

Miss J. Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Toowoomba Family Camp, Qld.

Sixty-eight people enjoyed the Fourth Annual Family Camp of the Toowoomba church at the Caloundra Christian Youth centre, Qld., over Australia Day week-end.

The 156-mile journey to the centre was made by bus after work on Friday evening, permitting a 3-day camp programme prior to a daylight home return on Monday afternoon. Church families are encouraged to bring the children, and this year 16 children under 14 left an over-14 total of 52 to make up the record 68 who attended. Age range was from 1 year to 82 years, with every age group in between well represented.

The theme of the camp, "Grow in Grace," introduced a campaign that will occupy the attention of the church throughout the year by means of monthly study groups and selected directed reading. Talks on the subject were presented on Saturday and Monday by E. T. Hart, whilst on Sunday morning in an informal worship service 13 members of the church told of the things that had helped them to grow spiritually.

The group discussions took up questions that must be faced in our personal witness, and ranged in breadth from facing our own personal temptations to facing the moral chaos of our generation.

The church secretary, N. E. S. Grenfell, gave helpful advice on the use of the Duplex envelopes, and drew attention to the new provision for the building fund.

The week-end will prove a spiritual tonic to the whole church as well as strengthen the family tie of each one privileged to share the week-end.

Much credit is due to Group Discussion leaders R. Hill, M. Muller, K. Draney and Mrs. H. Scholl, and to the splendid supervision of Camp



"Father" and "Mother," Mr. and Mrs. A. Bernath, whilst we were all helped by the direct messages provided by K. Paton (Facing the Day) and H. Christensen (Epilogue); the Bible school arranged by Miss M. King; and the splendid catering of Mrs. F. Winter and Mrs. H. Lowe.

Sand gardens, splendidly executed, caught up the spirit of the week-end, and provided a wonderful witness on Sunday afternoon, whilst the beach gospel service, though marred by heavy wind, was a fine climax to a lovely Lord's Day.

The splendid position of the centre and the additional facilities were much appreciated by all.

12 people at the camp signified their intention of furthering their spiritual life by means of the College of the Bible correspondence course.



Federal College Resumes

In view of the Principal's projected overseas tour later this year, the Federal College of the Bible opened its 1954 session earlier than usual, on Wed., Feb. 10.

Enthusiasm was evident throughout the informal opening session, and visitors were much impressed by the improvements in College living conditions, which have been made as a result of the Refurnishing Fund appeal. Principal E. L. Williams, secretary K. A. Jones, and some students had lent a ready hand during the vacation with such tasks as cementing, painting, etc., and their work was much appreciated.

New member of the faculty is J. Ernest Brooke, who succeeds Stanton H. Wilson as lecturer in Homiletics.

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

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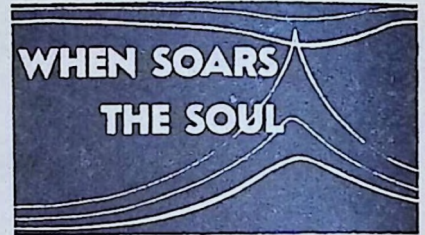
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



Are there some wise and understanding men among you? Then your lives will be an example of the humility that is born of true wisdom. . . . The wisdom that comes from God is first utterly pure, then peace-loving, gentle, approachable, full of tolerant thoughts and kindly actions, with no breath of favoritism or hint of hypocrisy. And the wise are peace-makers who go on quietly sowing for a harvest of righteousness—in other people and in themselves.—James 3: 13, 17, 18 (Phillips).

It is what we are that matters most, and that depends on what we are letting God make us. Our words and deeds have little power to help our fellows except as they spring from what we are. A man who was greatly perplexed went to ask help from Phillips Brooks, the great American bishop. But he tells how face to face with him all the questions he wanted to ask appeared trivial and meaningless, and all his troubles shrank into insignificance. From that moment his heart was no longer a cesspool of trouble, but a well-spring of courage and faith. "In practice," says the Judge in Charles Morgan's story, "no one does his life's work unless he first becomes the man who is fit to do it." But how become that kind of man, we may ask. By self-discipline and by prayer, no doubt. But the final secret is, as Paul says, "by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."—James Reid.

O thou who art the light of the minds that know thee, the life of the souls that love thee, and the strength of the hearts that serve thee; help us, so to know thee that we may truly love thee; so to love thee that we may fully serve thee whom to serve is perfect freedom: through Jesus Christ our Lord.—(Gelasian.)

Make this poor self grow less and less,

Be thou my life and aim;

Oh, make me daily through thy grace

More meet to bear thy name!

—E. L. Smith.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

VENTURES IN FELLOWSHIP

OUR front-page story of a church family camp in Queensland makes interesting reading. We are now familiar with the benefits of the youth camp technique, and preachers in the various States have long proved the value of several days annually spent in creative fellowship in some quiet retreat. But Toowoomba's attempt to cater for an age range from one to the eighties is a significant experiment. It would be interesting to learn whether any other of our Australian churches have made similar, or equally unusual, ventures in

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

As a people, we have always stressed the need for warmth and friendship, and more than one congregation has adopted some such hopeful slogan as "The Home-like Church." We have rightly felt it a sad slur on our good name if strangers should worship in any of our churches unnoticed and unwelcomed. More and more of our auxiliaries have adopted names which have featured the word "Fellowship," and the sense of belonging to a "church family" has been the binding motif of all their work. This spirit has often found social expression in such occasions as church picnics or socials—though these latter (perhaps happily!) are not all they used to be. Its spiritual expression has often come in special meetings, about which we have said happily afterwards, "Wasn't the fellowship fine?"

All this is as it should be, but it is only the kindergarten stage of congregational fellowship. Our churches need to be set big enough tasks, and then convinced that the finest fellowship comes when each member sets about doing his or her share of the work. Or rather, the emphasis should be that the church members themselves are in on the ground planning, and themselves helping to set the tasks. We have seen it happen often enough in material construction—as when a small group of men in some new cause decide to erect a building, largely by their own voluntary labor. It is *their* programme of work, and they fulfil it. They don't need to be told what fellowship is; they find it, working together.

We have noted more than once in this journal the importance of church planning. It needs to be re-emphasised that, ideally, it is *church* planning, and the more folk we can enlist not only in doing things, but in helping to make the plans, the better. A fine example of this type of fellow-

ship in action is provided by Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis, whose minister for the past fifteen years has been a Glen Iris graduate, Theo. O. Fisher. This church, which has grown to an active membership of 950, is featured in the *World Call* (Jan., 1954) as holding a "planning retreat at the spacious home of one of Northwood's families." "Plans for the retreat," says the report, "were set well in advance by the official board, with the pastor as adviser. Letters of invitation and instruction went to all departments and board members. . . . The afternoon was spent in setting objectives and laying specific plans, department by department. A picnic supper was enjoyed by the more than one hundred persons present. The retreat closed with a vesper service of consecration and dedication. Some churches have their planning conferences and retreats in camp grounds outside the various cities. Others spend a day or more at their own church."

Evangelism must always be the driving force of such congregational planning. Activities for the well-being of church members there must be. But we want

NO CLOSED CORPORATIONS

The church has a mission to the world, we say—and it is much easier to say that than pin-point that mission to some folk whom, frankly, we would not find easy to fit into the normal congregational pattern. In the biting words of one realist: "The Church to-day is self-deceived in three respects. She thinks she knows what the man in the street is thinking. That she wants the man in the street inside the Church. That the pattern of church life would go on in much the same way if he came in." More than one evangelist reported in overseas papers last year finding in many churches a hard core of folk who were unprepared to make any venture in fellowship towards new converts not of their class or type. Lip-service to evangelism is not good enough; a missionary's work can be undone unless real attempts are made to build every convert into the fellowship of the church.

Nor, incidentally, is lip-service to Christian union good enough. In the goodness of God we live in a time when denominations are ceasing to think of themselves as "closed corporations," and are making honest ventures in fellowship. We have talked much about "our plea" in this regard, and we still hold it vital—but how many honest ventures in fellowship have we made?

JOHN BISHOP, M.A. ("Christian World") affirms our faith in

The Life Everlasting



Such a belief rests on the promises of God, and especially on the words of Jesus. We have the foundation for this faith in such familiar words as "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Such words as these reinforce the deep elemental conviction of the human heart that this life is not everything, and that death is not the end but the expansion of life. For many people to-day life has become a grim struggle for existence, a bread-and-butter business. There is no hint of eternity, no air of permanence about it, no crown of glory for it, and no victorious consummation to it. We do not live in the power of an endless life. Multitudes of people regard the life that now is as the only life there ever will be. "Truly there needs another life to come." And another life is promised. Jesus stands "where cross the crowded ways of life," saying, "He that believeth in me shall not die but have life everlasting."

"The stars may shine for a thousand years,

A thousand years and a day,
But God and I will live and love
When the stars have passed away."

God has set eternity in our heart. One who knew Thomas Binney well said of him: "He seemed to look at the horizon rather than at an enclosed field or a local landscape. He had a marvellous way of connecting every subject with eternity past and eternity to come." "Gentlemen," exclaimed old Rabbi Duncan to his students as he dismissed them at the end of the year, "many will be wishing you a happy new year. Your old tutor wishes you a happy eternity."

"I believe in the life everlasting." What a glad and inspiring faith it is! What comfort it brings in face of the losses that come to us! Jesus Christ has travelled beyond the sunset, and he has come back again to tell us that beyond the grave and gate of death

"There is a land of pure delight
Where saints immortal reign,
Infinite day excludes the night,
And pleasures banish pain."

We may think of the life everlasting first of all as compensation for those who are handicapped in the present life. So many of our fellows have to fight against heavy disabilities.

Why do they fight? Why should they fight? William James says: "If this life be not a real fight, in which something is eternally gained for the universe by success, it is no better than a game of private theatricals from which one may withdraw at will. But it feels like a real fight." Those who make so brave a fight here against heavy odds desire a freer and fuller opportunity to use their gifts, and justice demands that they should have it. The personal powers developed in the fight are of permanent value.

Furthermore, eternal life is necessary for completion. "Our life," said Luther, "is a beginning and an advance, it never is a consummation." So it is natural that men should chafe at the notion of leaving it thus incomplete. The sense of incompleteness which makes men ask for another life, catches them at different points. Some of us feel it most in our work, as Cecil Rhodes did when he said: "So much to do, so little done." Some of us feel the incompleteness most in our knowing. "We know in part," said Paul, "we see the baffling reflections in a mirror." We look forward to the day when we shall know even as we are known. Many feel the incompleteness on the side of their affections. Love is cabined and confined here. Peter bids his readers "love one another from the heart and fervently," since they had been "begotten of incorruptible seed." They were to live always, he urged, and therefore they must love on a grander scale. Cowper in one of his letters says: "There is not room for friendship to unfold itself in full bloom in such a mere nook of life as this, therefore I am, and must and will be, yours for ever, William Cowper." That is an impressive therefore.

Everlasting life is not only necessary for compensation and completion, but for consummation. We desire to meet loved ones again, to renew life's friendships and fellowships. Hortense, the daughter of Napoleon's Josephine and the mother of Napoleon III, wrote to her son when he was for a brief

time in America and when, seriously ill, she did not expect to see him again in this life. "Believe," she said, "that certainly we shall meet again. Have faith in this consoling idea. It is too necessary not to be true."

When we think of the wonderful intimacy which springs up between a man and his Lord, the reverent demand for a future life grows more urgent. To him who knows all things we may say: "Thou knowest that I love thee." And yet we are ashamed when we consider how little of that love we have shown; and if this life is all, it looks as if we never would find a worthy utterance for our hearts. It is just on the quality of this intimacy that many of the Hebrew poets based all their hopes of a future. One of them says: "My flesh shall lie down in confidence, for thou wilt not leave my life to the grave, neither wilt thou suffer him whom thou lovest to see corruption."

Faith in a life to come adds largeness and splendor to our existence here. Eternal life begins here and now. This earthly life is part, in the intention of God, of our eternal life. It is our training ground, our apprenticeship, preparing us for greater work beyond. Such a faith gives dignity and standing to this temporal life of ours. It makes us responsible persons. It makes this life lose its insignificance. It says to us: "Your life matters." It helps us to lay our plans nobly, as those whose inheritance reaches far beyond the limits of this present world.

When Dick Sheppard died, a morning paper printed a beautiful photograph of his old pulpit at St. Martin's. The steps wound round as beautifully as ever, and a beam of light shone softly down on the reading desk and the Bible lying upon it; and in the margin beneath the picture they had printed the words, "Here endeth the First Lesson." That was more than good newspaper editing. It was a line instinct with the Christian hope. We believe in the life everlasting. We know that the grave is not our resting place. We go to be forever with the Lord. We shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. Our death-day is our crowning-day.

"We bow our heads at going out,
we think,
And enter straight another golden
chamber of the King's,
Larger than this we leave, and
lovelier."

BORROWED TIME

Howard Earle, Secretary, Federal Home Missions.

Once in a while, in the good providence of God, we are granted an extension of time in which to finish a task committed to our hands.

It may not have been through any fault of ours that the task was not completed on time. It may well have been through, as we say, "causes beyond our control."

At all events, we are now granted some borrowed time in which to do what still remains undone.

That is how the members of the Federal Executive feel regarding the buildings at Canberra. They have not been completed, as we had hoped they would, in time for the inauguration of the ministry of Gordon Stirling.

Neither Canberra nor Conference Committees are immune from vexatious delays due to shortage of supplies of essential building materials. Unfortunately for us, tiles and joinery were not available when required. Hence a hold-up in the completion of the manse and the multi-purpose building.

Meanwhile the Stirlings have been found temporary accommodation by Mr. and Mrs. Buffinton, for which the whole brotherhood is grateful. Grateful, too, we should be, for the splendid spirit in which the Stirlings have accepted the inconvenience of storing furniture and living in temporary quarters.

However, the architect, who has just returned from Canberra, reports that the painters are just about to finish off the manse, and that the Stirlings are delighted with the quality of the home that is to be theirs, and the measure of comfort provided by the brotherhood for them. In their own words, "It will be a fine instrument for evangelism." It is hoped that they will be in residence by Feb. 22.

The church building is going ahead. The roof is on, and the finishing touches are about to be put on the whole job.

The official opening will not be possible till April 10, with the Induction Service on April 11. Members contemplating a visit to the National Capital for this historic occasion are asked to make a note of the dates, and if required, book accommodation.

Thus the churches throughout Australia have been granted some borrowed time in which to fill their quotas for the Canberra Building Appeal.

The Federal Executive is in need of £3,000, urgently in need of it.

Some churches have more than filled their quotas. They have gone the

second mile, and accepted additional levies. Others have done well, though not as well as we had hoped. Still others have done very little, if anything.

We would appeal to every church in the Commonwealth to do something, and to do it quickly, to help complete this task committed to the Federal Executive by Conference, which



commitment was endorsed by State Executives and Conferences.

Has your church taken an offering since Christmas for the Canberra Building Fund? Have you made a personal offering?

I would that a thousand folk would send me £1 apiece before April 10. That would be but one in every thirty members of churches of Christ in Australia. And I would be delighted to receive, in addition, a 10/- note from two thousand members. And then a £5 note from two hundred souls. What a thrill that would bring to the Secretary of Federal Home Missions!

And that would only enable us to complete the buildings.

There is furniture to be provided and seating, and equipment for the Bible

school and kindergarten and clubs and Happy Hours and publicity and all the rest.

And not forgetting the salary of the preacher.

Borrowed time! It is ours.

Let us use it.

We shall give an account of our use of it. If not now, then later.



News of British Churches

The death has occurred in Birmingham of Herbert J. Johnson. He was in his 91st year. A member of an outstanding family which has given remarkable service to the churches throughout the years, his passing breaks a link with David King and L. Oliver. He had filled most of the offices in his own church, Moseley-rd., and had served the churches in wider ways, being called to the chair of Conference in 1914. He was a foundation member of the Training and Publishing committees, and was a life member of both.

W. Mander has completed 25 years of ministry at Evington-rd., Leicester. The President of Conference, J. W. Rutt, O.B.E., preached during the week-end, which was also the 45th anniversary of the church. There remain six foundation members, one of whom, Miss Grimley, celebrating her 80th birthday at the same time, received a bouquet.

R. N. Walters, M.A., who is a tutor at Cambridge University and secretary of the Union Committee, is writing a series of articles in the *Christian Advocate*, based on the Evanston booklets. Churches have been asked to form study groups, and to send their findings to the Union committee.

The two sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Green, baptised at Burnage, represent the fifth generation of the family to hold membership with the Manchester church. Mr. Green is chairman of the Home Missions Committee. — G. J. Hammond.



Dr. Kathleen Bliss, whose book on *The Service and Status of Women in the Churches* has aroused much interest, is one of seven women included in the official list of delegates from the United Kingdom and Eire to the Second W.C.C. Assembly at Evanston, Illinois, next August. Elsie Chamberlain, who is both a Congregational minister and wife of an Anglican clergyman, is another delegate.

How I Found Christ

Dr. Leland Wang.

I am a Chinese by race, a Christian by grace. I was born in Foochow, China, and never had the chance to attend a Sunday school when I was a boy. I used the first Bible I received for my stamp album, sticking the stamps I collected in the Bible. Now my motto is, "No Bible, no breakfast."

At fourteen, while I was in a Shanghai hospital after an accident, I began to seek the truth. I wanted to know where I came from, where I should go after death, and what is the purpose of life. I studied Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism, but they could not solve my problems, so I thought, "Just eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow we die."

The young woman to whom I was engaged was a Christian, a convert under the ministry of Ruth Paxson. After we were married, I began to read the Bible because I wanted to know the life story of Jesus. I thought he must be a wonderful man, as the history of the world is dated before or after his birth, and many good works were done in his name.

THE "HAPPY DAY."

Through reading the Bible, through the prayers of God's people, and through the testimony of my wife, I was convinced that there must be a true and living God; that I was a poor, lost sinner; that Jesus Christ was delivered for my transgression, and he was raised up again for my justification. Thank God for the "happy day that fixed my choice." Later the Lord gave me the joy of leading my parents and my three younger brothers to Christ. I baptised all of my brothers.

In 1921 God called me to preach. I started out as a free evangelist, and learned to trust God to meet all my needs after reading the life story of George Muller. It has been my joy to see thousands in more than twenty countries turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God.

THE GLORY OF LIFE.

Confucianism teaches us the duties of life, Buddhism the vanity of life, but Christ gives us the eternity and glory of life. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." (Rom. 6: 23). Oh, to know Christ and to make him known! He has delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling, and he has heard my voice and my supplication. "I will take

the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." (Ps. 116: 13.)

While in Java in 1952, Dr. Wang was seized and beaten by robbers. Though not seriously injured, he lost his Bible, sermon notes, passport and other important papers, as well as his suitcase and clothing.

"My Bible was lost, but not my Christ," Dr. Wang later testified; "my sermons, but not my message; my passport, but not my way to heaven, and my address book, but not my friends."

In 1929 Dr. Wang founded the Chinese Foreign Missionary Union. It has a purely Chinese missionary form of 26 working in 13 Stations (three in East Borneo, one in Makassar (Celebes), two in Java, two in Billiton, two in Bangka, and two in Cholon (Indo-China)). Six new churches have been built since World War II. This is a work of faith, and is the first Foreign Missionary Society organised by Chinese Christians. In the providence of God, when China closed to missionary work, the C.F.M.U. was able to concentrate, through its existing stations, upon the Chinese who live outside China, of whom there are 20 millions in S.E. Asia and Indonesia. Dr. Wang in 1953 had a very strenuous world tour.—The Christian.



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

Current Notes

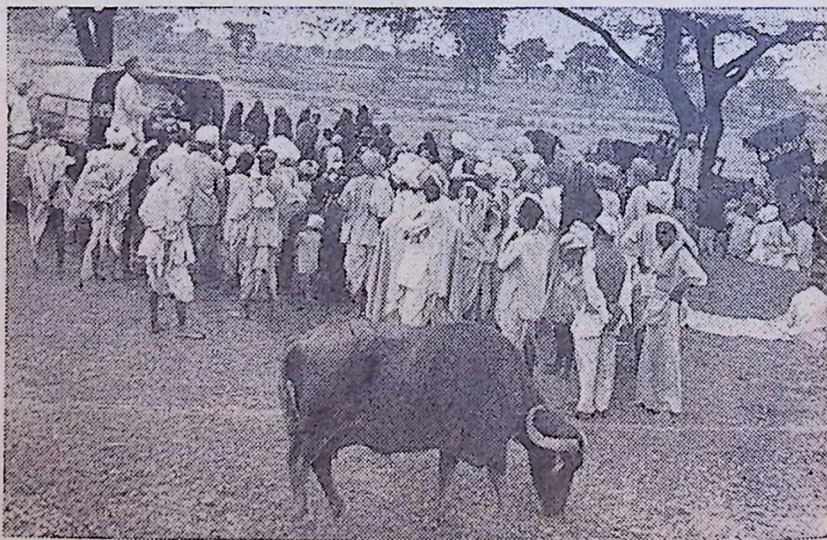
NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Plans have now been received from John Bairagi for the new school buildings at Baramati. These buildings are planned so that they will form part of the proposed Christian High School.

This project and the one at Dhond are those mentioned in the conditional

offer of the Campbell Edwards Trust Trustees, viz., that if the brotherhood supply £500, the Trust will subsidise pound for pound.

In submitting the plans, Mr. Bairagi writes: "Please convey to the members of the Home Board, including yourself, my gratitude and appreciation for sanctioning these three units with a view to a High School in the future. I feel that my stay here in Baramati for these eleven years has been worthwhile. The High School will certainly be a great factor in the development of the Indian Church, and the people will always



Open-Air Village Preaching in India.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

be grateful to the Australian brotherhood for it."

SCARCITY IN INDIAN VILLAGES.

The Indian Government is still concerned over the food situation in our mission area and neighboring districts. According to *The Times of India*: "January 7: The Bombay Government has declared that scarcity conditions exist in 81 villages in Ahmednagar district following the failure of the rabi crop due to insufficient rains. Of these villages, 24 are in Nagar, 36 in Shrigonda, and 21 in Parner talukas. The Government has also sanctioned the immediate implementation of scarcity relief works."

B. V. Coventry adds: "On Sunday after our church service we went to a place about eight miles from here, where we saw the Chief Minister of Bombay arrive in a helicopter. He had come to tell of a scheme to be commenced that would end famine in a large part of this Taluka. It will not mean the end entirely for the whole Taluka, but would mean it for about half the Taluka. Of course this will not be accomplished in a year. The plan should be operating within the next ten years. To-day we have commenced pulling the irrigated part of our crop. All the area not under irrigation has been pulled and is stacked. It yielded no grain at all. However, hopes are high for a good yield on the irrigated section. We continue to help quite a lot over this side, but have the satisfaction of knowing that many of those whom we helped to get to Bombay have quite decent positions."

ISLAND NEWS.

"I was very pleased with the children's effort in the Christmas concert. The children did well in each item, even though they made out they were frightened. Willie Tor, Abel's boy, made an excellent Jack-in-the-box in the little children's items. The play was done quite well with the help of some schoolboys from Londua.

"I have been able to help at the hospital just a little late, but cannot really do a great deal, as there is quite a bit of school preparation to do. It has been good to get my hand in on injection again.

"In taking the service at Namberin-weli on Sunday, I couldn't help wondering just how much would be understood. They know so little, and the pull from the old heathen life is so strong. I guess we can only do our task faithfully and pray that the Holy Spirit may give them spiritual understanding of the word spoken. Santo is also a place of great need. It being described as a "sink of iniquity" is certainly no exaggeration, and yet there is practically no Christian witness being made there. The only thing

(continued at foot of next column.)

February 16, 1954.



As Others See Us

The Central Christian Church at Warren, Ohio, was organized in 1803 as the Concord Baptist Church. It was one of those churches in the Mahoning Association which, in the 1820's, accepted the views of Alexander Campbell. Last September it celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. The visiting speaker on that occasion was Luther A. Weigle, Dean Emeritus of Yale Divinity School, chairman of the committee that wrote the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, and a Congregational Christian. A large part of the address was given to a critical appreciation of Alexander Campbell's 1826 translation of the New Testament, which he called *The Living Oracles*. It is a most interesting appreciation.

Dr. Weigle's address, "Shared Convictions of our Faith," also included the following evaluation of our contribution to the Christian Church:

As one who is not a member of your brotherhood, but who has often had fellowship in Christian service, throughout the past forty years, with those who are, I want to record my appreciation of the contribution which the Disciples of Christ are making to the total life of the Christian Church—the body of Christ—in this and other lands. I name five points at which this contribution to our common life is especially notable.

1. Fidelity to the Scriptures as the rule of faith and practice. "Nothing," Thomas Campbell declared, "ought to be inculcated upon Christians as articles of faith, nor required of them as terms of communion, but what is expressly taught and enjoined upon them in the Word of God."

2. Reliance upon the human mind as competent to apprehend God, to respond to him with faith, and to gain new knowledge and increase of power

to do seems to be to pray the Lord of the harvest that he will send out laborers into this needy place.

"The rains have really come, and you can imagine how glad we are feeling. We have had small rain, but now the real rain has come, and we have full tanks at last. It is lovely to be able to use water freely again, and to see the greenness coming back. In thanking God for the rain we also long that we may experience showers of spiritual blessings amongst his children here."—Win. Waterman.

by the experimental method of basing action upon the knowledge which we have and the faith which it inspires. Alexander Campbell took seriously our Saviour's commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God . . . with all your mind."

3. The primary and central place of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. This Christocentric emphasis keeps fidelity to the Scriptures from lapsing into bibliolatry and legalism, and saves reliance upon the human mind from the folly of nontheistic humanism.

4. The maintenance of full and responsible participation by laymen and laywomen in the worship and in the life and work of the church.

5. Devotion to the ideal and practice of Christian unity, and rejection of man-made authoritarianisms.

None of these characteristic principles is exclusively yours; they are shared by Christians of sound evangelical faith in all of the Protestant churches. But the clarity and conviction with which your brotherhood maintains them has been and is an effective leaven in the whole ecumenical movement. — (Christian-Evangelist, 2/12/53.)

Swiss Titbit

"In the small town of Thun on the Thunersee I noticed on Sunday morning in the Stadtkirche a remarkable happening. The large congregation had listened, with that unbreakable patience which marks German audiences, to a 55-minute sermon. Then came the holy communion. The male elders of the church festooned the walls in their high seats, but the minister at the holy table was assisted by a woman! This female, in a modest tweed costume and hatless, too, held the cup as the congregation moved to receive the elements, while the stern, white-haired 'First Minister of the Town' broke the bread. This, the heirs of Zwingli tell me, signifies nothing. There are no women ministers, at least not in the church of Bern. But it still may be a sign of the times even in Switzerland, where no revolutions are hatched, and all the fighting ended a hundred years ago. Do not forget that Switzerland still forbids women the vote in cantonal and federal elections."—(Cecil Northcott, *Christian Century*, 14/10/53).

—Contributed by R. W. Graham, for the Federal Committee for the Promotion of Christian Union.

here and there

Ewart H. Wyle, remembered as a Melbourne World Convention speaker, began a new ministry this month at the Country Club Church, Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Wyle is in his fiftieth year, American-trained but London born, and the ninth successive generation of the Wyles to be in the ministry. His only child, Ewart H. Wyle, Jr., is the tenth, for he is a student at the divinity school of Texas Christian University.

In all States, representatives of churches of Christ have been invited to official functions in connection with the Royal visit. It is impossible for us to secure a complete list of all members of our churches so honored, as some attend in civic and other capacities. Hence we shall publish no names, but express our pleasure in the recognition granted to some of our good friends.

The discoveries of the past twenty-five years have made contributions of tremendous importance to students of the Bible, and because of this new factual knowledge, a series of autumn lectures is arranged each year by the Australian Institute of Archaeology, 174 Collins-st., Melbourne. This year the series will cover the Patriarchal Period of secular and Bible history from the time of Abraham, approximately 2000 B.C. to the time of Moses. This series of seven public lectures will be held in the Lecture Hall, Second Floor, Central House, 174 Collins-st., on Tuesday nights of March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, and April 6 and 13, commencing 7.45 p.m. Lecture notes are provided. These lectures are free and open to all. An offering will be taken to cover expenses. It would guide in the production of lecture notes, as to the number required, if those planning to attend would kindly advise by 'phone (Central 6727), or by writing to the address as given above.

Farewell messages were given to Castlemaine church, Vic., by K. Clinton, B.A., on Jan. 24. At a social evening on the 27th, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton were recipients of gifts from church and auxiliaries prior to their departure for Hampton. R. Wilson commenced his ministry on Feb. 7, when several visitors, including Dr. and Mrs. A. Price (Melbourne), were present. A happy welcome social was held on Feb. 6.

In a personal letter to the editor, Theo. O. Fisher, of Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, writes in appreciation of *The Australian Christian*, and mentions his continuing "very happy experience" with his church. "We had 193 additions last year," he writes, "and are in the midst of an ambitious building programme." Just how ambitious it is is shown by a well-printed folder. The church sanctuary was completed as recently as Oct., 1950, at a cost of 290,000 dollars; under construction now is a 216,000 dollar 3-storey education building, to which it is hoped to link by a 30-foot cloister walk a new chapel, seating 80 persons, to be used for weddings, church school worship services, and daily private devotions. This 43,000 dollar chapel will be fitted with an electric organ, and also a recorded music device permitting folk to have music for private meditation if desired. Mr. Fisher is an Australian, entering the Federal College from Gardiner church, Vic.

L. G. Burgin commenced his ministry with the church at Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic., on Feb. 7, preaching to excellent gatherings. Mr. and Mrs. Burgin and family were given a warm public welcome on the 10th. J. Atkinson, R. Stephenson, E. McClean and L. G. Burgin have been appointed church's delegates to Conference.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hurren have commenced 8th year of service at Footscray, Vic., and Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Taylor their 7th year with the church at Brighton, Vic.

J. C. McCormick will conclude his ministry with the Broken Hill church, N.S.W., during April.

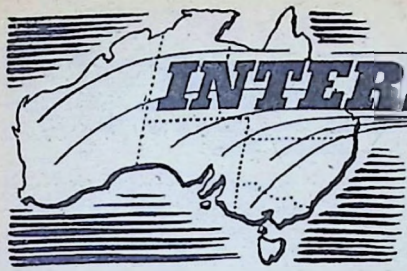
A working bee was organised during the Australia Day week-end to strip and re-roof the Bethany Boys' Hostel at Dover, Tas. On the Saturday 20 men from Collins-st., Dover, Geeveston, and West Hobart churches assembled under the leadership of T. Orr (Launceston), assisted by his sons John, Colin and Allan. Work proceeded very smoothly, and by 8 p.m. Saturday evening the whole roof had been stripped, and re-pitched, and two-thirds re-ironed. Amongst those who labored was Dr. Oldfield, President of the Vic.-Tas. Conference, who endeared himself further with those pre-

sent by his practical ability and willingness to assist. Rain set in on Sunday evening, but, despite a steady downpour, 14 were present on Monday to see the job through. By pitching tarpaulins a few feet above the roof structure, work was carried on, and by 4.30 p.m. a very wet but happy band had completed the job. The success of the venture was due to the willingness of all who came to do what was asked of them; the organising and collecting of materials by B. Golder and K. Mundy; and the excellent leadership of T. Orr. A word must be said for the ladies who provided the meals, a very important part of the project. This was capably done by sisters and friends of the Dover church, helped by Mesdames F. Ashlin (Geeveston), E. Ashlin (West Hobart), T. Orr and Miss N. Orr (Sandhill, L'ton). Once again it has been shown what can be accomplished in his Name by co-operative effort.

At a crowded social evening on Feb. 6 and well attended services on the 7th, R. N. Gilmore was farewelled by members of Red Hill church, Vic., to whom his ministry has been a great help. A suitable presentation was made to him.

About 300 folk gathered in perfect weather on Sat. afternoon, Feb. 6, for the opening of the Wattle Park chapel, Vic. Mr. Haycraft (Hartwell), who had led the men of the church (membership, 29), and interested friends in this voluntary building project, paid a tribute to the way they had co-operated. Dr. G. H. Oldfield (Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres.) then declared the building opened, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Ashley (in whose home services have been held) were invited to be the first to enter. When the chapel was filled, a large overflow congregation gathered in the basement, to which the opening service was relayed (kindly arranged by C. Gadge). Dr. W. A. Kemp presided, and called on a number of local representatives (including the Mayor of Box Hill) to bring greetings. A. Ashley (church sec.) reviewed the history of the cause, and Principal E. L. Williams delivered a dedicatory address. Mrs. C. G. Taylor sang three solos, Miss M. E. Pittman played an organ voluntary, and Mrs. Brough was organist. H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., new minister, gave a general welcome, and all were later entertained by the ladies at afternoon tea. Appreciation was expressed of the financial help received from the Campbell Edwards Trust. The chapel and equipment won warm praise from the visitors. There is a rapidly growing Bible School associated with this cause.

H. E. Greenwood's ministry with the church at Kalgoolie, W.A., concluded on Jan. 17, after three years of much appreciated leadership.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. Lomax, Ormond, Vic.
J. Bailey, Ma Ma Creek, Qld.
Mrs. Cambell, Mosman, N.S.W.
Mrs. G. Warmbrunn, Carnegie, Vic.
C. Stewart, Lismore, N.S.W.
M. Witherspoon, Lismore, N.S.W.
Mrs. W. Morgan, Gympie, Qld.

Western Australia

Wembley (J. K. Bond).—B.S. and C.E. maintained meetings during holiday period with gratifying results. A. G. Elliott, N.S.W., who with family was visiting W.A., addressed church on Jan. 24. Messrs. Stephenson and Park assisted during preacher's vacation. After church fellowship on Feb. 7 presented Mr. Stephenson with Bible in recognition of his services. Elders are studying ways of enlarging chapel and hall to cater for expanding work.

Kalgoorlie.—Local brethren are conducting services during period without preacher. Broadcast children's choir has resumed sessions. Ladies have enjoyed several picnic lunches. Joy Hudson was farewelled prior to her departure to Perth.

Tasmania

Margaret-st., Launceston (J. A. Luff).—The 1954 planned programme commenced with members' dedication day on Feb. 7. Auxiliaries have recommenced activities. Preacher attended conference at Monbulk, Vic. B.S. contributed £38 for Indian orphan support during 1953. Recent speakers have been R. M. Wilson, Dr. G. H. Oldfield and W. B. Burn. Mrs. Blair is in hospital. B.S. held promotion day on Feb. 7. Visitors have included Mrs. Warmbrunn, Mr. Avery and Mrs. Curtis (Vic.), Misses Clayton, Nicol and Tompsett (S.A.).

Devonport. — Church thanks local brethren and F. B. Burtt, Victoria, for conducting services in recent weeks. Evening service on Jan. 21 was addressed by Dr. G. H. Oldfield, who was present with his son. At annual business meeting on Feb. 3, following were elected, E. O. Stevens, secretary; J. J. Webb, treasurer; Messrs. Byard, Walsh, F. and S. Burtt, Webb, Stevens and Kenzie, deacons; E. Stevens, B.S. supt. W.M.B. elected Mrs. Stevens president, and Mrs. Webb secretary.

West Hobart. — Assistance of J. Park, L. Moore, J. Farmilo, W. Rush-ton, R. Bullimore and E. Ashlin as speakers has been appreciated. Number of members assisted in working bee at "Bethany." Mr. Cooper has

accepted temporary superintendency of B.S. Interstate visitors have included Mrs. Cooper and Lynette, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Mott, Mrs. Easton and family, all from Victoria. W. Cooper has renewed fellowship with church.

Queensland

Rockhampton (D. H. Paddon).—Y.P.S.C.E. recently held fellowship tea, main feature being "Camp Echoes" by four young people who attended camp at Caloundra. B.S. has re-commenced with several new scholars. Auxiliaries have resumed after recess. Prayer meetings are being continued on North Side as well as in chapel. New fence has been erected in front of chapel. Recent visitors were Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Carpenter, Mrs. McLucas and daughter (Kedron).

Gympie-Monkland (R. T. Roberts).—All auxiliaries have recommenced. Morning service on Jan. 17 was broadcast. Mr. Roberts is new pres. of Gympie District C.E. Union. A Christmas service was held at Mothar Mountain, and monthly gospel services commenced in Feb. B.S. has been conducted there for the last ten months. Various speakers took meetings during preacher's holidays. Nine Y.P. attended camps at Caloundra. Proceeds of ladies' talent boxes, amounting to over £17 were sent to Miss E. Vawser.

New South Wales

Taree (K. W. Barton, L.Th.).—Many visitors were welcomed during holiday period. A. B. Clark, former preacher, G. Norling and others assisted in services whilst preacher was on vacation. There has been one decision recently.

Mosman.—B.S. picnic was held at Lane Cove National Park on Feb. 6. G. Knight and C. de Evalyns were speakers on 7th. Ladies' Aid class at Seaforth has recommenced activities.

Wollongong (G. Brown). — E. C. Hinrichsen was recent visitor. Week of special meetings is planned, with D. R. Stirling, Vic., former preacher as speaker.

Lismore (A. C. Caldicott).—Senior camp was held at Burleigh Heads with M. Pieper and M. Smith as leaders. Number of campers attended from interstate. Junior camp was also held with G. Davis, assistant leader, and Mrs. Davis, camp mother. G. B. Davis and D. Willis (new students for Woolwich) addressed church on Feb. 7. Presentations were made to them at another service, when E. Davis, College chairman, was speaker. Church is illuminated for Royal visit. Plans are in hand for approaching 70th an-

Discipleship

Graham Butterworth, Joan Methven, Castlemaine, Vic.
Glenys Fordham, Neville Nell, Oakleigh, Vic.
R. Phelps, Flinders Park, S.A.
Lesley Fulton, Gordon Broussard, Paul Tarrant and George Hardwick, Nth. Balwyn, Vic.
John Eastgate, Horsham, Vic.
Mrs. Farquhar, Mosman, N.S.W.
Mr. Jobson, Lexia Bryant, N. Williamstown, Vic.
Matt Anderson, J. Whittle, Len Fittell, Gympie, Qld.
Miss R. McDonald, Lake-st., Perth, W.A.
Baden Stanton, Wangaratta, Vic.
Janice Bricker, Caulfield, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Probyn, from Wedderburn, Vic., to Shepparton, Vic.
Mrs. Mason, from Malvern, Vic., to Oakleigh, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. K. Buchanan, from Caulfield, Vic., to Oakleigh, Vic.
Mrs. Pegg, from Lygon-st., Vic., to Maidstone, Vic.
Brian Barrett, from Prospect, S.A., to Kilburn, S.A.
Mrs. K. Ashlin, West Hobart, Tas.
Mr. and Mrs. McKay, from Bankstown, N.S.W., to Bexley North, N.S.W.
Mrs. H. Mitchell, Lake-st., Perth, W.A.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Shurman, Lake-st., Perth, W.A.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Cardinal, from Annerley, Qld., to Gympie, Qld.
Leona Stanton, Wangaratta, Vic.

Marriage

Joyce Mitchell to Donald McMillan, Ormond, Vic.
May Sparkes to Ben Crowden, Launceston, Tas.
Miss G. Mossop to H. Mortimer, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Miss Y. Tilbrook to W. Bradley, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Fayre Johnson to John Whittle, Gympie, Qld.
Ruth Machin to Brian Ellis, Caulfield, Vic.

niversary of church. "Beams of Light" is popular religious radio session. Sympathy of church is extended to Mr. and Mrs. R. Wotherspoon in death of their baby son, Gordon.

Bexley North (R. W. Saunders).—Y.P. held squash at manse on Jan. 30 in aid of building fund. Work on new building is proceeding, baptistry having been commenced. Men of church had working bee on Jan. 23. B.S. picnic was held at Sans Souci on Feb. 6. Y.P.S.C.E. commenced on 9th with consecration meeting. Church met to honor Pauline Jones on Feb. 10 prior to entrance into Woolwich College.

South Australia

Kilburn (H. G. Norris).—B.S. had attendance of 175 on Feb. 7, and new scholars were welcomed. Ladies' guild donated £40 for new baptistry. Mrs. Semmens and Mrs. Kelly are training B.S. for anniversary.

Grote-st., Adelaide (A. W. C. Candy).—On Feb. 3 a social was tendered to Miss Elsie Caldicott, returned missionary. H.M. offering was £98/15/-. W. Blackely has relinquished superintendency of B.S. after 17 years' service. Successful Christmas camps were held at Goolwa and Mt. Barker.

Flinders Park (J. B. Baker).—B.S. has recommended, and has been congratulated on winning 1953 Efficiency Campaign award for S.A. Preacher and family have been holidaying in Victoria. Thanks has been expressed to Sis. Brunton and Lockett and C. Inverarity for leadership of auxiliaries prior to relinquishing their tasks. Church and newly formed Albert Park church are being formed into circuit under leadership of J. Baker. Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Eglinton in passing of her mother.

Victoria

Maidstone (E. H. Randall).—Youth choir, with V. Waters as conductor, is being formed. Sympathy of church is extended to Mr. Hillbrick in recent bereavement. B.S. prize giving and tea was held on Feb. 7, when camp reminiscences were given. Working bee is completing final work on new manse.

Oakleigh (J. W. Lewis).—During absence of preacher on holidays, speakers were S. Fordham, H. Miller, S. R. Baker, F. V. Brown, H. A. Horsfall and H. Farmer. J. Lewis commenced third year of ministry on Jan. 31. Members of C.M.S. have renovated chapel seats.

Ormond (F. E. Buckingham).—There was one decision on Jan. 24. On 27th kitchen tea was given to Joyce Mitchell and D. McMillan prior to their marriage. There were 107 com-

municants on Feb. 7. Auxiliaries have re-commenced, and kinders had record attendance. Sympathy of church is extended to Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitaker and family in their bereavement.

Shepparton (T. V. Weir).—Prayer meeting on Jan. 28 was conducted by D. Holloway (C.O.B.). Mr. Weir attended preachers' conference at Monbulk. Visitors have included K. Ferguson, Tas. Mrs. F. Harris has returned home from hospital, and W. Stone from an overseas trip.

Maryborough (M. A. Coombs).—There have been many visitors over holiday period, including Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Alcorn and family (Sunshine). Mr. Gemmill, Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Ley have been ill, but are improving. Church made appeal for clothing for family recently burnt out. Church sympathises with Bowman family, who recently lost husband and father. Mr. Coombs has introduced special meetings. Ladies' Aid held annual meeting on Feb. 4. Election of officers: pres., Mrs. Shepherd; vice-pres., Mesdames Drake and Nicholls; sec., Mrs. Matthews; treas., Mrs. Chamberlain; group collector, Mrs. F. Davies. All auxiliaries are recommencing.

Carnegie (H. E. R. Steele).—Sympathy is extended to G. Warmbrunn and family in recent bereavement. H. A. G. Clark has assisted at prayer meetings at Emmaus Rest Home and in church visitation. Girls' gymnasium has re-commenced.

North Williamstown (C. J. Mackenzie).—Auxiliaries have re-commenced. Mrs. Dyson and Mrs. Aldersley have been appointed leaders of Good Companions' club. 129 attended evening service on Feb. 7, when D. Nicholls was speaker, and showed films on Aborigines at after church fellowship. Offering for aborigines was £22/10/-. Melb. City Mission expressed thanks for £100 in toys and cash collected for them during Christmas period.

Emerald (D. D. Stewart).—Church welcomed many visitors during holiday period. Fellowship with and ministry of V. Foster and young men from North Fitzroy was enjoyed. Emerald and Avonsleigh B.S. held picnic at Mordialloc on Feb. 6. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. C. Nobelius in death of sister. Miss O. Laird has entered C.O.B. for missionary training.

Footscray (A. E. Hurren).—£42 was raised by ladies in effort for W. H. Clay nursing home. Unit 2 of planned programme has been commenced. C.M.S. conducted evening service on 7th. Plans have been formulated for purchase of car for use of preacher.

Newmarket (D. W. Hibbert, B.A., Dip.Ed.).—During preacher's vacation

W. Thompson, D. Ploog, H. Potts, R. Conning, K. McKinnon and R. Tipsett conducted services. Mrs. Mitchell has returned home from W. H. Clay nursing home.

Kaniva (M. T. Lawrie).—£75 was received for Christmas Bowl of Remembrance Appeal. E. L. Williams, W. A. Wigney and R. McCue (Local Option Alliance) have been recent speakers. Members at Serviceton hope to have new church building completed shortly. Visitors have been welcomed in recent weeks. Preacher has commenced fourth year of ministry.

Swan Hill (R. A. Banks).—Attendances are being maintained. On Feb. 6 social evening was held to farewell G. Chislett, entrance student, to Woolwich. Berean club and B.S. have recommenced with increased attendances.

Wangaratta (R. J. Anderson).—All Sixth-ave., Inglewood, W.A. (late the holidays). B.S. attendance was 101 on Feb. 7. During absence of preacher, speakers included A. E. Franks, C. Jackel, Mr. Terry (Albury). Successful N.E. district camp was held at Cheshunt. Sympathy of church is expressed to Mrs. J. Whittaker in loss of her mother

DEATHS.

GILCHRIST.—On Feb. 5, at 140 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, W.A. (late of Wedin), William Henry, loved husband of Gertrude Lucy and loving father of Dorothy, Jack, Ted, Grace and Bob. Aged 74 years.

"In the secret of his presence."

THOMAS.—John William Rossant, of Wonga-rd., Ringwood, on Jan. 30. Beloved husband of Annie-bell (Queen), loved father of Thelma (Mrs. I. C. Dickason) and Ross.

RUBY WEDDING.

FEATHERSTON-DAVEY.—Mr. and Mrs. Stan Featherston have pleasure in announcing the 40th anniversary of their wedding celebrated at church of Christ, Windsor, by the late pastor Joseph Pittman, March 10, 1914. Present address, 189 High-st., Richmond.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE.

MACINDOE-GILMORE.—The marriage of Joyce Rosalind, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Macindoe, Dorrigo, N.S.W., to Russell Neil, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Gilmore, Kyneton, Vic., will be celebrated on Feb. 27 in the church of Christ, Epping, N.S.W., at 2.30 p.m.

Citizenship Convention,

1954.

The Fifth Citizenship Convention held recently at Canberra was attended by over 200 delegates.

It was opened officially by the Governor-General, who, at the conclusion of a fine address, asked all present to stand in silence and ask God's blessing upon the Convention.

The main subject was naturalisation of migrants. Discussion groups made helpful suggestions to the Department of Immigration. It is true that we do not receive many members of churches of Christ from migration. But we can, and should, play our part along with others in the assimilation of these New Australians. Where possible we should encourage them to become naturalised.

Let us remember that our forefathers were migrants to this land. It is our privilege to make these new migrants feel "at home" among us. They have made and will continue to make a big contribution, both economically and culturally, to our country.

An impressive Naturalisation Ceremony was held in the Albert Hall one evening of the Convention, when 15 brilliant young migrants became Australian citizens. The record of Klaus Buettnar (aged 16) is typical of the group. He came from Estonia 4 years ago, and could speak only a few words of English. Last year he was dux of Perth Boys' High School, attended by 740 boys. He hopes to study medicine if finance permits, otherwise he will turn to engineering.

Australia is fortunate to receive these new settlers, and they appreciate what we are doing for them. It is unavoidable that certain temporary inconveniences have occurred, and will occur to some migrants, but when you consider that since the war upwards of 800,000 new settlers have come to us, our assimilation programme has been highly successful.

W. W. Saunders represented churches of Christ at the Convention, and R. C. McKenzie represented the Federal Board of Christian Education. —R.C.McK.



Northern Conference in S.A. will be held in Long Plains new chapel (the old one having been destroyed by fire), and a buoyant note is sounding. All churches are reporting progress, especially Whyalla, which is fostering a new field at Port Augusta. Conference is beginning a Youth Group with a camp at Longwood in March, under the leadership of R. Ewers. Conference president this year is M. D. Williams.

February 16, 1954.

Women's Activities

Victoria-Tasmania.—At the February meeting, Mrs. Hodges was in the chair. There were 94 ladies present. The devotional meditation was led by Mrs. Roach (Carnegie). The guest speaker was Mrs. Hansford, of the School for Deaf Children. Her subject was: "Breaking Through the Sound Barrier." Regret was expressed at the serious illness of Mrs. Tucker, who was pianiste for many years, and Miss N. Ellis, a past president. Mrs. Withers reported Mission Band contributions for 1953 a record, £1129/5/3.

South Australia. — There were 89 present at first meeting for the year held on Feb. 4. Mrs. F. Cornelius conducted devotional session, taking for her subject, "The guidance of God in our service for him." Mrs. C. Hughes has resigned as Dorcas Supt. owing to ill health. Mrs. Kemp has been appointed in her place. Social Service Dept. report Christmas party and concert given to migrant women and small children. Our ladies assisted in street sale of badges for Y.M.C.A. work. Hospital Committee report 105 visits taking sweets, cake, fruit and books.—L. Hollard, asst. sec.

New South Wales.—Feb. devotional session was led by Mrs. B. G. Corlett, who began with the National Anthem in honor of the Queen. I. A. Pateroster then spoke on his recent trip to New Zealand. He gave an enlightening talk on our work over there. President, Mrs. E. W. Roffey, mentioned the fact that our Women's Conference was represented at the State luncheon tendered to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by herself as president, and Mrs. C. A. Saxby, as secretary. "It was an occasion of high honor, and we appreciated the fact that we were representative of all our women in this State."

News and Notes

Desiring to give some recognition on Sunday, Feb. 28, when Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh will be in Melbourne, the Swanston-st. church, in co-operation with the Conference Executive, is arranging special services for both morning and evening. Dr. Oldfield, the President of Conference, will speak in the morning and preside over the evening service; Mr. Macnaughtan, the Swanston-st. preacher, will preside in the morning and speak at night. These services are commended to any visiting brethren in the city that day.

E. W. Weeding, secretary of Ararat church, Vic., reports a fine piece of co-operative effort by a membership of little more than thirty. Eight

months ago it was decided to build a new B.S. hall to accommodate the rapidly growing school, and the building has now been completed, and officially opened, free of debt. Special help, including some donations, came from Messrs. Chapman, Erwin, Toole and Carpenter, and also from the preacher, R. J. Duckett, to whom the secretary on the opening day presented a cheque of £50 in appreciation of hard work and long hours spent on the job. The opening was attended by a large representative gathering, including visitors from Stawell and Ballarat. The building was declared open by C. Welsh (officer with longest service), who then led the way inside. Mr. Duckett chaired a capacity meeting, during which greetings were received from Cr. Marx (Mayor), Mr. Harris, sr. (Meth.), Mr. McCoy (Pres.) and J. A. Wilkie (H.M. committee and Vic. brotherhood). In expressing delight with the perfect finish of the hall and its beautiful lighting, Mr. Wilkie recalled his presence at the opening of the chapel 33 years ago. F. C. Hunting (Ballarat) gave an inspirational address, and Misses N. Walsh (pianiste) and E. Renton (soloiste) presented items. An offering of almost £50 was received.

YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE

Bible Society's
Triple Jubilee

Thanksgiving Service
IN THE

Melbourne Town Hall
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 7,
1954, AT 2.45 P.M. .

Chairman:

The Rt. Hon. R. G. MENZIES,
C.H., Q.C., M.P.

Address by: George Sinker,
(Bishop of Nagpur, India)

Special Jubilee Guest Speaker.

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, accompanied by Lady Brooks, will read a special greeting from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Anthems by Combined Chords:
MacRobertson Girls' High School
Melbourne Boys' High School

Organist: Raymond Fehmel.

Celebrate with the Society which has been in the service of the Bible for 150 years.

OFFERING FOR
THE TRIPLE JUBILEE FUND.

Preachers' Provident Fund

About 1917 a group of members in New South Wales wished to express in a practical way their love and appreciation for some preachers for the faithful preaching and sacrificial service being rendered. Many of the churches were not financially strong enough to provide adequate remuneration. The preachers were hard put to provide for the present and with no chance of laying aside for the future. This band of members established a fund which, through consecrated management and wise investment, would produce an income to provide for these preachers something which they were unable to secure for themselves. This fund became known as the Aged and Infirm Evangelists Trust. Although not adequate to make full provision for the beneficiaries, it was a step in that direction. Eventually this project was adopted on a Federal basis, and became an activity under the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia. Under this control it still remains a labor of love in the interests of all full-time preachers in those churches. In many cases the preachers' remuneration is still insufficient to permit them to make other provision for the future, and their service continues to be sacrificial. There still remains a need to be met by practical demonstration by church members of Christian love. This fund provides a ready and willing agency through which such service can be rendered.

The Framework of the Fund

Some church members have such little knowledge of the fund that they think of it as only an insurance scheme available to preachers on their making payment of prescribed premiums. It is much more than that. While it does provide a measure of limited contributory insurance, with attractive conditions, it also provides for help to preachers who are unable to afford the cost of contributions. To meet the needs of both groups the financial framework is operated under two distinct headings. An Endowment Account covers all activities of the contributory subsidised accounts and the General Account meets all other activities. Through these two accounts there is achieved the main objective of the fund, which is to provide a pool of finance from which assistance can be provided for full-time preachers who have given a lifetime of service in the work of the Kingdom and in the public ministry of the Church, and thus have been the representatives of all church members. The fund is not operated as a

means for "short term" investment for preachers to use for a few short years in order to benefit from subsidies and then withdraw, but is to be available to the preacher when, by reason of age or ill health he can no longer continue in the full time work, or for his dependents in the event of his earlier death.

The Endowment Fund

The fund provides the machinery to control the accounts of those preachers who are able to lay aside a portion for the future. It records the contributions by preachers to their individual accounts; amount of interest added annually; any subsidy credited, and interest on the latter. The interest credited is more than would be received from a bank. These funds are held in trust by the Board and are available to the contributors at any time under conditions laid down in the approved Rules of the Fund.

Insurance Cover

Each preacher joining the fund before reaching age 50 years and continuing to make payment of contributions of £5 per annum is automatically covered by insurance against death in an amount of £75. If he joins before reaching age 45 years and makes annual contributions payments of £10, he is covered in a sum of £150. These covers remain until his total credit in the fund reaches the amount of the cover. In each case the contribution by the fund is the difference between his total credit and the amount of cover. He is not required to make any extra payment for this cover, which is an added provision for his dependents.

THE GENERAL FUND is comprised of all monies received from (a) churches through duplex envelopes and/or special offerings, (b) Conference Executives, i.e., conference offerings, etc., (c) members' special votive offerings; settlements; bequests and legacies, (d) income received from investment of available funds. By provision in the Fund Rules it is to supply means to meet (a) expenses of management, (b) interest allowed on preachers' contributions to the Endowment Fund, (c) financial assistance where required to preachers (a preacher is defined as one in full time preaching service with churches of Christ in Australia); an organiser to a committee reporting to the Federal or a State Conference; Faculty and Students of Colleges of the Bible; Missionaries under the Federal Missionary Board, and Chaplains appointed to act under the church of

Christ); (d) from any balance remaining provide a subsidy to the amounts contributed by preachers to their accounts during that year. The main source of yearly income is from the investment of Trust Funds. The amounts received from churches and individuals have been sufficient only to meet the payments to preachers and their dependents in need of assistance. The fund could not function if it depended solely on this source of income. And no church member's chest should swell with pride over that fact. All officers and Board members give voluntary service and administrative costs do not exceed 1 per cent. of income.

SUBSIDIES in the past have been not less than 40 per cent. of the amount contributed by a preacher to his credit in the Endowment Fund. This allotment has been possible only because of wise investment of Trust Funds and using the income to meet this service.

The inadequacy of the churches' support to the General Fund is illustrated by the figures submitted to the 1952 Federal Conference showing that the average yearly support by churches and individuals was: New South Wales 10d. per member, Victoria and Tasmania 3½d., South Australia 1d., Queensland 2d., and Western Australia 6d. It has been shown already that other expenses must be met before any allocation can be made to subsidies. That limits the extent to which this benefit can be provided. Subsidies are payable to a preacher on his reaching age 65 years; to his estate at death before that age; in the event of him having to retire from full time preaching service on account of illness. Any other policy regarding subsidies could be followed only if churches provide the necessary funds. In other words if they, as a whole, go portion of the "second mile" in this service of love.

Benefits to Churches

Although churches cannot participate in any financial distribution of fund resources, they do receive other benefits, and can receive greater benefits than at present. Amongst the worries which beset us all, that of adequate provision for our families is not the least. In the case of a preacher this worry is often intensified by a relatively low salary. If he is registered in the Endowment Fund he is somewhat relieved in the knowledge that he can be covered up to £150. He can do better work as a preacher when he knows that in the event of his death his wife and chil-

dren will receive immediately a minimum of £150. The general trend in industry is to make provision for employees. The Church should not be behind in respect of those who, in a material sense, are its "employees." The fund offers a ready vehicle to be used by the churches to accomplish this at a relatively low cost. For the payment of £10 per annum to the credit of a preacher he is assured of some finance being available to him whenever he retires from the active ministry. The actual amount will depend on the period of time for which he has been a contributor to the fund. The amount can be drawn in a lump sum or made available by monthly payments. If a church is not financially strong enough to meet all the payment it should pay at least 50 per cent. of the contribution. The Board urges strongly that every church include in its terms of engagement of a preacher that it will pay his contributions to the Endowment Section of the Fund. The sum of 4/- per week will cover the cost and bring a measure of security to the preacher, and much satisfaction to the church. If he were in dire need your Christian love would lead you to make some effort to relieve him. Do it through the Fund in a way that is orderly and sure.

The churches have a further liability to discharge toward aged and infirm preachers and their families, whether or not the preacher was a contributor to the Endowment Fund. All of these

HOLIDAY IN ADELAIDE.

Bed and breakfast. Reasonable terms. Apply Social Service Dept., 241 Flinders-lane, Melb., MU 2104, Cent. 1878, or "Acc.," c/o Church of Christ Bookroom, McHenry-st., Adelaide.

HOLIDAY COMPANION.

Church of Christ girl, 20 years of age, would like same to spend 1 week's holiday at guest house near Melbourne coast from Feb. 22, expenses 50-50. Anyone interested please write "Holiday," Austral Office.

TAMWORTH TENT MISSION (N.S.W.)

February 28 to April 5.

Missioner: E. T. Hart.

Song Leader: E. F. G. McIlhagger.
Pray for this Evangelistic Effort in this important provincial city.

Have you a friend at Tamworth? If so send them a personal invitation to attend the Mission Meetings.

Cecil Love, secretary,
Tamworth Church, 1 Willis-st.,
South Tamworth.

are without any legal claim on the Fund, but there is for us the compulsion of love. The Fund has been doing this within the limits of its power, and is doing it still, whether you have paid anything towards it or not. The necessary funds have come from the Board General Account. But that account has to make provision for all interest credits, subsidies, and general expenses. The growth of the Board's capital to a point where more effective provision can be offered to preachers, has been delayed by the absence of support to the General Fund. The Board further urges churches to support the General Fund by duplex envelope, special offerings and individual offerings, in addition to paying the preacher's contribution to the Endowment Fund, and in this way ensure provision of the wherewithal for this activity to perform the

work for which it was originally created, and in a way worthy of the great brotherhood of churches of Christ in Australia.

Confidence in Control

The brotherhood can feel with the fullest confidence that the operations of the Fund are always in the best interests of the Church and the preachers.

Additional Information

If any person desires additional information in respect of the Fund, or any feature already mentioned, please write to the Secretary (present address, 13 Victoria-st., Strathfield, New South Wales), or to your State Conference Secretary.

C. A. Verco, Chairman.
S. Laney, Secretary.



Shaping Your Future

Your future welfare lies entirely in your own hands and its shaping is not a procedure to be lightly undertaken or left to chance. Your future will *not* take care of itself. You owe it to yourself to be definite in your aims, and an essential aspect of this positive approach is the saving of money and the building up of a reserve fund for use whenever you may need it.

Save for the Future.

The
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"It Pays to Save"



**PRAHRAN
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High-st. (just off Chapel-st.)

A CENTRE OF EVANGELISM

Minister: LLOYD E. JONES

Theme for February:

"A PAGEANT OF ROYALTY"

Sunday Night Subject:

Feb. 21: Queen of Heaven.

**ALL VISITORS TO MELBOURNE
WARMLY WELCOMED.**

(Take Glen Iris tram from city)

**THE VICTORIAN MINISTERS'
WIVES' ASSOCIATION.**

The next meeting of the above will be held at the Fitzroy Gardens, near Kiosk, on Friday, Feb. 19, at 11.30. Bring own lunch.

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST LADIES'
CHOIR.**

Members please note that rehearsals will not resume until after the Royal visit owing to transport difficulties, etc., through city area.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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*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.

SOUTH YARRA.—60th Anniversary and Homecoming Services, March 28 to April 4. Preliminary notice. All old friends of South Yarra are invited to join in our celebrations. Please note change in date from previous years' homecomings.

SOUTH RICHMOND (Balmain-st.)—Homecoming May 2. Would all past members please forward names and addresses as early as possible to Miss J. Henry, 8 Edgar-st., Glen Iris.

**Northern District Conference
Churches of Christ in S.A.**
will be held at Long Plains

Tuesday, March 9
Wednesday, March 10

Speakers:

A. Anderson, G. T. Fitzgerald,
G. Whiting.

Further particulars or accommodation on application to sec.:

H. B. Freebairn, Alma, S.A.

**ATTEND FEDERAL CONFERENCE—
BRISBANE.**

THEN DETOUR TO LISMORE.

70th Anniversary HOME COMING,
AUGUST 27 — SEPTEMBER 5

Plan your Brisbane visit to include beautiful Lismore. Mighty inspirational services. Send your application in for hospitality now!

Minister: A. C. Caldicott.

Secretary: R. Wotherspoon,
Ballina-rd., Goonellabah, Lismore.

ANNUAL AUTUMN LECTURES.

Illustrated

"ABRAHAM TO MOSES"

Each Tuesday, 7.45.

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6
and 13.

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Ministers Kindly Announce.

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Preachers'

Provident

Fund

This Brotherhood provision for its aged and infirm preachers needs your support in prayer and finance. Send your gift as an individual member or as a Church to the Treasurer

Mr. H. BELL

26 Robinson St.,

Chatswood, N.S.W.

TO LET.

Sorrento.—All elect. two-room flat, water, accom. 4. Vacant Feb. 17 onwards. C. Gadge, 49 Springfield-rd., Blackburn. WX 5494.

Sorrento.—Holiday shack, accom. 4, water, electric light, £3/10/- week. Vacant Feb. 23 onwards. C. Gadge, 49 Springfield-rd., Blackburn. WX5494.

Holiday flat in hills, 3 rooms, all electric, accom. for 3 adults, or 2 adults and 2 children. Near store, P.O. and bus. Mrs. M. R. Westworth, Kalorama P.O., Vic. Tel. Kalorama 137

UPWEY.—Furnished holiday cottage in hills, accommodate five persons, electric conveniences, handy township, £3/10/- per week. K. McKinnon, 11 Darlington-gve., East Coburg.

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