

Murray

HOME MISSION
ISSUE

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

WIDE OPEN DOORS



BEHOLD I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU AN OPEN DOOR...

Home Mission Hymn

1. *Of old, Christ to his servants said
"I send you, two and two,
The message of my love to spread
Your Syrian homeland through."*
2. *And lo! in tones as strong and clear
Christ speaks again tonight;
"Go forth," he says, "Why wait you here?
Your harvest fields are white.*
3. *"Australia's homes to me are dear
As those of Galilee;
Take them my message, far and near,
The inland to the sea.*
4. *"You know my love; but round you lo!
Ten thousand who are mine
But know me not; how should they know?
Go forth; that work is thine."*

(Words by W. N. Pratt,
an Australian writer.)



This photograph showing how the New Zealand 1953 Conference theme was symbolised applies with equal significance to this rapidly developing country. Virile Home Missionary activity can lead our Australian brotherhood through the "Wide Open Doors."

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QUEENSLAND *Plans Progress*

Prepares for Future Federal Aid—

PASTOR-EVANGELIST to continue. 2 NEW CIRCUITS.
4 FULL-TIME PREACHERS. ASSIST 9 CHURCHES.
RAISE AND SPEND £2000. ANNUAL OFFERING NEED, £1000.
S. W. Vanham, Secretary.

THE TASK

The thirty-nine churches in Queensland are getting to grips with their responsibility of evangelism throughout a great area extending one thousand miles north and several hundreds of miles from the coast. Through the State-wide work of the Pastor-Evangelist (S. W. Vanham) and by subsidies the Home Missions Committee helped twelve churches. Plans for 1955 envisage assistance to nine churches apart from those that the Pastor-Evangelist will serve. The Committee proposes to spend £2000, and of this £1000 is required from the Annual Offering on Nov. 28.

THORNBURY (VIC.) ADOPTS MACKAY

The action of the church at Thornbury, Vic., in adopting Mackay for special help starts something new in brotherhood fellowship and co-operation. Mackay has already responded by an increased effort. This church has maintained an unbroken witness for seventeen years, often without full-time leadership. Debt free to-day, its members are ready to take advantage of their great opportunity.

PLANS FOR THE FAR NORTH

The church at Charters Towers, almost one thousand miles from Brisbane, for 30 years witnessed eight hundred miles from its nearest neighbor. Often without full-time ministry, it has continued its witness. Depleted in numbers, it had the vision and interest to become a major contributor to the Magnetic Island Youth Camp Site. Home Missions has helped through the Pastor-Evangelist, and a share in the interim ministry of A. H. Wilson. Further help is planned in the conviction that it can become a good vantage point for progressive evangelism in the North-West.

The work in Townsville, now twenty years old, has two buildings free of debt. This enterprising group—a mere handful—took the initiative, and made the greatest contribution to the Magnetic Island project. These optimists of practical outlook are ready to give

a hundred per cent. backing to any man of consecrated initiative and courage who will lead them in a progressive work in their city of forty thousand.

Aid to Townsville envisaged in this year's Annual Offering will enable such a man to be called.



Mackay.

EXPANSION IN THE SOUTH

In the metropolitan area Home Missions is helping the churches to meet the challenge of expanding residential suburbs. On the Northern side of the city it has brought about the formation of the Boondall-Zillmere circuit. Now a call has gone for a leader in a new circuit on the south side. Another circuit between Harlaxton and Dalby will be led by G. Gibson from April onwards.

A Good Garden

C. R. Burdeu, Conference Secretary.

A good garden has many good features. It may be a utility garden having all types of vegetables, fruits and berries, with the usual array of flowers, or it may be less utilitarian and more beautiful.

But good gardens of any kind don't

just grow. Behind a good garden there is a plan, much thought and a lot of work. Really, nothing just grows except a wilderness and a waste of weeds. Neither can there be anything in Christ's Kingdom but weeds unless there is planning and prayer and sacrificial work.

Our State Pastor-Evangelist, together with the Home Missions Committee, has been praying, planning, working and finding ways and means to make some of our weak churches blossom and bloom more gloriously. Those of us near to the centre of things know how wonderful the response has been to the efforts of last year.

It is our desire and purpose to conserve these results, and advance according to plan from the gains already made, and we assure the brotherhood that this can be done by a forty per cent. increase in the Annual Offering.

The Committee feels that the work begun must be continued, and that every opportunity for advance must be grasped now. So we ask you prayerfully to consider increasing your own direct personal gift by forty per cent. on Nov. 28.

North Needs Attention

(A. H. Wilson, of S.A., who recently served in North Queensland.)

This is a land of great national wealth and great distances; but each church is necessarily isolated. We have been working with the churches at Charters Towers and Townsville for several months; These two causes co-operate, although separated by eighty-two miles. The brethren faithfully preach and manage Bible schools, but the urgent need is for preachers who will concentrate their efforts in some of the northern fields, which are crying out for leaders.

Here is a challenge to men to lift up their eyes and look upon the fields of Northern Queensland, where thousands of our fellow citizens are living without God, and have a real need of the gospel.

Some in these areas have neglected their early religious training, yet have an enquiring mind. Many indifferent ones have fallen away, but there are faithful and willing helpers who will co-operate in the work. In the Bible schools are many bright young people near teen-age, ready to respond to the right leadership. Give attention to the North!

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

ON WITH THE EVANGEL!

ALL Christian work has behind it the thrust of a Great Commission. The Saviour must be lifted up; the Good News must be shared. That is the driving passion of all true Christian workers—and not least of those who toil on the home-fronts. For we are *all* called to be missionaries, with fields of service beginning immediately where we are. And if we fail there, if our lives short-circuit the gospel so that nothing of its power reaches out through us to others, we betray a trust as sacred as that held by any missionary overseas.

For the gospel must be passed on

FROM MAN TO MAN

All evangelistic schemes come back to that first essential. Andrew may not have been one of our Lord's foremost apostles, but he knew what ought to be done by the man who discovers Christ. "He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah!" (Jn. 1: 41). That truth, glowing so vividly in his changed life, set the soul of Peter afire, with results beyond the reckoning of either of them. Nor did those unknown later disciples of the crucified Nazarene, "scattered abroad" by persecution, realise what far-reaching effects there would be because, faithful souls that they were, "they went everywhere preaching the Word" (Acts 8: 4). Certainly, "three or four poor women sitting at a door in the sun, talking about the things of God," in Bedford, England, knew nothing of the effect their words had on a listener named John Bunyan, who was to write later, "And methought they spake as if joy did make them speak; they spake with such pleasantness of Scripture language, and with such appearance of grace in all they said, that they were to me as if they had found a new world."

But there is, unequalled joy in consciously sharing something of that "new world" with others, and seeing some of the results—winning people's friendship and confidence, and then leading them to the Saviour. Dr. Stalker has written of one busy man in the Germany of last century, who would not let this joy of sharing the evangel be crowded out of his life. He was Professor Tholuck, who would spend four hours a day walking with his students, apart from classes, and usually had one student with him at dinner, and another at supper. A happy-natured man, he gave himself to them with such devotion that he led hundreds to Christ. He revealed his secret when he said, "I have but one passion, and that is Christ." It is not enough to "live

the life;" Noel Palmer is right in calling that a "pitiful travesty of Christianity!" We must talk about it; we must, in love, get close to our fellow-men and their need.

This involves passing on the gospel

FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE

The home is an integral part of the early Christian story. Our Lord made it so during his earthly ministry, and (apart from the Temple) the home was necessarily one of the first centres of his Church, churches for some time meeting in homes like that of Priscilla and Aquila.

Many of our churches to-day can recall their origins in faithful homes. Let not the names of those who open their homes for the birth of a church ever be lightly forgotten. They adventured in faith. Some are still ready to do that, in rapidly growing housing areas where the challenge is acute. One woman who opened her home for a Bible school in one of our newer areas recalls wistfully that she was once "house-proud;" rooms crammed to overflowing with the youngsters who crowded to the school cured her of that, and gave her something much finer in its place. That is true "Home Mission" work.

Then, how many of us are using our homes like Priscilla and Aquila, who invited Apollos home and "expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly"? How many of us put any Christian intent, and content, into our social visits to non-Christian friends? We *must* earth the evangel in the home!

Finally, it must be passed on

FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH

This thought scarcely needs expanding, yet it is vital to the Church's on-going. One of the proudest boasts of any church is that it is "a mother church", from which have sprung other virile causes. Some churches have recently discovered a new sense of stewardship, in "mothering" weak causes, geographically far removed from them. As a brotherhood we have shared the special joy of being able to combine our gifts to help churches in needy, strategic areas. You may read in the following pages something of what that means.

So the evangel goes on, from man to man, from house to house, from church to church. Let's see to it that we all have a share in it! The keener we are as personal evangelists, the more generous will be our giving on November 28.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S £5000 STRATEGY!

E. P. C. Hollard, Secretary.

Home Mission enterprise just does not "happen." It is the careful out-working of planning and strategy. If not, it is doomed to failure and careless expenditure.

The S.A. Committee has spent some years of rapid development; now it envisages several years of careful consolidation. Someone asks, and justly, "Are you going to set up churches just where the whim takes you?" And the answer is a definite, "No!" There's a purpose in gospel preaching, and the same purpose exists for church planning for extension.

The brotherhood shares in this planning by the Committee taking it into its confidence, and then the brotherhood giving the aid to implement a well thought out programme.

Here's a quick look at policy in strategy.

"CLOSING THE GAPS"

Adelaide must expand north and south. A great gap has existed south of the city. Glenelg, Blackwood and Edwardstown were the last bastions of our movement. Then into the open spaces literally thousands of houses began to mushroom. Where wheat and trees grew, families began to grow — many from our well established churches. So the leakage began and the losses grew.

This was a crisis. The Home Mission Committee stepped in, and into the gap went 3 new churches, all commencing in homes. The first chapel was opened at Clovelly Park on Sept. 19. Now Warradale Park and Ascot Park are slowly gathering the people around them. The latter group, constituted as a church on Sept. 26, already have about 50 children in a school. Land is held for building operations.

To the north Nailsworth was the outpost. The city began to spread again, so Hampstead Gardens was commenced, and land was also purchased at Clearview.

Still further north towards Gawler, Salisbury North bloomed almost overnight. "Come and help us," said a small group of our people. A church was established in a home, and land purchased. Then the Government announced the new satellite town (as yet unnamed), and land was again taken up.

On the Port Line a gap existed between Flinders Park and Queenstown. In a new area teeming with houses went some of our great families. They set up the Table at Albert Park, and each week sees more people coming

as they meet in an uncompleted church building.

So the gaps are slowly being closed! And now? The Home Mission Committee is bent on a strategy of consolidating these new causes and bringing them to strength. By that time any new housing moves will find us ready to act.

"COUNTRY STRATEGY"

For many years the church at Berri had worked in splendid isolation on the River Murray. Twelve miles across the little town of Loxton was eking out an existence. Then the citrus boom came, and the challenge to the brotherhood. A group set up the Table, purchased land through Church Extension and waited. The Committee placed a minister into the field, tied the new work to the small church at Moorook, and now 2 ministries are working in an area which, according to the State Government, is to be the largest of its kind in Australia.

Our people were strongly entrenched from Bordertown to Naracoorte. The great Lawson Estate was broken up, soldier settlers moved in, the new pioneers. A gap occurred. Bordertown moved very rapidly, and with the Committee shares in a new work at Padthaway along the main highway.

On the far West Coast Port Lincoln was the terminal for Eyres Peninsula. For years a small group had labored. Then the Home Mission Committee came into the picture, a building was erected, and a full-time ministry is well established.

Again, Home Mission strategy closes the gaps!

"LARGER CHURCHES HELP"

In this wonderful brotherhood are some churches who believe in Home Missions, so much that they undertake to sponsor this strategy.

Ungarra offered to share financially in the new ministry at Pt. Lincoln, Mile End in the city adopted the new circuit at Loxton-Moorook and puts £4 weekly into this work. This interest is more than financial.

Balaklava, reputed to be the largest Protestant church north of Adelaide, looked for a church to "mother," and shares in the ministry at Port Pirie.

Unley, in the midst of a building programme, is supplying a ministry

of care and oversight to the baby church at Clovelly Park.

The Northern Conference faced the challenge of the Moonta-Wallaroo circuit, and each church in the Conference pays a share in the maintaining of the work there.

So the financial gap is being overcome!

"THE MEN ON STAFF"

To undertake such a strategy demands a good staff of preachers, men alert to the opportunity and keen to bring churches to a self-supporting basis. There is evidence that 3 fields will be off Home Mission subsidy within a year. Then the Committee can grapple with these newer churches which should be ready to look for preacher leadership.

However, there is one thing of paramount importance. If the man is worthy for the task, then he is worthy of our best support. At the recent State Conference the General Executive was asked to consider the matter of the salaries paid to our preachers throughout the State. This is in line with the Home Mission Committee concern. In this gigantic task of lifting subsidised churches to full-time establishment, the best men are needed. We have them in the Home Mission preaching team! But more, they must be free from the concern caused by inadequate salaries and living conditions. This heartache has dogged our men for too long. The Home Mission Committee is eager to tell these men, "Go ahead with your great work, the brotherhood will do the right thing by you and your families."

An increased offering this year will help to eradicate this disease of concern which ever threatens the gospel strategist. Thus another gap will be closed—that of concern on the material level.

"YET ANOTHER GAP"

The vital gap is that which exists between God and man. Building programmes and maintaining established things take their place, but the main concern is the one for which the churches primarily exist, to bring men and women to Jesus Christ.

Last Conference year 149 persons came by faith and obedience, restoration and transfer, into churches which the Home Mission Committee sponsors.

An offering of £5000 in South Australia on Nov. 28 will close this gap in many hearts and areas!

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

PROGRESS AND PROSPECT

in NEW SOUTH WALES

Secretary: R. Greenhalgh.

Two important achievements bring encouragement in our Home Mission enterprise.

WYOMING is a mile and a half on the Newcastle side of Gosford, 45 miles from Sydney.

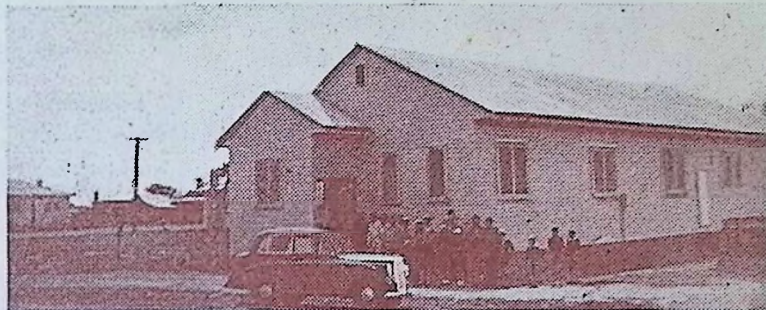
The work commenced in the home of Mrs. Hookway, where Iris Hookway, now Mrs. Wally Waldheim, commenced a Bible school. This rapidly grew until a building became imperative.

The Home Mission Committee assisted in arranging finance — part of which came as loan from the Grafton Trust—and with Norman Matthews, vice-chairman of the committee, as building supervisor a very fine school hall-church building was erected. Local folk assisted splendidly. A week's Happy Hour and mission is planned for November.

TAMWORTH is an illustration of contact and care with isolated members. Contact was kept with several families, particularly through the work of Peter Retchford and the Youth Director, R. Greenhalgh.

E. McIlhagger capitalised the opportunity, and a mission with E. T. Hart, of Toowoomba, was arranged. This resulted in 23 decisions.

The Home Mission Committee assisted and encouraged and helped in arranging finance—here also the Grafton Trust Fund assisted. H. Walmsley is in full time service, and the work is subsidised by the Home Mission Committee.



Tamworth, N.S.W.

NEW H.M. TENT

This is a 50 x 40 marquee with birkmyre top, completely waterproof. The initial cost of the tent was £510, but the extras that are needed will place the cost around £700. A special facade is planned.

The tent and equipment are available for hire to churches for mission work at £5 per week. Commercial marquees cost £25 per week.

POLICY FOR EVANGELISATION

The N.S.W. Home Mission Committee seeks to grasp every means of evangelising. The nucleus of the Church is in the home. Therefore it is sought to set up the Lord's Table in the homes of isolated members.

Interested members in any district may become the centre of Church expansion activities.

The Committee will also go into districts where there is the possibility of success, consistent with it being possible to maintain the gospel preaching.

The Committee also assists local congregations when they launch out to establish new causes.

TWO IMPORTANT SUB-COMMITTEES

The **Evangelism** sub-committee seeks to know the geographical setting of the churches and makes suggestions as to where evangelistic or teaching missions would be helpful.

It will arrange mission plans where necessary or requested. A list of speakers, song leaders and pianists has been compiled for this purpose.

This committee has plans for the training of business men in evangelistic and teaching technique.

One of the chief functions is the preparation of follow-up plans for new converts.

The **Pastoral** sub-committee seeks to keep in touch with small or weak causes. By means of conferences, advice and encouragement, these causes are made to feel they belong to the whole family, and are not left to struggle alone.

HOME MISSION FINANCES

Ten churches are being subsidised to the extent of £45 per week. There are other expenses which make the weekly expenses approximately £60 per week. The only sources of income are annual offering, duplex envelopes and personal gifts.

Special prayer is asked for the Annual Offering, when £2000 is needed to maintain existing work and expand into areas of opportunity.



Wyoming, N.S.W.

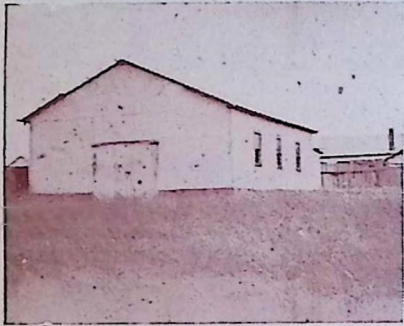
VICTORIA-TASMANIA seeks to...

FOLLOW THE PEOPLE

New Home Mission Patterns

B. J. Combridge, Secretary.

Transformation is the word to describe it. Countless areas throughout the State have experienced it. Open paddocks have been transformed into streets, houses and communities. This



The building at Morwell—as it appeared when land was bought.

remarkable development determines the pattern of Christian work.

This arresting transformation in so many areas of the State presents opportunities which must be grasped. Indeed, we ourselves have been engaged in some transforming activities.

TRANSFORMATION AT MORWELL

Land was purchased at Morwell with a building already erected. Only the wildest imagination could see that building transformed into a chapel. But it happened, as the pictures on this page testify.

That was not the only transformation. The small group of people longing for a preacher and a church home were transformed into an enthusiastic and diligent band of builders with the vision of a place of worship they could call their own. Now they are busy seeking by their witness to bring Christ and his transforming grace into the lives of others. There are new stirrings as the Morwell industrial project is on the verge of further immediate development. Twenty years will see a population of over 120,000 in the Latrobe Valley. D. H. Smith will commence his ministry there in January, 1955.

THREE SUBURBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

Maidstone.—Just over five years ago, a Bible school met in Tottenham, served by a group from Footscray. Not far distant were acres of vacant land. To-day, there are hundreds of new homes and a large new population. We have at Maidstone a chapel and a new manse, a church of sixty members, a Bible school whose attendance averages 160 and has reached 180, and strong youth auxiliaries as well as men's and women's organizations.

Malvern East.—Less than three years ago, brethren at Malvern East used the manse as headquarters in this rapidly developing community. The difficult post-war period had frustrated building plans, but the brethren gave sacrificially and worked diligently. To-day, they have a fine building, a membership of 60, a Bible school of 108, youth auxiliaries and, with assistance from Home Missions, they have a full-time preacher.

Preston East.—Five years ago, Preston East had a membership of 38 and a Bible school of 115. They met in a small fibro-cement building, hopelessly inadequate for their school, and were served by a part-time preacher. Good foundations were laid for the work which was to follow. Since then, the population has increased tremendously, and so has the cause. Membership of 92 represents an increase of nearly 150 per cent. Bible school enrolment, now 250, is an increase of 117 per cent. A new building gives excellent facilities for the development of the work. Home Missions fostered this work, and made possible a full-time ministry over three years ago. T. V. Weir will commence a ministry on Dec. 12.

OUR SOUTH WESTERN OUTPOST

The most recent activity came to a climax early in this year. Portland had met in a hall for 13 years. But a plan which displayed understanding and co-operation between local brethren and brotherhood departments transformed the situation in a year. In place of an unattractive hall, they meet in a delightful new chapel which can accommodate 150, at the rear of which is a room 30ft. x 13ft., being

used for youth work. A new manse stands next to the chapel, and their first full-time preacher has gathered together the young people in healthy activity. This is a great achievement, and presents a prospect of great promise.

TRANSFORMATION OR REVOLUTION?

Home Mission work has taken a new pattern. Thirty preaching places were associated with the Committee five years ago.

Only twelve of this number remain with us. Most of the others have attained self-support. The revolution is in the character of the new projects. They are mostly new ventures, in new areas, involving a new technique and tremendously increased subsidies. Once, three pounds per week was a very heavy subsidy, but you can't build up major projects on such subsidies to-day. Believing that the brotherhood wants aggressive and constructive action, and that it will support the work it has commissioned it to do, your committee plans to encourage new ventures in selected areas.

ARISE! LET US BUILD!

A few weeks ago, building commenced at Jordanville. Home Missions figured prominently in securing the land there. Intense interest and activity make this a promising enterprise in a grand situation. Pascoe Vale (Brisbane-st.) has commenced similarly. Coburg has commenced a Bible school at Derby-st., Pascoe Vale. Hurstbridge has just opened a new building. All these places and others can require brotherhood assistance. There is no limit to our opportunities. Let us demonstrate our readiness to meet them on Nov. 28. The £4,500 for which we ask is a minimum requirement.



Building at Morwell to-day.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

WITH THE MESSAGE

College Exits for Home Missions

I Go to Morwell

D. H. Smith,

Morwell is ninety-four miles from Melbourne. Once it was a quiet little Gippsland town. To-day, hardly a day passes without its name being mentioned in Victorian country news. Why? Because it is the centre of brown coal production, the Gas and Fuel Corporation's activities and the various related industries.

The cause of New Testament Christianity has been represented in this important centre since 1940, and our people now have a fine chapel and manse. One's first impression of Morwell is that everything is new; new fire station, ambulance depot, post office, shops and churches. Now they shall have a new preacher through the help of Home Missions. (This is no place for a weak cause of the Restoration Movement. This is a day of opportunity—the need is now.)

By the grace of God I shall go to labor with our brethren at Morwell.



D. H. Smith.

In these decisive days give us your prayers, your interest, your backing, and we shall not fail you nor the gospel we preach.

...and I Go to Devonport-Ulverstone

D. T. Holloway.

I heard the call, "Come, follow!" that was all,
Earth's joys grew dim, my soul went out to him,

I rose up and followed, that was all,
Will you not follow, when you hear the call?

Years ago, Paul heard the call "Come over into Macedonia and help us." I have heard the call "to come over into Tasmania and help"—to labor with the brethren at Devonport and Ulverstone. This is to be a Home Mission project, and as both are large and prosperous centres, there is a great opportunity to "send forth the Light," and the witness for which we stand.

For several years the brethren have

labored faithfully to uphold the work of the Lord. With extra help and the inspiration of the brotherhood, the way is open for further consolidation and development of the Christian message.

Truly the need is great—Christ is the answer—and in his Name we seek to do the will of God.

Past, Present and Future

C. J. Orr, Sec., Tasmanian Sub-Committee.

Past, Present and Future! Life, in its turn, falls into each of these categories. So, also, does the work of Home Missions.

THE PAST.—We learn from our mistakes; take courage from our achievements and strengthen our resolve to do more in the service of our Lord. We can all recall some great moment in the life of the Church in Tasmania, but we must guard against centring our thinking, acting and giving around that moment. We must move into

THE PRESENT.—Over two years ago, E. W. Taylor, preacher for Tasman Peninsula, stepped off the bus at Nubeena thinking that he had been sent to the "end of the earth." But he has brought the church and the community into a closer relationship through clubs, special meetings and vacation Bible schools, and he has shown that the church is interested in the lives of the young people, some of whose decisions he has recently witnessed.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, being young, have given much time to young people, but they have not overlooked others.

The circuit released him for periodical visits to Kellevie. Of his most recent six-day visit, he says:

"We started off with about 30, including boys and girls, and finished up with about 70 on Sunday afternoon. There were three confessions of faith in Christ, since baptised. They

are a great folk; they need a little bit of leadership to solve a lot of their difficulties." Mr. Taylor reports a young people's meeting of sixteen. The success of this visit brings us to

THE FUTURE.—In the past, opportunities to enter new fields "on the ground floor" have been lost. That real possibilities offer is proved by Invermay's work at Mayfield.

Among the fields challenging us is Lindisfarne—close enough to receive help from Collins-st. church without competing with it.

In the north are Burnie and Georgetown. Mayfield can be further developed. Then there is Scottsdale, with 3,000 in the municipality, and 1,471 in the town. Sixty new homes have been built recently. When the Dewscrisp canning factory completes its quick-freeze unit and grass drying and processing unit, the population will increase. Stephen Cheek preached in this town with success. We have the same gospel. There is no immersionist body in the town.

The Victorian-Tasmanian Home Missionary Department is as interested in a new project in Tasmania as in Victoria. It wants to get on with the job. But it depends on you. It costs money. Anything worthwhile does. Nearly 20 years ago a special appeal for funds for evangelistic work resulted in just over £300 (£80 from Kellevie). We are more prosperous to-day. £624 is needed for present commitments alone.

EXPANSION PROGRAMME

The Churches' Extensive Development

Gordon A. Ewers, Conf. Pres.

We all want to see our church work healthy and expanding.

Development of any undertaking can be intensive or extensive. Existing features can be intensified, and



G. A. Ewers,

W.A. Conference President and Chairman, Home Missions Committee.

new sections or branches can be introduced. The prosperity and continued health of the business depends on the developments made.

It is the same with a church. The work of a church will prosper if it is developed efficiently.

The intensive development is naturally undertaken by the local church in the local sphere. But many of the avenues of extensive development cannot readily be undertaken by a local congregation with its limited resources. However, a number of local congregations can pool their resources and undertake, together, this desired expansion of their activities. And so our brotherhood comes into being. In order to permit individual churches to carry out a policy of expansion we have grouped together and undertaken

extensive development in the fields of Social Service Work, United Youth Work, Home and Overseas Missions, and many others.

Conference activities, therefore, are not "somebody else's work" which this church or that church may or may not support as they may decide. They are the extensive developments of the local churches and, as part of the local church programme, are vitally important to each church in the brotherhood.

Conference committees who are called upon to serve the churches in these matters are often handicapped by the lack of support from the very churches whose expansion programmes they are operating. If each church would take this view of brotherhood committee work there would be no need for the constant appeals for money, because every church member would be giving as consistently and regularly to their church's extensive development as to its intensive development.

Just now we are thinking about Home Missions, one of the major activities of our brotherhood, and we find inspiration and challenge in the present picture.

The inspiration comes from the progress being made in the various Home Mission churches. At Geraldton real progress is being made under the conscientious leadership of H. E. Greenwood. Results so far have not been spectacular, but there are indications of a growing interest, especially among the children of the Bible school. A good start has been made.

The challenge comes from the opportunities which confront us. Blocks suitable for future churches are being made available to us in new housing areas. Many of our members are living in districts where there is no church of Christ yet. Existing, well established smaller churches still need our support, in the way of subsidies, in maintaining a New Testament witness in their districts.

May this inspiration and challenge of our Home Mission work help us to measure up to the responsibilities of our combined activities which are, in effect, part of the expansion programme of the individual churches. It is really important to each church that our Home Mission work shall prosper.



Geraldton, W.A.'s latest Home Mission Effort.

TRY MONEY BOXES

P. Patrick, of Wangaratta, Vic., desired keenly to help Home Missions. So he persuaded members to use money boxes. That was in 1944. Prior to that, the average annual offering for Home Missions was £3/13/7. Over the past nine years they totalled

£361/6/7 — an average of almost £40/3/-. Now in his 79th year, our brother, zealous as ever, says "Push the boxes on. I am looking forward to reaching over the £400 mark this year. I pray every night for a record offering."

here and there

Home Mission material for this special issue was collated by B. J. Cambridge, for whom the best appreciation would be a record H.M. offering in all States on Nov. 28.

The church at Tootgarook, Vic., is making an effort to further the work in the district. A membership of 30, and Bible school of 60, meets in the local Progress Hall, which is very unsuitable for public worship. Land has been secured and paid for and the brethren are desirous of erecting their own building. Equipment is also required for the B.S. K. Heath is student preacher. J. D. Watt, 52 Osborne-ave., Glen Iris, (B.S. supt.) and his wife journey down from Melbourne each Sunday to assist the work. Mr. Watt would be pleased to acknowledge offers of assistance towards the new building or equipment for B.S.

The Federal College of the Bible will complete forty-eight years of brotherhood service on Nov. 20. Ten young people will graduate this year, and two of the number will take up appointments with our Overseas Missions Board. Attention is drawn to the graduation and ordination service to be held in Lygon-st chapel on Friday, Nov. 19. Dr. G. H. Oldfield will give the address. A full attendance will encourage the outgoing young people.

F. L. Bruce, J.P., Supt. and Gen. Sec. of the Melbourne City Mission for the last 22 years, will enter on retirement in Jan. 1955, and will be succeeded by R. H. Barnes, minister of Clifton Hill Baptist. The Mission has developed greatly during Mr. Bruce's able leadership. Its Centenary Celebrations are planned for next year.

A telegram from Wagga, N.S.W., where Lloyd Jones has led in a mission effort reports: "Sunday night (Oct. 31), 13 decisions, £400 offering, total decisions, 25—Morris."

Thirty-fifth annual meeting of the church at Ringwood, Vic., revealed expanding work and witness. Membership increased from 91 to 110, with average attendances: a.m., 92; p.m., 57; and breaking bread, 80. The Bible school has grown also, and the recent record attendance of 128 fully

taxed existing accommodation. Average B.S. attendance was 99. Accommodation relief is in sight as erection of the new chapel continues. Four scholars have made decisions during the year. J.C.E., with Mrs. A. Hall, leader, and Girls' Good Companions Club, with Miss D. Cleland, leader, are new auxiliaries commenced during the year. New church officers elected were: treas., R. Nelson; elder, J. Baker; deacon, R. Kemp. Successful church social welcomed recent new members. R. K. Brittain spoke at recent youth tea and gospel service and was greatly appreciated. Junior Bible Class scholars have weeknight study group with the minister, W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D., on aspects of church membership.

Albert Anderson writes concerning the resignation of Charles Schwab from the Federal F.M. Board: "His coming on the Board in 1942, following the Home call of our then chairman, A. L. Read, helped considerably. His sympathetic understanding in the varied problems was deeply appreciated by his fellow Board members, and his place in their ranks will be sadly missed. Because his health



D. T. Holloway,
Federal College exit student, preacher-elect, Devonport-Ulverstone, Tas.

necessitated the easing of some of his responsibilities, Mr. Schwab reluctantly tendered his resignation. A message of sympathy and appreciation has been sent to him."

A month of special services at War-ragul, Vic., culminated in Family Day on Oct. 31, when F. Morgan (Frankston), guest speaker for the B.S. anniversary addressed a crowded chapel. Afternoon and evening services were held in the R.S.L. Hall with 90 children on the platform and a congregation of 180. Singing of the B.S., under conductor, H. Broderick, was enjoyed by everybody. Offerings were donated to the Building Fund, and amounted to £34. Kinder and Cradle Roll prizes were presented at the afternoon service. B.S. supt., J. Austin, suitably thanked all responsible for success of the day, with special reference to the men who had prepared the hall, ladies who had transformed it with flowers, the musicians and the conductor. Average attendance at worship service for Oct. was 98; breaking of bread, 88; evening service, 83. Offerings averaged £23/16/-, with £3/16/- for Building Fund.

The Youens-Watson tent mission at Echuca, Vic., closed on Oct. 25, after a time of spiritual and evangelistic stimulus, during which some members rededicated their lives. At happy evening on Oct. 26 gifts were made to the missionaries in appreciation of their fine leadership, and also to Mrs. J. Parry (pianiste) and Mrs. Frencham (Happy Hour helper). Special singing was rendered by Mrs. J. Parry, C. Watson and the Youth Choir. Mrs. C. Watson and Shepparton friends were welcome visitors for this fellowship evening.

The Federal Literature Committee advises that the Pamphlet Club, due to commence next year, has two provocative discussions already on its list—"Five Fingers," by G. R. Stirling, B.A. (an examination of certain trends in the Restoration Movement in Australia to-day), and "A Missionary Doctor Wonders" (Dr. G. H. Oldfield). A monthly pamphlet will be posted for 7/6 a year. Have you forwarded your subscription yet?

During the fifth week of the Baker—Milne mission at Kilburn, S.A., no decisions were recorded, but some well attended meetings resulted through co-operation of sister churches, which provided choir and individual vocal items. On Oct. 31, tent was full to witness baptismal service, and at the close of the address a young man from the Bible school confessed Christ. Total decisions to date are 27. Mr. and Mrs. Hollett (W.A.) were welcome visitors. B.S. continues to enrol new scholars.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. Hilda M. Wong, Geelong, Vic.
Mrs. Hoskisson, Burwood, N.S.W.

Tasmania

Margaret-st., Launceston (T. Edwards, Interim).—Mr. and Mrs. T. Edwards (Adelaide) commenced interim ministry with church on Oct. 3. Plans are well in hand for Nov. 70th anniversary celebrations, combined with B.S. anniversary. Ladies' Guild held special evening effort in aid of Christmas Cheer for missionaries on our Indian Field. C.O.B. annual offering now exceeds £50. Mrs. Partridge is still in hospital, and Mrs. Bye has returned home. Kevin Edwards and Don Horsburgh have left for R.A.A.F. service at Laverton. L. A. Trezise held recent conference of youth workers of three Launceston churches.

Western Australia

Harvey (T. D. Maiden).—B.S. anniversary was successful. Singing was conducted by M. Livingstone, and kinders by Mrs. K. Stanford. E. Hough was special speaker. On the following Tuesday a very good display was given by children. Celebrations concluded with a tea on the Saturday evening. Church building is progressing, and men are holding weekly working bees. Tennis court has been put in playing order. K. Stanford took car-load over to Bruce Rock to Wheatbelt Conference. Mrs. K. Stanford has resigned from B.S. staff, and Mrs. Prince has joined staff. Women's Fellowship was entertained at home of Mrs. R. Stanford, and £10/11/- for Guest Home was raised by "bring and buy." After church, evening was held to farewell Lorna Robinson prior to her departure for New Zealand. A suitable presentation was made.

Geraldton (H. E. Greenwood).—Recent gospel services have shown much improvement. Good Companions' Club now has 14 on roll. Eric Gough conducted week of meetings for teaching. Attendances were small, but number of non-members came, and several visitors were present from Morawa. All who came were greatly helped. Recent visitors at Sunday services have been J. A. Maloney (Kalgoorlie), Mrs. Beard (Subiaco), Mr. and Mrs. Clark (Brooklands Park, S.A.).

Queensland

Gympie (R. Roberts).—Mr. Searle (C.I.M.) spoke at gospel service on Sept. 26. At conclusion of appeal by Mr. Roberts, a young married man confessed Christ, and his wife recon-

secrated her life. Church has enjoyed visit of B. Anderson (W.E.C.). He also conducted meetings at Goomboorian and Mothar Mtn., and gave a lantern lecture in S.A. hall on missionary work in N. India.

South Australia

Fullarton.—On Oct. 24, speaker at morning service was M. Lewis. Miss M. Patrick sang a solo. G. Cox conducted song service in evening and gave address. Miss J. Outlaw was soloist. A. Anderson was speaker at both meetings on Oct. 31. Girls' Choir assisted at evening service. Monthly B.S. rally was held on Oct. 30, programme being in hands of C. Patrick.

Moonta-Wallaroo (B. W. Manning).—W. Verran, Cecil Raymond, Mrs. Doley and Mrs. Townley have all returned home from hospital, and are greatly missed from Moonta. First B.S. anniversary celebrated at Moonta for many years was held on Oct. 31. The school is only small in number, but there was a large audience. Mrs. Conner is leaving to reside in Mile End. A fine spirit prevails amongst members in both centres.

New South Wales

Broken Hill.—Visiting speaker for Oct. 10 was Mr. Cox, chairman of H.M. Committee, Adelaide. On 16th A. Jones (Social Service Dept.) conducted film evening, and spoke at all services the following day. Mr. Crosby (Conf. Pres.), accompanied by Mrs. Crosby, paid visit on Oct. 24. Morning service was broadcast. At close of gospel service, he showed slides of Longwood Youth Camp, and also views of several Adelaide churches and their workers. Fellowship hour followed, and Mrs. Crosby took opportunity to speak to the ladies, as their special ladies' meeting had to be cancelled owing to Mr. Crosby's immediate return to Adelaide on business. Other visitors during the month have been F. Purdie and friend (Pt. Pirie), Mr. Cave (Dulwich), C. F. Hughes (Prospect), Mr. Watton (Stirling), and Mr. and Mrs. Creeper (Cockburn). Assistance of H.M. Committee in making these arrangements for speakers each week-end is very much appreciated.

Victoria

Drumcondra (R. Wilson).—Special meetings are continuing with messages from K. A. Jones (C.O.B.) and W. W. Saunders (Social Service Dept.). Chapel was packed on Oct. 24, when D. Nicholls spoke on The Church and the Color Question. On Oct. 28 F. Hunting (Ballarat) concluded series of talks on Christ and the Home.

Discipleship

Jill Cuthbert, Meryl Cuthbert, Jean Herne, Joan Curry, Box Hill, Vic.
Gladys and Kathleen Henry, Gympie, Qld.
Ian Fairs, Kilburn, S.A.
Kaye King and Esther Baker, Swan Hill, Vic.
Leslie Wilson, North Essendon, Vic.
B: Edwards, E. Aurisch, C. Wilson, E. Davies, P. Bannon, R. Wilson, K. Eccles, W. Mills, C. Edwards, Berwick, Vic.
Mrs. Roberts, East Malvern.
Miss E. Bassett, North Fitzroy, Vic.
Irene Bridgeman, Dorothea Purnell, Hector Bell and Max Allen, Pelican, via Chinchilla, Qld.
Florence Mack, Chinchilla, Qld.
Laurence Heath, 16 Mile Creek, Qld.
Colin Gene, Natalie Mullins, Janet Pitcher, Adrienne Nicholas, Brian Longford and Bruce Hossack, Cowandilla, S.A.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. Jones, from Coburg, Vic., to Box Hill, Vic.
Mrs. Wesbourne, from Bendigo, Vic., to Box Hill, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Blake, from Doncaster, Vic., to Box Hill, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Mutzelberg, from Kedron, Qld., to Gympie, Qld.
H. Holt, to Wambo Creek, Qld.
Miss E. Crook, from South Yarra, Vic., to St. Kilda, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson and Janice, from Gardenvale, Vic., to Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic.
Maureen McComb, to Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic.
Mrs. Mullins and Mrs. Nicholas, to Cowandilla, S.A.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Sinclair, Ian and Lynette, and Mrs. Walters, from South Yarra, Vic., to Cheltenham, Vic.

Marriage

Elsie King to John Turner, Gympie, Qld.
Ruth Roberts to John Docking, Cowandilla, S.A.

Latrobe-terr., Geelong (T. A. Fer-gusson).—Young man made his confession and was baptised at gospel service on Oct. 24. 95 ladies enjoyed musical programme on the occasion of 40th birthday of Ladies' Aid. £32 was received for new church hall through offering and stall. Y.P. held very successful film evening and sponge competition on Oct. 16. Men of C.M.S. scrubbed floors of church and hall. Tennis and cricket teams have commenced play for season.

North Essendon (A. E. White, B.A.).—Youth Week was brought to successful conclusion on Oct. 24, when Y.P. again took active part in services. At morning service, short talks were given by June Millar and Daryl Tippett. Youth tea was addressed by J. Burns. Other Y.P. assisted in evening, and youth choir, under leadership of R. Tippett, sang several numbers. A young man was baptised. B.S. and church Hospital Sunday offering was £37/15/-. On Oct. 26, men and K.S.P. enjoyed sports night in new hall with Ascot Vale Congregational Men's Society. Mrs. Funston recently addressed Women's Fellowship on her visit to Fed. Conference. Hazel Skuce was guest at farewell gathering on Oct. 29, prior to leaving Victoria en route to India. Miss Skuce spoke, and showed slides on mission work. Goodwill gift from members was presented.

Preston (J. E. Searle).—Fifty-second church anniversary was celebrated on Oct. 17. Many former members were present and enjoyed hospitality. Choir rendered anthems at both morning and evening services. Conf. President (S. Neighbour) gave inspiring exhortation at morning service, at which recognition of officers and deaconesses took place; Mrs. Crossfield was recipient of token of appreciation by church of services rendered over past 21 years. C. Le Coureur (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) gave talk at P.S.A., illustrated by lantern slides showing Fellowship work. Duets by Mrs. B. Quaife and Don. MacDonald were effectively rendered. Evening service was conducted by preacher, good congregation being present. Special soloist was Mrs. J. Pinches (East Preston). Building Fund Appeal exceeded aim of £500. Church regrets unfortunate accident to Mrs. E. Ellis, of Newmarket (who was formerly in membership at Preston), and extends sympathy to her and family and parents (who were also in membership).

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).—Women's Fellowship held 22nd birthday on Oct. 14. Church was packed. £9/5/- was made on stall, etc. B.S. picnic was held at Cardross Lakes on Oct. 23. During preacher's absence at Berri, S.A., on Oct. 24, W. Hibbert and V.

Davey were speakers. Meetings continue to be well attended.'

Red Hill (J. Sutton).—On Oct. 24 Mrs. Ward (Women's Conf. Pres.) and party of ladies from Melbourne conducted Mission Band meeting. 40 were in attendance. Solos were rendered by Mrs. Willing. Luncheon and afternoon tea were served. Happy time of fellowship was enjoyed. Fellowship meeting was held on 30th. On 31st a number of members attended Tootgarook B.S. anniversary. Lex and Kath. Andrew sang duet at gospel service. "Grandma" Holmes is on holidays.

East Malvern (R. N. Gilmore).—There were two confessions on 31st. B.S. anniversary services were very successful. Enrolment is over 100. On Temple Day, Oct. 3 (first anniversary of meeting in new building) over £100 was given for Building Fund. Mrs. Roberts was immersed at gospel service on Oct. 3.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns).—During past weeks members of Ladies' Guild have visited Kraft Cheese, Mac-Robertsons and Mr. Peeler's factory. Visits have been most enjoyable. P.B.P. held successful concert; B grade Tennis Club were premiers in their section. Y.P. tea had Mr. Girvan as guest speaker. B.S. anniversary in Oct. was very successful. Children sang splendidly under leadership of D. Baker, who was thanked for his untriring effort in training children. Men's Society held working bee and erected and dismantled platform for anniversary. Men are rehearsing for concert. It is regretted that Mrs. Garrett is confined to bed through ill health.

Swan Hill (R. A. Banks).—At evening service on Oct. 24 two girls decided for Christ. Y.P. and men of church conducted several working bees and have re-varnished church seats and pulpit furniture. Church secretary G. R. Thomas and family are leaving district to reside at Kyneton. Their going will be a great loss to the church. Trevor Banks has been home on vacation from Melbourne University. Miss H. King has been elected B.S. supt. in place of Mrs. Thomas.

Warrnambool (K. W. Barton, L.Th.)—Visit of Hazel Skuce on Oct. 24 will give impetus to interest in work in India. Miss Skuce spoke at both services, and at close of evening meeting added further interest with the showing of slides. Morning broadcast service gave opportunity to bring claims of missionary service before wider congregation. Badminton Club has concluded its first season. An enjoyable afternoon at home of Mrs. Pearce netted a further £2/6/- for Manse Fund. C.E. was visited by Salvation Army Y.P. on 22nd, and on

29th they visited Methodist C.E. Visit of "Flying Squad" on 31st was much appreciated; under leadership of Ken Masterton, they took part in all services, including Y.P. tea and B.S. Mrs. Long is home from hospital, Mrs. McConnell has returned from Adelaide, and Mrs. Pritchard, senr., had short sojourn at Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Errett Houston are rejoicing in the birth of a daughter.

Frankston (F. T. Morgan).—Visiting speakers have been C. Dunse, F. J. Funston (representing S.U.M.), and W. W. Saunders. Annual B.S. concert was favored with an excellent attendance. £18 was raised for School Furnishing Fund. Recent Sunday youth tea and film service were enjoyable. Flower Show and sale of gifts held on Oct. 23 was opened by R. W. Lindsay, M.H.R. Gross takings were £95. Men's working bee gave appreciative service by constructing a number of trestles.

Camberwell (J. H. Cain, L.Th.).—Good attendances marked B.S. anniversary, when V. C. Stafford addressed church in the morning, and R. N. Gilmore spoke to the children in the afternoon. At night a programme was presented on the theme **World Builders**, with C. G. Taylor as preacher, and children taking part in song and dialogue. Mr. and Mrs. Grainger, of Springvale, gave a most interesting travel talk on prize-giving night. Plans are well in hand for Fair in aid of Building Fund. Both Senior and Junior Women's Fellowships have had good meetings through the year, and former presented new lace communion cloth to the church, in addition to raising £68 for other purposes.

IN MEMORIAM.

WHELAN.—Treasured memories of Joseph, loved husband of Florence Whelan, who was called home on Nov. 9, 1938, at Chatswood, N.S.W. "Loved with Everlasting Love."—Romans 8: 38-39.

STURGES.—In loving memory of my dear wife (Lila) and our loving mother, who was called home, suddenly, on Nov. 11, 1942. "Ever remembered."

—Inserted by her loving husband and daughters, Myrtle (Mrs. J. E. Searle), Constance (Mrs. C. Daniell), and Alice (Mrs. N. F. White).

BENN.—Treasured memories of our dear husband and father, Adam Rea, who was called home Nov. 13, 1939.

"We thank God on every remembrance of him."

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

BIRTH NOTICES.

HARPER.—At Wagga, N.S.W., on Oct. 25, to Les and Joy, a son—Graham Owen. Brother for Lorraine. **HOUSTON** (nee Chappell). — On Oct. 23, at Marcus Saltau House, Warrnambool, to Ivy and Errett, a daughter—Lynette Gay. A sister for Heather.

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Anniversaries and Homecomings

DANDENONG BIBLE SCHOOL COMBINED ANNIVERSARY. — Robinson-st., Dandenong West and Noble Park, November 14. Services will be held in Public Hall, Buckley-st., Noble Park. 3 p.m.: Speaker, Mr. Marshall; 7 p.m.: F. A. Youens. November 21, services will be held in Dandenong Town Hall. 3 p.m.: Speaker, R. Muller; 7 p.m.: L. G. Read. All welcome.

SWANSTON STREET 89th HOME-COMING SERVICE.—November 14, 11 a.m.: "Your most holy faith." Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan. 3 p.m.: Guest speaker, Ivor Powell. A Welsh preacher of international fame. Service broadcast 3AK. 7 p.m.: "According to my gospel." Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan. Come and join in the afternoon session and stay for tea in the Lecture Hall.

EMERALD BIBLE SCHOOL ANNI-VERSARY.—November 21: Special singing by scholars. Speakers; 3 p.m., L. E. Brooker; 7 p.m., L. A. Trezise, B.A. Prize distribution and Cradle Roll Cards.

RINGWOOD BIBLE SCHOOL ANNI-VERSARY.—November 21, 3 p.m.: Speaker, D. Mansell; 7 p.m.: Speaker, G. Grainger. Special singing by scholars. All are cordially invited to all services.

OAKLEIGH BIBLE SCHOOL ANNI-VERSARY.—Nov. 21, Town Hall, Drummond-st., Senior School Demonstration at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Nov. 28, Chapel, Warrigal-rd. Kindergarten Demonstration, 3 p.m. Special singing by scholars at all services.

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COMING EVENTS.

Western Suburban District Combined Officers' Association Annual Conference at North Williamstown Chapel, Friday, November 12, 1954, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: A. E. White, B.A. Subject: "The Programme and Passion of the Church." Musical items—basket supper.

Church of Christ, North-rd., Ormond.

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE of new memorial chapel by E. C. Hinrichsen on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. Afternoon tea. Special Services Sunday, Dec. 5: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Speaker: E. C. Hinrichsen.

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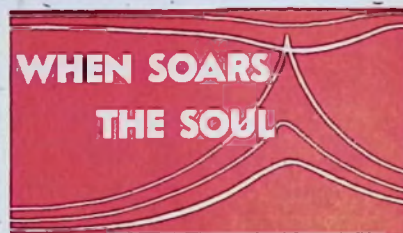
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



The following selections are from Those who Forgive, fourth in the daily studies for the 1954 World Y.M.C.A.-Y.W.C.A. Week of Prayer (Nov. 14-20).

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. Your heavenly Father will forgive you your transgressions if you forgive your fellow men theirs (Matt. 6. 9-15). Peter came to him and asked, Lord, how often must I see my brother do me wrong, and still forgive him; as much as seven times? Jesus said, I tell thee to forgive, not seven wrongs, but seventy times seven (Matt. 18: 21-35).

Few words offer more of a challenge for these days than those in our Lord's prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us." Here is all the hope of the grace of God and the forgiveness of each of us if we truly repent and seek his love. But with this very hope and renewing of spirit comes the test of our cleansing of heart. Has his love so entered into us that in his spirit we can look upon our fellow man who has "trespassed against us"? As we share together to-day this vivid parable of the unforgiving servant, may we humbly seek forgiveness for our many sins, and, as full citizens of his Kingdom, and in his spirit, meet the tensions of our daily experiences between neighbors and nations—even to seventy times seven.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Master, who hast taught us that our sins may be forgiven only as we forgive others, and that the gifts we bring to thine altar can be offered in true communion with thee only after we have set our souls at peace with our brothers; grant that we may now freely forgive any against whom we have borne resentment or ill-feeling. . . . Fill our hearts with the grace of thy love toward all persons . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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An Australian Abroad

The Editor,
Sir:

Having been in the United States
for fifteen days, I have no doubt
qualified to write authoritatively on
the Land and its People. Certainly
I have asked enough questions to
qualify for one Ph.D.

I am now the pastor of the Clear-
field Christian Church. "Howdy,
Reverend," and "Hi, Preacher" are
common greetings down the street.

Clearfield, so I am told, is a typ-
ical Iowa rural church.

The town has a population of about
700. Almost every house is of timber
construction, is painted white, and
has two storeys and a basement. A
man needs an engineer's certificate
to run one of these homes. We have
an oil heater (the tank holds 300
galls., which cost 45 dollars, and will
last 2-3 months), water-supply from
our own well (pumped by electric
motor), bottled gas (of the non-re-
ligious type), and a gas hot water
system. Almost all of the Iowan
homes that we have seen are like this,
except for the well.

Clearfield is proud of its school of
300, with its well-appointed brick
building and ample playing fields. All
the streets are lined with trees. The
leaves are turning gold, then brown,
and are falling. Those of us who grew
to love the trees of Elm-rd. that runs
by the Glen Iris College will feel at
home here. Parking in the main
street is limited to two hours, and
the speed limit is 10 m.p.h.

There are three churches in the
town. They serve a district within
a radius of seven miles. The Metho-
dists have a resident minister and
a membership said to be 400-500. The
United Presbyterians have a mem-
bership of less than 100. First (I)
Christian numbers 150. The other
two buildings are brick. Our timber
structure is in need of repair. All
were built about fifty years ago. The
Christian Church plans to build a
new church, estimated to cost 30,000
dollars. First proposed last July,
12,000 dollars was pledged in a few
weeks.

Iowa is one of the few States which
in the last decade has suffered a de-
cline in population. To-day's census
figures, however, show a slight in-
crease. The movement of population
is to the South and the West, and
urbanisation continues apace. The
trend is to larger and mechanised
farms. A farmer here needs about
300 acres, and can count on a capital
expenditure of, say, 10,000 dollars for
machinery. Clearfield is one of the
towns in this country that is holding
its own.

Iowa is a great agricultural State.

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and 6 persons, 10 to 12 guineas a
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It is known as "The Corn State"—
this appears on every automobile
number plate. It might as easily have
been called the Hog State. The corn
is grown to feed the hogs. The hogs
are raised to eat the corn. The
plastics industry is giving new life to
the growing of soya beans. The eleva-
tor across the way from us is cur-
rently handling a crop worth 150,000
dollars.

The church school had an attend-
ance of 118 last Sunday, which in-
cluded 40-50 in three adult Bible
classes. There were about 80 at the
worship service at 11. The only other
regular meetings are a Sunday even-
ing Youth Fellowship and a fort-
nightly Women's Fellowship.

The majority of those who have
asked about our nationality have
thought that we speak with a Scotch
dialect. Nobody has guessed that we
are Australians! This matter of ac-
cent is very interesting. We have
met many who speak with the Galilean
accent.

I have had many comments passed
about my sermons. I guess that you
have also. But have you ever been
thanked for a "dandy wee" sermon?

Yours, in a far country,
Ron Graham.

P.S.—It has been good to hear so
many speak in praise of Principal
Williams' contribution to the churches
of Iowa.

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