

Men Memory

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST



Camp of Boys' Brigades in England, will return shortly and hopes to give service in promoting Boys' Brigade movement.

PERSONAL PARS.

Allison, daughter of Frank Cornelius, well known as a minister among us, recently gained the medical and surgical prize for S.A. in her nursing examinations, a high distinction.

Tasmanian pianist Max Olding, who won an A.B.C. competition in 1953 and is now in London, gained further honors when he shared winning place with another competitor in the final of the first pianoforte competition of the Royal Concert Trust Fund held at Australia House. They shared the £100 prize.—Contributed by V. C. Stafford, for Federal Board of Christian Education.

C.Y.F.

These letters, standing for "Christian Youth Fellowship," have long been a familiar monogram throughout our Australian churches. The teenager study manual bears the title. Hundreds of young people in all States are wearing the C.Y.F. badge. Many local groups are known by this name. The Victorian-Tasmanian Youth Department, at the request of young people, has made arrangements for the manufacture of blazers which will have the C.Y.F. emblem embroidered on the pocket. Scores of orders have already been taken. There is need for the development of a C.Y.F. movement and programme that caters fully for teenager girls and boys. There is also need for wise planning which will integrate all youth groups, and this may be achieved through C.Y.F.

another by the setting up of a Youth Council. When it was first suggested that the preacher wanted a conference with all the leaders of the various groups, the Board of Officers not only said that they wanted to be in on it, but also provided supper! So, on Nov. 29, following an interchange of ideas, a Youth Council, composed of a leader from each group and including representation from the Board, was formed. Where the age allows it, each group will add one young person to the personnel of the council.

The Youth Council will provide an avenue of further fellowship amongst the various groups, the prevention of over-lapping of programmes, and the co-ordination of all the work of evangelism amongst our young people. The church cannot help but be strengthened by the formation of its Youth Council which will meet on a monthly basis and give consideration to the overall programme for youth throughout the year.

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

Talking of co-ordination and focusing of strength, this is how one church is tackling its tasks.

Ten groups catering for the various needs of youth — soon to become eleven — is the story of the development of the work amongst young people at Glenelg, S.A. These units have now become members of one

BOYS' AND GIRLS' BRIGADES.

There are sixteen companies of Girls' Life Brigades in our South Australian churches. Over 60 girls in one church are G.L.B. members. Neil McLean, attending the International

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News Highlights

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. McRoberts, formerly of Maylands, W.A., had a successful opening on Nov. 14 to their new ministry at Hawthorn, S.A., when there were attendances of 172 and 142, with three baptisms on the following Sunday evening. A fine representative gathering welcomed Mr. and Mrs. McRoberts and family on Nov. 10.

The following telegram reached this office on Dec. 14: "Final result two weeks' mission by Principal Stephenson at Beverley Hills: 11 primary decisions, plus another six to come into full membership—Reese."

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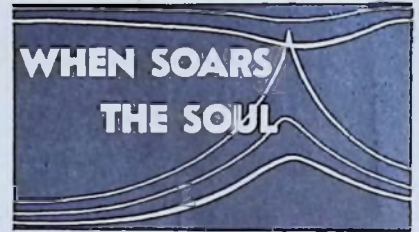
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



The following selections are from
Those who Love, final daily study of
those prepared for the 1954 World
Y.M.C.A.—Y.W.C.A. Week of Prayer

When the Son of man comes in
his glory . . . all nations will be
gathered in his presence. . . . Then
shall the King say to those on his
right hand, Come, you that have re-
ceived a blessing from my Father,
take possession of the Kingdom which
has been prepared for you from the
foundation of the world. (Matt. 25: 31-
36). If a man gives so much as a
drink of cold water to one of the least
of these here, because he is a disciple
of mine, I promise you, he shall not
miss his reward. (Matt. 10: 40-42.)

In many of his parables Jesus re-
fers to man's behavior. It will be
that which, on Judgment Day, places
us on the right hand of God or on
his left. The actions of a man ex-
press better than anything else the
essence of his spirit. Jesus declared
that "By their fruits shall ye know
them." In the parable of the Good
Samaritan, we are shown our duty to
our neighbor. Indeed, many passages
of the gospel show us the spirit which
should inspire our relations with our
neighbors. Purely outward attitudes
and pious expressions of faith are of
little significance to God unless they
are backed by a life that matches our
convictions, by a spirit of brotherly
love. "I was an hungered and ye
gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye
gave me drink; I was a stranger and
ye took me in; I was naked and ye
clothed me; I was sick and ye visited
me; I was in prison and ye came to
me" (Matt. 25: 35, 36). We show
our love for God by our love for our
fellowmen. For that reason only, and
for no other, shall we be, on that
day, on the right hand of the Father
—for those who really love him are
those who seek to do his will.

O Lord, we pray for the many, in
these days, who need thy love and
thy protection. . . . Grant us the
power to help those in need, and open
eyes to see their need. . . . Give us
the physical and spiritual strength to
be loyal disciples. This we ask in the
name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

THIS APPEAL IS REALISTIC

THE tumult and the shouting have died. The long - awaited world gathering of the Churches at Evanston, U.S.A. is now history, and churchmen are still trying to evaluate the real worth of the Assembly. What the man-in-the-street asks impatiently — and has a right to ask — is how much realistic facing of life's big issues was there at Evanston; what is the Church going to do about what its spokesmen call rather glibly "the problems of this troubled world"?

Now, at the year's end, comes "An Appeal from the World Council of Churches" which goes at least part of the way towards meeting that demand. Its initial reference to God as "the God of justice and peace, the Lord of history," and its talk of seeking "a new spiritual climate in which a fresh start can be made by all governments and peoples" are examples of those nebulous generalisations of which few churchmen and Conferences are innocent, and the Appeal is only stating the obvious when it proceeds to say, "The world is so broken up and divided that international agreement seems remote at the moment. Everywhere fear and mistrust prevail. The very possibility of good-neighborly relations between nations is denied."

But then follows what must be admitted is down-to-earth

TACKLING OF REALITIES,

and we would do well to ponder the implications of this type of prophetic witness. "We believe," says the Appeal, "that there are two conditions of crucial importance which must be met if catastrophe is to be avoided:

i. The prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction, including atomic and hydrogen bombs, with provision for international inspection and control such as would safeguard the security of all nations, together with the drastic reduction of all other armaments.

ii. The certain assurance that no country will engage in or support aggressive or subversive acts in other countries.

"We believe that a sound international order is possible only to the extent that peace, justice, freedom and truth are assured.

"We are convinced that peace will be gravely endangered so long as the armaments race continues, and so long as any nation seeks to extend its power by the threat or use of military force.

"To meet the demands of justice, whether in a particular nation, or in the assistance of

peoples in under-developed countries, is our moral duty. We recognise that progress in raising the standard of living in under-developed countries is discouragingly slow; and that increasing sacrifice on the part of richer nations is essential. Freedom means man's opportunity to realise his worth in God's sight, and to fulfil his God-given destiny. All nations have a duty to secure for their citizens the right to criticise or approve, as conscience dictates. Moreover, fear and suspicion cannot be replaced by respect and trust unless powerful nations remove the yoke which now prevents other nations and peoples from freely determining their own government and form of society. Freedom and justice in their turn depend upon the steady proclamation of truth. False propaganda, whether to defend a national policy or to criticise the practice of another government will increase international tension and may contribute to war."

Then follows, in the strength of Christ as the Hope of the World,

A SEVEN-FOLD APPEAL

to governments and churchmen to "look for ways by which fear and suspicion may be removed" and "to refrain from words and actions which are designed to inflame enmity and hatred," making "a determined common effort to secure a decent standard of living among poorer and under-developed countries."

"Representatives of the Churches in those countries between which tension exists" are urged to visit one another, in the interests of understanding, fellowship, and reconciliation of the nations.

Churches are asked "to bid their members recognise their political responsibilities, and also to ask Christian technicians and administrators to find a vocation in the service of U.N. Agencies engaged in meeting the needs of economically under-developed countries."

United in "a common ministry of reconciliation in proclaiming Christ as the Hope of the World, in intercession for one another and in mutual service," all Christians everywhere can join "in prayer to Almighty God that he will guide the governments and the peoples in the ways of justice and peace."

Behind an Appeal like this lies a strong conviction of the faith and obedience penitent men owe "the Lord of history." It is certainly an Appeal worthy of thought — *and action!*

Via Suva and Auckland H. A. G. CLARK, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., comes

HOMeward BOUND

Crossing the Pacific makes it easier for one to believe that the greater part of the earth's surface is ocean. The occasional islands have become of greater significance in this age of air transport, and they add immensely to the pleasure and interest of travel.

Fiji and the Fijians

This group of islands is the centre of Britain's administration of her Pacific interests. Both Tasman in 1643 and Captain Cook in 1774 sighted part of the group but it was Bligh in 1792 who explored them, and for a time they were called Bligh's Islands. At the request of the Fijians themselves the Islands were made part of the British Empire in 1874.

A Methodist Mission and Missionary

Among our passengers is the Probation and Welfare Officer of Suva who has spent more than twenty-five years in Fiji, mostly as a missionary but now in a position in which he finds ample opportunity to exercise a Christian ministry. From him I learned that about 87% of the native population are members of the Methodist Church. We visited one of their churches recently erected, and also the Methodist Book Centre, where a recording of the Fijian church choir was the major item sought by customers. The Fijians are a happy, courteous people, and often greet one with a friendly smile that has the warmth of an intimate friendship.

Strangely enough, the Indian population out-numbers the Fijian by a few thousand. The 148,000 Indians have come primarily as workers on the plantations. They have a big shopping centre and some observers fear serious trouble in the future as their birth-rate is high. However, from the few observations I was able to make and the reports of some well-informed people, I felt that the danger has been exaggerated. Next to the Methodists, the Roman Catholics seemed most active. They have a beautiful cathedral, one of the most striking small cathedrals I have ever seen. They are stressing education for the teen-agers and as I sat in quiet meditation in the cathedral the majority of those who came to worship were bright, happy school-girls. The Anglicans have a plan for a large cathedral but as yet have only a fragment built. I talked to the curate who is a young New Zealander.



Whilst serving now at the Cathedral, he is planning to work among the natives. He had been at the Amsterdam Assembly and said, "It was such an overwhelming experience that I don't yet feel I've absorbed its full meaning." It was interesting to meet one who shared my own feelings. We talked of the Queen's visit and of the beauty of the place, until he had to go and look in on some candidates sitting for an examination. Suva has a mixed population with 8,000 Europeans, of which about 1,000 are Australians and the same number New Zealanders. There are also 3,500 Chinese. The shops reflect this diversity and East and West meet in a colorful shopping centre.

This was

The Market Centre

Fruits, vegetables, and curios were most conspicuous. Shells made into necklaces, bangles, etc., and artificially colored coral, with shells artistically arranged among the branches, were most interesting. Large shells were sometimes seen with an electric bulb in them, showing the rare beauty of the homes of the master builders of the sea. One of the most beautiful and amazing collections I have ever seen was a collection of shells. Two of our Australian brethren have been keen collectors and have given much



A Fijian Village.

pleasure to others through their delightful hobbies. During the war I had opportunity to go out on coral reefs, chiefly at Morotai, and seek these treasures with the aid of a glass-bottomed box. The thrill of seeing one in its natural setting was sometimes so great that I was loath to disturb it, but the realisation if left that I would never see it again would decide the issue. Once I captured a magnificent butterfly, but its beauty as it fluttered amidst tropical blossoms with wings that had a richness of color beyond that of the blossoms compelled me to release it rather than add it to a collection. What a lover of beauty God is, and supremely he loves the beauty of holiness. We can best express our gratitude for the beauty of the universe by manifesting that goodness which is so pleasing to him.

Auckland Revisited

Known as the Queen City of New Zealand, Auckland has a population of nearly 350,000 which is almost a sixth of the total population. Its growth in the twenty-odd years since I last saw it was amazing. The volcanic cones in the city and surroundings are a reminder that once this must have been one of the most unlikely places on the face of the globe for a flourishing city. The terraced sides of some of these tell of early Maori settlements and conflicts. A small cemetery is one of the few other reminders of an earlier Maori population. The beautiful harbor will one day be bridged, and this will further the growth of the city.

A Fish Story

New Zealand is world famous as a fishing resort. We sometimes enjoyed outings on the other end of a line to a worm that felt otherwise. One day we pulled up a small crab with a live sponge on its back and I decided to take it to the museum.

Apparently the presence of the species had been reported during the previous century but it was thought to have become extinct and consequently the curator seemed to find more delight in these small creatures than I would have if a ten pound schnapper had been on the line. I was made a member of a Naturalists' Club and afterwards enjoyed outings with an ornithologist who had gone as far as the South Pole in his study of birds.

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