake on Jan. 1. Greetings have been received from Mrs. Tilbee (Bankstown), Mr. and Mrs. Pollock (U.S.A.), Mr. and Mrs. Maston Bell (Dhond and London). Church's sincerest sympathy has been extended to loved ones of Mrs. Reg. Berry, Mrs. Reg. Prince and Dr. Harry Lucraft.

Maylands (A. A. McRoberts, B.A.).—Attendances for December averaged 91 at morning and 97 at evening. Most auxiliaries are in recess for holiday period. Lloyd Wyss and Joy Ingleton have completed Teachers' Training College course, and have received school postings. Men's fraternal conducted successful concert on Dec. 5, with assisting artists, £14 being received towards building fund. Church meeting on Dec. 16 approved plans for new church building. On Sunday evening Dec. 20, all Protestant churches in Maylands joined in combined Christmas service in Town Hall. Y.P. arranged postal service for Christmas cards between local church members, postage equivalent going to Building fund. H.M. offering was £25/8/-.

North Perth (C. H. Hunt).—Ladies' Aid, J.C.E., B.S. and kinder dept., all held successful Christmas functions. Y.P.S.C.E. visited Brentwood hospital for carol singing on Dec. 20. B.S. has shown increase during the year. Choir is now assisting gospel services. Greetings have been exchanged with mission fields. K. Wedd is assisting church at Shenton Park.

Queensland

Boonah (A. B. Clark).—Y.P. of circuit held combined break-up on Dec. 17. Three persons who confessed Christ during Warwick mission were baptised at Boonah. Brethren from

Warwick had fellowship at morning and evening services, and a young man made good confession. B.S. presented Christmas programme at evening service on Dec. 13. Kinder children presented programme at annual Christmas tree. Miss J. Green has undergone operation in England.

Maryborough.—Mr. Wilson concluded his ministry on Nov. 29. He was farwelled at a social, and presented with several tokens of appreciation. Church service was broadcast on Nov. 22. B.S. Christmas tree was held on Dec. 10.

Toowoomba (E. T. Hart and F. J. Winter). — Auxiliaries are in recess. Y.P.F. concluded year with concert. A Christmas gift of two arm-chairs was made to Aged Christians' Home by Y.P.F. Carol singing on Christmas Eve was abandoned because of rain. Sixteen attended senior camp at Caloundra. Recent speaker has been H. E. Paddick (Roma).

New South Wales

Georgetown (L. G. Burgin).—Carol singers sang in streets and at local hospital, favorite hymns being sung to patients. Enjoyable bus picnic at Toowoomb Bay was held on New Year's Day.

Rockdale (G. J. Andrews). — Mr. Corlett (Belmore) was morning speaker on Dec. 6. Evening service was conducted by W.F. On Dec. 13, A. Baker (Lidcombe) spoke at morning service and B.S. scholars conducted evening meeting. Christmas carols were sung in church grounds on Dec. 20. Special meeting was held on New Year Sunday.

Lismore (A. C. Caldicott).—Over seventy women were entertained by presidents of the Guild and W.M.B. at final meeting of year. Parcels have been sent to Carnarvon and Norseman. Since Hinrichsen's mission, communicants have averaged 145, offerings £30. At last officers' meeting it was decided to renovate adjoining house, installing resident caretaker for church property. Two young men plan to enter Woolwich this coming year. Y.P.S.C.E. are intrigued with series of meetings by local clergy speaking on "Why I am a Member of the Church to which I Belong." Endeavorers have donated £22 towards cost of local Hinrichsen broadcast session. Visiting speakers have included Mr. Charrington and V. Parker (Brisbane).

Mosman.—On Dec. 20 deacons had charge of both services. At morning meeting three of them gave a combined message on "The Unchanging Christ." At 7 p.m., V. Muir and C. Murray gave address in narrative form, interspersed with suitable Christmas hymns. On Christmas Day,

combined service was held in Baptist church and on New Year's Eve combined watchnight service was conducted in chapel. C. de Evelynes (C.R.M. Fellowship) and local brethren are assisting church in absence of a preacher.

Wagga (A. W. Morris).—Interest is being maintained and services are also held fortnightly at Henwood Park building. H. Oliver was welcomed back after illness. Mr. and Mrs. Morris visited Latrobe-terr. church (Geelong) for C.E. anniversary. On Nov. 25 social evening was held and presentations made to Mr. and Mrs. Blyth and Mr. and Mrs. Kavanagh. Christmas parties were held on Dec. 12. Open air services are being held each Sunday evening at 9 p.m. in Memorial gardens with number of listeners increasing. Dec. 13 was every member present Sunday, with a record attendance when new organ was opened. At evening service there were two decisions. Recent visitors have included J. Rigg (Coff's Harbour). Combined service was held with Baptist church on Christmas morning.

Taree (K. W. Barton, L.Th.).—At After-Church Fellowship on Dec. 20 thanks were expressed to Mrs. N. Branch and Mrs. A. W. Billingham, deaconess who did not seek election at last annual meeting. C. W. Redman and Mrs. H. H. Cox voiced church's appreciation. Mrs. Branch had unbroken service in this office since July 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Barton and their two children are at present on annual vacation with home folk in Tasmania. Appreciated help was given to church on Jan. 3 when D. Crowhurst (minister, local Baptist church) and Douglass Smith (Kingsford) were speakers.

Beverley Hills (N. Reese).—Successful Christmas social was held on Dec. 19. 7 a.m. Communion service was held on Christmas morning. Preacher has entered into further term of 2 years with church. A Monetary Gift has been sent to Mr. and Mrs. Munro in India. Recent speakers have been Messrs. Eager, Greenhalgh, Laney, Younghusband, Sparks, Gelds, Evans and Madigan. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. Taylor (Mudgee, N.S.W.).

Bexley North (R. W. Saunders).—Christmas tree for cradle roll and kinder scholars organised by Dorothy Yelds was covered with toys made by members and friends. B.S. Social was very successful as was Christmas concert arranged by Ron Watson. Proceeds of latter were £18. Service on Christmas morning was conducted by L. Yelds retiring offering amounted to £10. During absence of preacher on holidays, Dr. Millar, A. Harrison, L. Peterson, S. Laney and A. Cust were speakers. Several members were

involved in railway smash at Sydenham but all escaped serious injury.

Hornsby (K. R. Fennell).—Women's Guild conducted successful social evening on Dec. 18. Hornsby United Christian Fellowship held Christmas social in school hall, followed by carol singing on truck around the streets. Review of past year shows progress has been made. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. A. Thurrowgood and family (Nailsworth, S.A.). Recent speakers have been A. Allen, J. Dean, K. R. Fennell and G. Glazier. Four B.S. scholars attended junior camp, K. R. Fennell and Miss J. Glazier being amongst the leaders.

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.).—Communion service on Dec. 6 was broadcast over 2CH, Mrs. McWilliams being soloist, Mr. Larcombe organist, and Mr. Elliott preacher. Christmas community concert on Dec. 4 was very successful, C. Way leading in carols. B.S. social was held on Dec. 11, and kinder Christmas tree on 12th. Presentation was made to Patricia Cooke on eve of departure for Great Britain. Large attendance enjoyed special Christmas services on Dec. 13 and 20.

Albury.—Excellent reports were read at church business meeting. A. W. Morris (Wagga) has assisted during absence of a preacher, and C. Terry (Woolwich) has now begun short ministry. Meetings have been well attended. Y.W.F. held fourth birthday, Mrs. A. W. Morris being guest speaker. B.S. held annual Christmas picnic each child receiving a present.

Marrickville (P. E. Thomas, B.A.).—Cradle roll and kinder dept. held successful Christmas function. B.S. organised enjoyable evening. Church held "get together" social, Christmas carols being sung and items rendered. Fellowship programme and tea, arranged by Y.P. reflected great credit on all who took part.

South Australia

Unley (I. J. Chivell).—All Christmas functions were splendidly attended and much appreciated. B.S. held social evening, while kinders and beginners were visited by Father Christmas. J.C.E. conducted service at Rest Home and distributed gifts. On Christmas Sunday school combined for special service, when Nativity play in costume was presented. Church members and friends were entertained at carol singing and pictures on lawns at Mr. and Mrs. Jessup's home. On Christmas morning combined service with Baptist and Congregational churches was held, 120 remaining for Communion at the close. Retiring offering of £14 was received for W.C.C. Christmas appeal. Strathalbyn was again the scene of Y.P. camp, 43 being present. Campers took both

services at local church, speakers being E. Arnold and K. Bowes. Following their return, Y.P. took part in evening service, when two of their number confessed Christ. Congratulations are extended to Phil. Messent on successful completion of medical course. Rest Home Christmas dinner appeal realised £12.

Fullarton (A. H. Lennox).—On Dec. 20 Christmas carol service was arranged with soloists and orchestra assisting. Church sympathises with A. Phipps and Mrs. Thomas in loss of sister-in-law. Neil Young has obtained his L.Th. degree. Attendances over holiday period have been good and a number of visitors welcomed. J. K. Bond passing through from W.A., was a visitor to B.S. Christmas tree night, on Dec. 22. Jennifer Outlaw and Pat Sohey attended C.E. Camp at Mt. Barker each giving brief testimonies at the gospel meeting.

Norwood (A. R. Jones).—Boys' and Girls' Brigades held final meetings of year in the form of Christmas socials. B.S. Christmas tree was held on Dec. 15. Mr. Jones will terminate ministry at end of Jan. after 4½ years to take up work of Organising Secretary of Social Service Dept.

Grote-st., Adelaide (C. Candy).—Preacher has completed three years' ministry with church. On Dec. 4 Churches of Christ Choral Association under leadership of A. Glastonbury presented Handel's Messiah in chapel. On Dec. 13 four young men were baptised. On Dec. 19 church choir, led by W. Watson rendered cantata Bethlehem. New organ fund is progressing satisfactorily.

Whyalla (K. N. Roberts).—Many visitors had fellowship with church during the holidays. All auxiliaries are in recess. 12 Y.P. spent New Year's Eve hiking and before attending watchnight service enjoyed supper at member's home. During P. R. Baker's second visit five Y.P. made decision and some were baptised.

Hindmarsh (J. E. Shipway).—K.O.C. conducted social evening on Dec. 11 and splendid programme of items and films was enjoyed. Presentations were made to successful teams during the sports seasons, as well as individual gifts to players and instructors. R. Price was thanked for leadership given to K.O.C. and Miss Galliford for interest and help given to basketball teams. B.S. social and prize giving night was held on Dec. 15. Kinder Christmas tree was held on Dec. 18 when Father Christmas presented toys. Kinders presented effective tableau of nativity scene. Y.P. have assisted each Sunday evening in Dec. in month of services known as "Joyful Praise." Short addresses given have been a credit to them.

Tumby Bay (P. R. Whitmore).—Successful anniversary services were held in Nov., with G. R. Stirling as guest speaker and B.S. scholar made good confession. At annual prize giving, seven scholars gained certificates for 100 per cent. attendance. On Dec. 13 new hall was opened by R. Hammond and new kinder room by Mrs. Biddell. A fellowship tea was enjoyed. In the evening open baptism was dedicated to memory of the late G. Hammond, after which his grand-daughter was baptised. I. Nixon (Pt. Lincoln) and P. R. Whitmore were speakers. Preacher will conclude his ministry with the church in January.

Cowandilla (T. T. Robinson).—C. Bowers has recovered after operation. Clubs and auxiliaries had successful year. Kinder held successful Christmas tree. Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. C. Bowers and relations in the passing away of her father (Mr. Needham). H.M. offering to date is £83/5/9. Christmas dinner collection to aid Rest Homes amounted to £3/15/-. Several members visited Longwood Youth Camp on Dec. 26 and witnessed the dedication service and opening of the girls' dormitory by Mrs. G. Stirling. Church has enjoyed fellowship with several visitors including Fred Newcombe and family (W.A.) and Dr. Valerie Elms (Vic.).

Forestville (W. A. Russell).—Kitchen evening was tendered Maureen Clarke prior to marriage. Several I.C.E. members enjoyed C.E. camp. Three B.S. scholars have confessed Christ. New building project to provide more suitable accommodation for B.S. and a kitchen is to be commenced. Special offering of £330 has been received.

Maylands (E. R. Sherman, B.A., Dip.Ed.).—Christmas parties held in December were enjoyed by leaders and children. Offering from B.S. on Dec. 20 was used to provide Christmas cheer for three Indian orphans supported by school. Special Christmas music was rendered by choir at evening service on Dec. 20, with chosen excerpts from Messiah, interspersed with scripture readings and comments by Mr. Sherman. On Christmas eve more than 50 young people from circuit combined to sing carols at the homes of aged and sick folk. After supper at church, Mr. Sherman conducted Christmas service which concluded at midnight. United service was held Christmas morning at Methodist church — this culminated with communion and was well attended.

Victoria

Croydon. Since last news appeared student preacher, L. Christensen has left. Y.P. farewelled him on Nov. 21 with social evening; church members made presentation on Nov. 22,

after evening service. Visiting preachers since then have been G. Hearn (C.O.B.), K. Grafham (Balwyn Baptist), H. Walmsley (Boronia), and R. Sandells (Box Hill). Church looks forward to ministry of R. Brittain (C.O.B.). On Dec. 12 members and friends of church gathered for Christmas tea at which C. Young gave address. Films were later shown by Stan Lacey. On Dec. 19, Santa Claus called at B.S. Christmas party; social for older folks was held in evening.

Warrnambool (H. M. Long).—Splendid meetings were held in local Town Hall by an evangelistic team from Melbourne with F. A. Youens as speaker. Minister addressed well-attended combined Christmas service in Baptist church, also actively participated in recent "Home and Family Week." Sympathy of church is extended to family of Lily Mussen in the death of her father. W.M.B. held "talent" effort over seven-week period terminating at their final meeting of year. Fourteen ladies received 1/- each from funds which they turned into £40, put towards Manse Fund. B.S. staff has undergone some changes. Mrs. N. Loader has been appointed kinder supt. and Miss H. Thompson cradle roll supt. Recent speakers have been two out-going missionaries of C.I.M.; E. A. Coney (Jewish Evangelical Witness) and Fletcher Jones. Y.P.C.E. recently conducted meeting out on Framlingham Aborigine Mission. On Dec. 22 church farewelled Mr. and Mrs. C. LeCouteur and family who leave to take up full-time work with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. — Minister has been in hospital.

Gardenvale (H. Hunt).— Under supervision of F. Boulter, chapel has been renovated inside. £80 resulted from sale of work and gifts conducted by Ladies' Fellowship. Kinder and church Christmas parties were held at which twenty-one years' of service by F. J. Sumpton as B.S. supt. were recognised. At Christmas service dramatic society presented Birth of Christ. G. Tippet (National Service trainee) has been drafted to R.A.A.F. camp at Wagga.

Lygon-st., Carlton.—Recent speakers have been R. Geyer, L. Chapman, A. Thomas and Mr. Edwards. Prayer fellowship is well attended. W.M.B. collection for Emmaus Home amounted to £12. Mrs. Baker was present on Dec. 6 after long sickness, and Jennifer Faull is home from hospital.

Maryborough (M. A. Coombs).—Christmas tree for kinders was held on Dec. 13 and B.S. had mystery hike on 18th. Scholars brought toys for children in hospital. On Dec. 13, Mr. Coombs was inducted into full time ministry. Service being taken by S. Neighbour whose attendance

was appreciated. W.M.B. raised £16/10/0 for Nurses' Home. Quartet and choir helped in Christmas service. Midnight service was held on Christmas Eve, after which party of Y.P. went carol singing. K. Walters and C. Barker have been in hospital. Church sympathises with Mrs. Cullum in loss of mother.

Moreland (J. Turner, B.A.).—Friendship service was held on Dec. 6 after which presentation was made to Miss P. Preston and K. Crowlie on occasion of their approaching marriage. K.S.P. and P.B.P. held break-up social on 10th. Bible study group visited widows of church and gave Christmas gifts. Carol service took place on 20th and further singing was enjoyed at home of Mr. and Mrs. Shea.

Portland.—Church is appreciative of help given by visiting and local speakers including C. Jackel (Ballarat), G. Champness (Kaniwa), G. Philmer (Casterton) and E. Alexander. B.S. anniversary was successful, C. Jackel being speaker. Christmas tree was held on Dec. 13. New church building is going ahead and will shortly be opened. B.S. is increasing.

Ascot Vale (H. Gross, B.A.).—Kinder Christmas party was largely attended. Temple Day service planned by B. Sterling was held on Dec. 13, H. Gross being speaker. Offering amounted to £134. At close of meeting two ladies made good confession. Explorer club had successful break-up party. Church appreciates work of K. McKinnon and helpers during year. B.S. prize giving night was well attended.

Swan Hill (R. A. Banks).—During preacher's holidays services were conducted by G. A. Mott and G. Chislett. Preacher and Y.P. gave good reports on recent youth camp held at Mildura. Recent visitors included Miss B. Anderson (Wangaratta) and Lorraine Banks (Castlemaine). Mrs. J. Leech (Ultima) is recovering after serious operation.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).—Scholars' tea and Christmas tree were held on Dec. 18. On 20th special Christmas service was held with singing of carols. Y.P. presented Christmas play entitled *Soldiers of the King*, and assisted in carol singing choir in Red Cliffs Park, Christmas Eve. Mr. and Mrs. L. Chiswell and girls are on furlough from New Guinea. Men of congregation have presented new electric clock to church. Recent visitors included Mr. and Mrs. M. Milne (Heywood) Mrs. Dodemaide (Sunshine), Mrs. F. Etheredge (Avoca).

Maidstone (E. H. Randall).—On Dec. 20 B.S. held graduation service, followed in evening by special Christmas pageant incorporated in gospel service and conducted by the

Christmas message in hymn, reading and action was greatly appreciated by large congregation. L. Randall was in car accident but escaped serious injury. Fellowship has been enjoyed with Mrs. Pegg (Lygon-st.), Mr. Spalding (Hobart) and Mr. Tait (St. Melb). A. E. Hurren (Footscray) was speaker on Jan. 10.

Latrobe-terr., Geelong (T. A. Ferguson).—Christmas tree for kinder was held on Dec. 5, with social for older scholars at night. Many spoke appreciatively of service rendered by Mrs. A. Carr during many years as kinder supt. Her successor (Mrs. Rusenbergh) was introduced to parents. Tennis club held concert in aid of court improvements. Over sixty attended Christmas morning service. Church was pleased to welcome back Miss V. Cashmore and G. Wladysuik on vacation, also to have fellowship with many visitors. Members were happy to see K. Drayton at church on Dec. 27 after 21 months in hospital. During last few weeks four people have made good confession and been baptised.

Emerald (D. D. Stewart).—W.M.B. sponsored fair on Nov. 21, with satisfactory result of £50. On evening of Dec. 20 special hymn and carol service was held.

Red Hill (N. Gilmore).—On Dec. 12 C.E. met at home of Mrs. Andrews. A working bee has renovated church property. Christmas social was held on Dec. 19, when Father Christmas explained meaning of Christmas. On Dec. 20 many visitors were present, and chapel was filled. Two Y.W.L. members sang a hymn in German.

York-st., Ballarat (C. W. Jackel).—Garden party and sale of work arranged by Ladies' Guild was successful, £112 being received. Talent scheme has realised £40 for quarter. Both these efforts are for manse fund. Special music was sung by choir at evening service on Dec. 20, this being followed by open air song session. Record amounts have been received for brotherhood enterprises. Mr. and Mrs. R. Roberts and Miss Elliott are progressing after illnesses.

Wangaratta (R. J. Anderson).—South Wangaratta B.S. held Christmas tree and party when all scholars received a gift. Prizes for year were also distributed to scholars and cradle roll members. Wangaratta held its Christmas tree at which kinder and cradle roll children received gifts. Girls' and boys' clubs held combined break-up social. Special services were held on Dec. 20, when church became self supporting after 26 years. Thanks was expressed to H.M. Committee for support during that period. Speakers were W. Gale, K. Jones and B. J. Combridge who gave words of encouragement and help, also special

thanks to pioneer members. Baptismal service was held in the evening when two B.S. scholars were baptised. An evening was held to honor Miss C. Ashmeed and K. Andrews prior to their marriage.

BIRTHS.

BERRY (Sherriff).—On Dec. 24, at Eildon House, Ballarat, to Gwenda and Victor, a son—Ian James.

DAVEY (Williams).—On Jan. 9, at Airlie Hospital, Ivanhoe, to Joan and Stan, a daughter—Elinor.

LONG (Fraser).—On Jan. 1, at Warrnambool, Vic., to Harold and Joyce, a son—Robert Douglas, both well. A brother for Bruce and Graham.

DEATHS.

BLACK.—On Dec. 30, at Adelaide Repat. Hospital, William James, beloved husband of Olive, loving father of Iola (Mrs. Pearce), and Joy, brother of George, Lou, Mary and Boswell (dec.). Late 3rd Light Horse, aged 57 years.

GOLDSWORTHY.—On Jan. 2, Amelia Margaret, loved mother-in-law of Joyce, and loving nana of Yvonne. Peace, peace, sweet peace, the gift of God's love.

IN MEMORIAM.

EDDY.—In memory of our loving mother who passed away at Bendigo, Jan. 10, 1949.

"Ever remembered."

—Inserted by her loving family.

MORRIS.—Treasured memories of Victor Bransom, beloved husband of Dorothy, loved father of Alan and Betty. Called to higher service, Jan. 10, 1952.

MORRIS.—In loving memory of Vic. who passed away on Jan. 10, 1952. As long as life and memory last Vic. will not be forgotten.

—Inserted by A. Paradine.

TONKES.—Fond and cherished memories of our dear sister, Elizabeth Jane, who was called home Dec. 18, 1950. "Until the day dawns."

—Inserted by her loving sister Mary and brother-in-law, George.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE.

BLACK.—The wife, mother and sister of the late Guyatt Boswell (Jack) Black, the "flying storekeeper" thank relatives and friends for floral tributes, cards, letters, telegrams and personal messages of sympathy extended to them in their sad and tragic bereavement. Will all please accept this as a personal expression of heartfelt thanks as it is impossible to thank everyone personally.

(Other Personal Advt. on p. 30)

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Fire at Croydon, Vic.

At about 6.40 p.m. on Dec. 26, an employee in the Croydon Post Office saw smoke pouring from the windows of the Croydon church next door. He gave the alarm, with the result that the Croydon and Ringwood Brigades were soon fighting a fire inside the building. The fire was rapidly brought under control, and by that time several of the church members were present.

It was soon realised by them that this fire had not been started by an electrical fault, as they had at first supposed, but had been deliberately lit. A pile of smouldering debris in a corner of the main building told the story, which was confirmed by a trail of damage inside.

This pile had originally been books belonging to the church. A whole cupboard full of books from the vestry, including many copies of Alexander's and Sankey's hymnals, together with other miscellaneous books and papers, had been torn up and heaped in the now charred corner.

Also on the pile were the remains of about a dozen splintered kindergarten chairs, the big Bible from the pulpit, the cushion from the president's chair, one of a pair of platform chairs, and some curtains from the vestry. These curtains had been bodily torn down.

The highly polished communion table, a recent gift from one of the members, had been pushed over the pile and the whole fired. The heat inside the building, which is of weather-board, grew so intense that paint work some forty feet from the seat of the blaze was blistered. All the insulation of the electrical wiring was destroyed, and the installation became dangerous. The light in the building closest to the fire fell and was destroyed. It is thought that had the firemen been two minutes later the building would have been a total loss.

The firemen tore up the carpeting on the platform, and removed several blackened and damp sheets of plaster from the walls and roof. The inner wooden wall was burnt right through near the actual blaze. All the plaster that remains is blackened and crazed, especially that on the ceiling, whilst solder from ventilators has dripped on to the floor.

The organ stops had been pulled out and broken off, whilst wires in the mechanism of the piano had been bent and torn to such an extent that very few of the notes would sound. The wall clock had been hurled to the floor, whilst a quantity of plastic spoons in the vestry had been snapped into small pieces and thrown into the sand tray. A collection box full of pennies had been opened, and the contents scattered.

Willing members of the church worked late into the night to clean up the building, rubbing over the blistered varnish on the pews, and other furniture, and mopping and scrubbing the floor from which the sodden ashes had been shovelled.

Amongst the helpers was the Congregational minister, N. Robinson, and he kindly offered the use of his church for the evening service on the following day, as the lighting in the burnt building could not be used. He also offered to repair the organ. The morning service was held as

usual, a piano accordion providing the music. The Montrose church has already given a pulpit Bible to replace the one destroyed.

The person who raised the alarm saw two people run from the building. The police, acting on information received, detained a 19 year old youth, who it is believed has since confessed to the outrage.

The members of the Croydon church thank God for his mercy, in that the major part of the church building was saved, and look to him for guidance in the times to follow.



Week of Prayer

A week of prayer for Christian unity is being observed throughout the world, Jan. 18-25, 1954. We reprint a selection from the devotional material issued as guidance.

However much we desire to see growing evidence of the unity of the Church of Christ, we can expect very little if we do not pray fervently. Especially during these eight days should we join with Christians of many confessions and tongues in beseeching God to remove the barriers which separate his people from one another.

PRAYERS

Eternal and merciful God, who art the God of peace and not of discord: have mercy upon thy Church, divided in thy service; grant that we, seeking unity in Christ, and in the truth of thy holy Word, with one mind and one mouth may glorify thee, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst say to thine apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; regard not our sins, but the faith of thy Church, and grant it that peace and unity which are agreeable to thy will; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

LITANY FOR UNITY.

Almighty God, who didst make with us the New Covenant and said, I will be their God and they shall be my people,

Forgive and heal our divisions.

Merciful God, who didst name thy Son Jesus, that he should save his people from their sins,

Forgive and heal our divisions.

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst pro-

mise that where two or three are gathered in thy name, thou art in their midst,

Unite us in thy truth.

Son of the Living God, who didst assure thine apostle that the gates of hell shall not prevail against thy Church,

Unite us in thy truth.

Good Shepherd, who wilt gather all thy chosen sheep in one fold, so there will be one flock,

Unite us in thy truth.

Lamb of God, who didst give thyself for the Church and make it one Body in the baptism of the one Spirit,

Unite us in thy truth.

Bread of Life, who didst give the one loaf and the one cup for the nourishment of the Church which is thy Body,

Unite us in thy truth.

Spirit of God, who dost bestow diversities of gifts upon thy people for the edification of all,

Maintain our unity in the bond of peace.

Holy Spirit, who dost help our weakness of prayer and make intercession for us,

Maintain our unity in the bond of peace.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God everlasting, forgive and heal our divisions, unite us in thy truth, maintain our unity in the bond of peace.
Amen.

The oldest active parson in England, who had been in the ministry for 63 years, recently retired at the age of 97. The reason for his record? "I just could not afford to retire," he told a reporter. No comment.

ENGAGEMENTS.

GILL-OAKES.—The engagement is announced of Olga Eileen, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Gill, of Rye, to Donald Raymond, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Oakes, of East Kew.

REIDHEAD-GEISLER.—The engagement is announced of Glenda Joy, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Reidhead, 11 Barkley-st., Warragul, to George Alfred, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Geisler, Wodonga.

MARRIAGE.

MITCHELL-GAVROS.—The marriage of Fay, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Mitchell, Sunshine, Vic., to Nicholas, youngest son of Mrs. and the late Mr. D. Gavros, Adelaide, S.A. was solemnised at the church of Christ, Sunshine, Vic., by A. E. Hurren on Saturday, Jan. 9, 1954.

Future address—Church of Christ Manse, Invercargill, N.Z.

SILVER WEDDING.

BOLDUAN-WANGMAN.—Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Bolduan have much pleasure in announcing the 25th anniversary of their wedding celebrated by the late T. H. Scambler at Dandenong church of Christ on Jan. 12, 1929.

DOWSEY-WILLIAMSON.—Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Dowsey announce with pleasure and gratitude to God the 25th anniversary of their wedding which was celebrated at the Lygon-st. church of Christ, Carlton, on Jan. 26, 1929, by the late A. G. Saunders.

Anniversaries and Homecomings

NEWMARKET.—70th Church Anniversary and Homecoming, Feb. 28. 11 a.m., W. W. Saunders; 1 p.m., Luncheon; 7 p.m., D. W. Hibburt.

WATTLE PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPENING AND DEDICATION SERVICES.

Saturday, February 6, 1954.

2.45 p.m.—Opening by Dr. G. H. Oldfield. Address and Dedication, E. L. Williams, M.A. Soloist: Mrs. C. G. Taylor. Thanksgiving offering to be received.

Sunday, February 7.

11 a.m.—Speaker, Dr. G. H. Oldfield.
3 p.m.—Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.
7 p.m.—Speaker: H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D.

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Elderly lady requires furnished single room. Mrs. Williams, 58 Church-st., N. Fitzroy.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

Part time Supervisor for Girls' work required for Y.M.C.A. Youth Centre. Work amongst young girls in industrial areas is interesting and challenging to a Christian leader. Please contact A. Moodie, General Secretary, Y.M.C.A., for details.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

R. McKenzie, (preacher, North Richmond church,) 28 Blackwood-st., Carnegie, Vic. (UM 3228).

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