

THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

## BY THE FIRE

I should be comfortable by my bright wood fire, although, outside, the frost is already setting on the grass. I am comfortable in body — for an evening by the fire is a privilege infrequently afforded me — but I am not comfortable in mind. Indeed the cosier the room, the more comfortable the chair, and the brighter the fire, the more uncomfortable in mind I may become.

When I was a boy I could stretch myself out on the hearth-rug and lose myself entirely in such boys' books as Kingsley's or Strang's until bed-time. I can get lost in good reading now but as soon as I become conscious again of the warmth and ease and comfort of my surroundings, I become disturbed in mind.

The reason for this unsettled state is a concern for those who are not so fortunate as I. At such times of physical comfort there arise spectres of men and women in Europe and Asia who are suffering cold, hunger or some such extreme hardship through their lot in life and maybe the hardness of heart of their own countrymen. Each spectre may be multiplied by millions and there seems no possibility of alleviating their sufferings.

I imagine I hear the crying of little children and see the shivering aged without even a fire of sticks and little more than a sup of gruel to warm them. If the wind whines around the caves and I know the sea spray is flying high, I can pray for those in peril on the sea. I can do nothing else



to help them. I can pray also for the hungry and destitute, but there is something else that I can do for them. I can help through the Inter-Church Aid, or through the Overseas Mission Board, or through the Social Service committees.

Some may not need such pricking of conscience to stimulate them to do something for these unhappy ones. I say they may not. But one of the things that must go, if the world is to be made better, is smug selfishness. I am not given to hating but that spirit I do hate, intensely, for selfishness is contrary to all comradeship, friendship and brotherhood.

Fire, I recall, is used by the refiners for the most precious of all metals, burning away the dross and impurities to purify. If the warm glow of my

chimney corner arouses such thoughts and thus helps to clear away the torpidity of concern for others, then I can be more content.

But we must beware that all the good thoughts engendered by the flames do not leave us mere dreamers, for the fire is a place to dream by. It talks. It brings back those "sweet half-forgotten things out of the years." It presents its pictures to the mind of what the world could be if each rose like the flames, upward toward the sky, to some day meet again the sun which gave them to abide, temporarily, in the forest trees. Now, again meeting and uniting, they shed abroad a glow which should inspire the hearts of men.

One time a herdsman saw a fire in a bush, but the bush was not consumed because God was in it. Moses hearkening to God was the lord of his event as he led the Hebrews from Goshen to freedom and liberty.

Doesn't God call you from the comfort of the fireside to help lead our world to the place where freedom from fear and want can become a reality? And what is more, to lead others to the Saviour!

Whilst I have been musing the fire has burned and the embers fall one by one. For want of further fuel it must needs die, but, dear God, keep the fires of unselfishness, goodness and service burning in my heart that I may help bring in that better day for which we all hope.—W.J.T.



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## Re-opening Day

AT GARDINER, VIC.

It was wet on June 18. Very wet. It was a very wet Saturday back in 1921 when the foundation stone of the original building was laid. On neither day was the crowd deterred from attending the ceremony. On this occasion over 300 members and visitors assembled for the re-dedication of the modernised chapel and, at 2.45 p.m., the weather cleared so that the out-of-doors part of the service was held out-of-doors. H. Watkins as chairman of the Board welcomed visitors and presented Mrs. F. Richards with an art vase and to F. Richards a copy of the Bible suitably inscribed.

Mr. Richards was the builder and, because of the illness of the architect, he had to do his work as well. He presented engraved keys, one each to Mrs. E. McCann and Mrs. A. Nichols—two of the original signatories to the covenant to form a church in Gardiner in 1913—who opened the doors.

The congregation filled the chapel and the "crying-room," and Mr. Youens, chairman, also welcomed the visitors and read the scripture. S. Neighbour gave the Dedicatory Address and prayer. Horace Kingsbury—first minister in the original chapel—indulged in reminiscences. Miss Jean Milne was soloiste. An offering of £51 was taken, and a special gift of £25 was made to the Memorial Window Fund. Refreshments were provided and folk were free to inspect the work done. Many reunions took place. The hymn sung was specially written for June 18 by Mrs. H. Munday.

In the evening a Youth Rally was held at which the film Decision was shown and an address given by R. Bolduan. The Sunday services were memorable for crowded meetings and great inspiration. H. G. Patterson was morning speaker. The evening service commenced a fortnight of missions with F. A. Youens as evangelist. The day was crowned with three decisions for Christ.

The improvements and additions make this building most attractive. There are installed film facilities, a sound system, a "crying-room," a library and board room, a literature case with books for sale, a front wall flood-light. No special appeal was made, but £135 was received on the two days. Scores of former members and other visitors came long distances to share in the general rejoicing. The seating capacity has been increased to about 320. The large front window in stained glass will not be ready for about three months.—W. A. Strongman.



# A VISION SPLENDID

Principal A. W. Stephenson, M.A.

Are children born with an instinct to destroy? Why do some, when given a toy, delight to pull it apart?

Do men outgrow this urge to destroy, so evident in children? Do we ever rise above the inclination to pull down what others have created?

When Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God, striving to build a community dedicated to God and man, he faced, often, the wolfish attacks of scribes and Pharisees. Those men were out to scatter the community of saints Christ created.

Paul found similar individuals snapping at his heels, when he began to establish a Christian community among the Gentiles.

Paul faced up to the false charges levelled against him, and showed how wicked they were. But those constant attacks interfered with the progress of the church among the Gentile nations. How to prevent wolves in sheep's clothing from carrying out their destructive work is not easy to solve. These people pose usually in the role of the righteous; they play their part well, and put on the airs of champions of religion. How they deceive! Their real aim is to win prestige, power and popularity.

Proof of whether they be of God is to be found in the fruits of their labor. Since their critical attitude does not build up the church, but undermines the creative work of the saints, we can see they are not out to serve the Lord. What hurts most is the use to which they put news of the failures of the church, due largely to their actions. "See," they cry, "the church has failed: it's dead, why go to that church!" How these laments of the hypercritical are taken up, and given publicity in the Press, and damage the good name of the church!

There is another characteristic found in those who are happy in the task of pulling down the walls of Jerusalem. When asked to produce the grounds for the type of attack they make, they do not point to any revelation of God, but to some human tradition or opinion.

Because Christ challenged some of the cherished traditions of the fathers, the scribes became angry with him. Because Paul preached a gospel that differed from the laws made sacred by usage, but outmoded by the final revelation of God in Christ, the lovers of tradition attacked Paul and undermined his creative work.

Unfortunately, the traditionalists have gained many victories. Church history is full of instances of how human opinions have been allowed to overlay the sacred truths of the New Testament.

The modern, institutional church is far removed from the simple, dynamic, evangelical church of the New Testament. That Apostolic Church was a community of saints in which the greatest was the lowly servant of all. Is this spirit of meekness revealed in the regal splendor and pageantry of the ecclesiastical machinery of many church organisations?

Thomas and Alexander Campbell were stirred by the vision of a church stripped of the accumulated trappings of the ages. They sought to restore in their day the creative community of Christ, as pure as Christ had presented it to the ancient world. Those reformers held that, by setting aside all practices that lacked the authority of a "Thus saith the Lord," the church would find a way back to the unity of the Spirit.

Alexander Campbell was so impressed with the truth of the vision, he believed it must be acceptable to all who love the Lord, thus bringing in the Millennium. For that reason he called the journal that announced the principles of the Restoration Movement, "The Millennial Harbinger."

There are still many who hold that the restoration of the church of the New Testament, in both doctrine and life, could achieve in this age the unity for which Christ prayed. They also hold that such a restored church would become a dynamic, evangelical force in this atomic age.

The New Testament Church was not like a military machine; it was rather like a vast organism, made up of life cells in numerous centres. Such a Church worked spontaneously in whatever centre it was established. A local group of Christians did not ask where to preach the gospel or where to establish a church. The Spirit of God blows where he will, and who dare defy him?

The Church worked and developed along various lines to meet local conditions. Yet, this Church, scattered in various lands, remained a great family. To all who walked orderly, the right hand of fellowship was extended. Thus, despite local differences in ways and means, the Church remained one body in Christ.

We believe we have been given a mission to hold up before this present generation the clear vision of a church united on the basis of New Testament truths. The traditionalists will resist this effort on our part to press forward with this programme of the Restoration Movement. But we believe the truth will prevail. While it may not be popular: it is still effective. Let us, too, pray that all may be one in Christ so that the world may believe.



DAVID G. HAMMER, of Norwood, S.A., sounds an essential note.

# "Consider Christ Jesus"

The writer of "Hebrews" has one theme. He introduces it in the magnificent sentence with which he begins his thesis (Heb. 1: 1). He returns to it with tireless persistence in the presentation of his material. Each argument he puts forward is simply a variation on the same glorious theme—Jesus Christ. As the craftsman in stone shapes and fits every stone in its place in the arch, and then places in the centre the keystone which holds all the rest together, so the author of Hebrews shapes every argument, fits every detail, and lovingly presents Jesus Christ beyond them all, the keystone of the arch, the One in whom, and through whom, all of God's purposes are bound together.

In two short phrases he gives us an epitome of the Saviour's earthly life, outlining with spiritual insight the whole of God's purposes in the life and death of Christ—"The Apostle" and "High Priest." Two titles, denoting both Mission and Ministry, Purpose and Power.

## I. Mission

"The Apostle."

Nowhere else in the Bible is Jesus called an Apostle. The word is associated with those whom Jesus chose and sent forth, "whom also he named apostles" (Luke 6: 13). The word is used generally only of those twelve, except Paul, who frequently asserts his apostleship, and once of Barnabas (Acts 14: 14). But it is rightly used of these others, as they too were commissioned and sent out. For an apostle is someone who is sent. He is a man with a mission.

Throughout the earthly life of Jesus there was that continuous consciousness revealed. He was a Man with a Mission, from which he refused to be diverted. He was the one who was truly worthy of the title "Apostle." Neither the temptations of the devil, nor the popularity accorded him by the crowds, nor yet the shadow of a cross that loomed over him could ever make him forget that he was in real truth an Apostle of God, a man sent. This sense of mission he bequeathed to his followers. "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." (John 17: 18.)

How seldom do his followers realise that sense of urgency and mission in their commission and calling today! Brainerd, amongst the American Indians confides to his diary, "I cared not what I ate, nor where I slept, nor what hardship I endured, so that I could but win souls for Christ."

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."

—Hebrews 3: 1.

We are fond of reminding young people that they ought not to drift through life. We urge them to make decisions, to think crisply, to have a purpose—and rightly so. But there are too many older Christians who have embarked upon the dangerous "C's" of complacency, compromise, and convenience. In Central Australia there was a vintage model motor-car, whose wheels and body were good, but whose engine was worn out, which had descended to the humiliating position of having shafts attached, and camels pulled it along. In pictures it appears to be a clumsy makeshift. But there are many older Christians who are still in running order, but whose motive power has worn out! How many there are, who were designed for glorious adventure in an overcoming life, and are lumbering slowly along the King's Highway drawn only by habit and custom! That is, they have lost their vital experience, and they come to church only because it is a good habit they learned over their better years. It may be, that to recapture this sense of mission, we will need to tread again the Calvary road in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, and at the cross rededicate our lives to the high calling in Christ Jesus. That, at least, is the reminder of our text. "Consider Christ Jesus, the Apostle . . ."

## 2. Ministry

"High Priest."

This second descriptive title reminds us in two plain words that the Lord Jesus Christ not only came with a mission, but he achieved its fulfilment. The writer of Hebrews makes a great deal out of the High Priesthood of Jesus. Chapters 5-10 contain little else. And to the Jewish mind, the ministry of Jesus is perfectly summarised as that of a High Priest—above the Aaronic priesthood, making a sacrifice once and for all, entering within the veil, making an atonement for sin, and triumphantly returning with his work completed at the time of God's appointment.

The High Priest's work as essentially that of atonement, with its prerequisite of sacrifice, and its continuing ministry of intercession. Though set out in detail in the Old Testament, the

glorious realisation of this ministry in Christ Jesus serves to overshadow the prophetic types of the Law, and reveals them as incomplete, ineffective, and but shadows of him who is the great reality.

But the writer of Hebrews, in spite of his evident care for detail, does not attempt to delve into the mystery of the Atonement. He sees it as an annual ritual, translated by Jesus into an eternal fact, and it is with this glorious fact, that he is concerned—not with philosophical theories about it. And, after all, that fact is the one important thing.

"Christ has for sin atonement made,  
What a wonderful Saviour!  
I am redeemed; the price is paid,  
What a wonderful Saviour!"

## 3. Application

"For we are made partakers of Christ . . ." (v. 14).

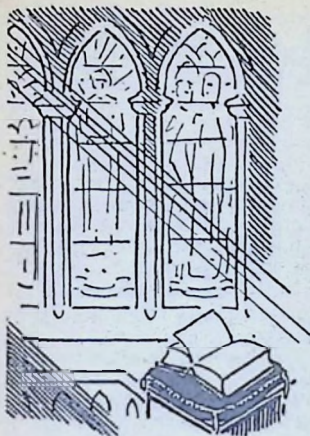
Hebrews never becomes simply a theological statement. The definite and personal application of his teaching is never far from the writer's mind. This epitome of the Mission and Ministry of Jesus Christ demands a personal application. "Consider Christ Jesus!" he says. But the more I consider his pure and sinless life, his practical goodness "who went about doing good" (Acts 10: 38), the absolute commitment to the Father's will which characterised both Mission and Ministry, the more incapable I feel to walk with him!

If his mission alone came into the picture, I would have every reason for despondency. For towering above me is God's great Apostle, the perfect example of purposeful living, Jesus himself. I too, would have a purpose in life, had I but the power! But thank God that Jesus is not simply the perfect example. He is also the provider of power! With the burden of my sin, the Christian life is unattainable. But he is my High Priest. He has made atonement. Through his ministry for me, I can share in his mission for the world. So Paul has found, who wrote "I can do all things, through Christ . . ." (Phil. 4: 13.)

"Therefore, holy brethren, consider Christ Jesus." Consider his ministry as High Priest. Then, surrendered, cleansed, sanctified through him, consider his mission . . . and, through the Power of his ministry, share in his Purpose!

□  
Do all the good you can,  
To all the people you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
As long as ever you can.





# THE LIVING WORD

## Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Sunday, July 17

### OLD TESTAMENT.

Psalm 124.

This Psalm is a lyrical outburst of praise to God for his deliverance. It is most naturally taken as the expression of the feelings of the exiles upon their return from Babylon, and is sung at the Feast of Purim to commemorate the deliverance of Israel from Haman. Here is the abandon of those who have tasted the uttermost in despair, and who have then been unaccountably redeemed.

Mark the rhythmic effect of the "step-like" structure of the Psalm. "In order to take a step forward, it always goes back half a step." How effectively it captures the ecstasy of a soul brought back from seemingly certain death. Note too the mounting cadence, as the soliloquy breaks into rapture at the discovery that "we—we are escaped."

#### Explanatory Comments.

"Then had they swallowed us up" (v. 3). — An allusion, probably, to beasts of prey, as in verse 6.

"Quick" — R.V. "alive." An apt description of what Assyria and Babylon did to many nations.

"Stream" (v. 4). — Better, "torrent." The winter torrent so familiar in Palestine.

"Proud waters" (v. 5). — The word rendered "proud" is a rare word coming from a root meaning to "boil over" (MacLaren). It may be descriptive, here, of the waters themselves, or a transferred figure of the haughty foes from whom Israel had been delivered.

"Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare" (v. 7). — A beautiful simile, suggesting the tremors and panting helplessness of the trapped bird, and the thrill of soaring flight upon its recovered freedom.

"Escaped" (v. 8). — Reiterated in the same verse, as if the writer were seeking to confirm to himself, the reality of an unbelievable experience.

#### Suggested Theme.

### "FAITH'S CLEAR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS."

**Introduction.** — Trouble is part of our universal experience. The question is, what is it doing to us? Some it embitters and breaks. Some it strengthens and ennobles, deepening their capacity and zest for life. Here is one who came out of the shadows with a ready acknowledgement of the miraculous providences that had preserved him, and with a steadier faith in the sustaining mercies of God. Note:

**I. THE REFLECTION OF A GRAVE CRISIS** (vv. 1-5). — It is obviously some national crisis which threatened to engulf them. Israel is conceived as helpless before a fury that would have swallowed them, or beneath a torrent that would have rolled over them.

**II. THE RAPTURE OF A GRATEFUL HEART** (vv. 6-7). — The mere contemplation of these menacing possibilities constrains the rhapsody of his praise. But thankfulness is only one element in his present experience. There is the ecstasy born of his increasing awareness that "the snare is broken, and we—we are escaped." Gratitude and the thrill of living, make up the one spirit—rapture.

**III. THE RECOGNITION OF A GRATEFUL MIND** (v. 8). — This is not merely a reiteration of the fact that God had lately delivered them. It is a calm recognition of the truth, confirmed by this experience, that God remains our ultimate help and hope. Out of the shadows he has come into a larger understanding of the mercy that will follow him all his days.

**Conclusion.** — Calamity may minister to us, as to the Psalmist, deeper insights and a surer faith. It depends on what we bring to these times of acute testing.

### NEW TESTAMENT. Acts 27: 27-44.

This is the story of Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta, whilst en route to Rome. Against the advice of the apostle, the soldiers and the captain resolved to resume the voyage, and, sailing from Fair Havens, Crete, were soon in difficulties. For fourteen days they were driven before the fury of the storm, and then, after enduring a night of unimaginable terror, discovered themselves off an unfamiliar coast. Cutting away the stern anchors, they ran the vessel aground, and past many hazards, were brought, all safe, to land. It is a vivid story, and casts a magnificent light upon the bearing of the apostle.

#### Explanatory Notes.

"The fourteenth night" (v. 27). — That is, from their departure from Fair Havens, Crete.

"In Adria" (v. 27). — A general name given then to the sea between Malta, Italy, Greece and Crete.

"For your health" (v. 34). — Meaning, "For your safety." The food would strengthen them for the ordeal ahead.

"And gave thanks" (v. 35). — A custom with all pious Jews. Ramsay suggests that reminiscence of the Master was intended.

"We were in all in the ship" (v. 37). — The figure here is not excessive, Josephus is quoted as having made a journey to Rome on a vessel with 600 aboard.

"They knew not the land" (v. 39). — Traditional site of the landing, strongly supported, is St. Paul's Bay on N.E. coast of Malta.

"Taken up the anchors" (v. 40). — Note R.V. and marginal readings. They cast off the anchors, and left them in the sea.

"Losed the rudder bands" (v. 40). — Ship was steered by two huge paddles or oars, one on each side of the stern. Whilst at anchor, these had been raised and secured. They were now unlashd, and lowered into the water.

"Where two seas met" (v. 41). — Either, a sandy shoal, or a narrow isthmus, washed on both sides by the sea.

"Kill the prisoners" (v. 42). — The soldiers were responsible for the safe-keeping of their charges. Cf. Acts 12: 19; and 16: 27.

#### Suggested Theme.

### "FAITH'S CALM ANCHORAGE."

**Introduction.** — Does faith in God equip people to face danger and death? The experience of Paul provides the strongest evidence that it does. This is the story of the triumph of one man's faith, in the hour of testing. Note:

**I. A DREADFUL PLIGHT** (vv. 27-29). — (a) The unabated fury of the storm. (b) The proximity of an unknown coast. (c) The impenetrable dark of midnight.

**II. A DAUNTLESS PRISONER** (vv. 30-38). — Fear is notoriously near-sighted. Mark, in contrast, the calm poise of the apostle: (a) His alertness to the near-defection of the sailors (vv. 30-32). (b) His attention to others' needs. (d) His uplifting cheerfulness (vv. 34 and 38).

**III. A DESPERATE PLAN** (vv. 39-44). — (a) Its execution (vv. 39-41). (b) Its success, despite counsel of soldiers (vv. 42-43); and fact that some could not swim (v. 43). "All safe to land."

**Conclusion.** — A strong faith in the controlling purposes of God will minister to us, as to Paul, a fine courage, and will enable us to look, even into the face of Death itself, with quiet eyes.



# CHRISTIAN CRITICISM

By J. E. Brooke, Balwyn, Victoria.

Paul had to deal with some very censorious people at Corinth. In his second Epistle to them (13: 5, 6), he recommends to them a neglected but very needful employment of their critical faculties. J. B. Phillips makes his words very vivid: "You should be looking at yourselves to make sure that you are really Christ's. It is yourselves that you should be testing, not me. You ought to know by this time that Christ is in you, unless you are not real Christians at all. And when you have applied your test, I am confident that you will soon find that I myself am a genuine Christian."

The use of our critical faculties is such a delicate and responsible business, and so much havoc is commonly done by their misuse, that we should appreciate the three very practical points made by the apostle in this text.

First, he clearly indicates what should be the priority in Christian Criticism. "You should be looking at yourselves to make sure you are really Christ's. It is yourselves you should be testing . . ."

Undoubtedly, to search for and show the shortcomings of others is more pleasant, although a perverted sort of pleasure. It is not, however, profitable in the least degree, to ourselves. Indeed, it is perilous, for two reasons. It blinds us to our true condition, rendering self-improvement impossible. It is also a habit which grows worse with exercise, increasing our spiritual deterioration.

"A little seed lay on the ground  
And soon began to sprout,  
'Now which of all the flowers around,  
It mused, 'shall I come out?'

"The lily's face is fair and proud  
But just a trifle cold,  
The rose, I think, is rather loud,  
And then, it's fashion's old.

"The violet is very well,  
But not a flower I'd choose,  
Nor yet the Canterbury Bell,  
I never cared for blues.

"Petunias are far too bright  
And vulgar flowers beside,  
The primrose only blooms at night  
And peonies spread too wide."

"And so, it criticised each flower,  
This foolish little seed,  
Until it woke one summer hour  
And found itself—a weed."

"You should be looking at yourselves to make sure . . . It is yourselves you should be testing . . ."

When we do give self the priority in criticism, there may come home to us some surprising, yet salutary truths. For one thing, we will be forced to ask ourselves, Is not our very tendency to

"Severe in self-criticism; sparing in criticism of others; lavish with appreciation and encouragement."

criticise, itself an evidence of subtle self-love? We may have to admit as true of us, Sir Thomas Browne's shrewd comment, "He who discommendeth others, obliquely commendeth himself." For another, we may realise that we are committing that very common form of compensation—finding in others those very faults which are conspicuously present in ourselves.

Above all, this self-examination opens up the way to that self-knowledge which is essential to self-culture and self-control. And after all, is not this our prime task in life? As Robert Louis Stevenson said, in healthy emphasis, though perhaps with a little overstatement: "We have only one person to make good, ourselves; our fellows we must make happy."

One cherishes the spirit of that characteristic story of Dr. Alexander Whyte. A visitor related to him the criticism by some "evangelicals" of his friend, Dr. Hood Wilson, and Whyte seethed with indignation. "And," he was told, "they are saying the same things about you." Instantly there was a silence; Whyte's anger ebbed away; and in an utterly changed tone, he said humbly, "Leave me, friend, I must examine my own heart." "It is yourselves you should be testing."

From this insistence, Paul moves on to the essential Point in Criticism. "Make sure that you are really Christ's . . . You ought to know by this time that Christ is in you, unless you are not real Christians at all."

This is the standard for all Christian judgment, and especially and primarily for the judgment of ourselves, that we are really Christ's, and that Christ is in us. Or as Paul put it to the Romans, with unmistakable clarity and directness, "If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." In the light of this, how relatively insignificant have been many of the criticisms and controversies that have plagued the history of the Church. The essential thing is not orthodox beliefs, or correct observance of forms and ceremonies. It is being Christ-like, having Christ's spirit, which is supremely the spirit of love.

D. L. Moody saw this clearly, when, taken to task for his association with Henry Drummond, with some of whose views many Christians disagreed, he replied: "Never have I known a man who, in my opinion, lived nearer the

Master, or sought to do his will more fully. No man has ever been with me for any length of time that I did not see something that was unlike Christ, and I have often seen it in myself, but never in Henry Drummond."

Similarly, a great Christian still living, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, is one, much of whose theology is unacceptable to many, but surely none can withhold their tribute to the Christ-like quality of his spirit and service.

This, then, is the thing, that in examining our own lives first, we must look for. Have we the sincerity and courage to do it? Perhaps Paul had that doubt about the Corinthians. Maybe they steered clear of examining themselves on this one vital point because they were not sure they could stand the test. Thus Weymouth, "Do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you?"

If we are really Christ's, if Christ is in us, if we have his Spirit, it will make a tremendous difference to our thoughts of, and attitude towards others. For one thing, it will take away from us the desire to criticise. May it not be that our very motive to criticise was caused by a spirit alien to that of Christ? But now, with Christ within, we will have no desire whatever to criticise, and will only do so when criticism is really demanded.

Being really Christ's will also take away our confidence in our ability to criticise. The nearer we come to him the more humble we become, the more we feel our own many shortcomings. We will be forced to ask, Who am I, to sit in judgment on others? No "holler-than-thou" attitude can continue in the presence of the Holiest.

Furthermore, Christ controlling us will make any criticism we are forced to make constructive and helpful. This was the motive of Paul's criticism of the Corinthians; as Knox translates his words, "to build up your faith, not to crush your spirits."

Which brings us to his third point—the Positive Result of Criticism. If you "make sure that you are really Christ's . . . that Christ is in you . . . when you have applied your test, I am confident that you will soon find that I myself am a genuine Christian."

This is the great constructive end to which true criticism is directed. The fact is that many people who assume the role of critic, and practise it prodigiously, have not begun to know what criticism really is. In a definition which applies to life as well as literature, Matthew Arnold wrote, "Criticism is a disinterested endeavor to learn and propagate the best that is



known and thought in the world." In the light of this, what many people take to be criticism is not criticism at all, but rather detraction. They want to find, not the best, but the worst. An such a malignant spirit will always find what it is looking for; what it fails to find it will manufacture. As the infamous Cardinal Richelieu is reputed to have said: "Show me six lines written by the most honest man in the world, and I will show you enough in them to hang him."

However, the sincere Christian, who truly tests himself to make sure he is really Christ's, will have such a spirit of appreciation that he will find others also are "genuine Christians." The question is, whether we really want

to make that discovery? Or do we want to believe that we are the only Christians?

It is to be feared that there are some whose spirit is not unfairly expressed in the jingle:

"We are a very select few,  
But you are amongst the damned,  
There's room enough in hell for you,  
We won't have heaven crammed."

Contrary to this, if we have the true Christian spirit, the Christ in us will find and rejoice in the Christ in others. And as true criticism is not only the learning, but the propagating of the best, so the true Christian, even where he is disappointed in others, will bend

all his energies to helping to make them better. He will act always in the spirit, "Where there is no love, put love, and you will find love." Moreover, when he finds good in others, he will not be afraid to say so, and this will further encourage the good in them. Thus, too, he will find, and help foster, an ever fuller fellowship. He may find others different types of Christian to himself, but that, too, will be to his appreciative spirit an added enrichment.

To sum up, let us be severe in self-criticism; sparing in criticism of others; but lavish with appreciation and encouragement, and we will both be, and help others to be, "genuine Christians."

## THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



### Programme for August

Devotional Theme:

**"FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS."**

**HYMN.**

No. 593, "Bear the cup of loving service."

**PRAYER.**

**BIBLE READING.**

Acts 12: 12-16.

**MEDITATION.**

In our reading we have the story of Peter after his miraculous escape from prison. He had gone to the house of Mary, John Mark's mother, and was knocking at the door of the gate. We are told that many were gathered together praying, but only one was mentioned by name—Rhoda, who performed one single little act—that of the door-keeper. It was only a small task, but she carried it out faithfully. Like the psalmist of old, it was better to be a door-keeper in the Lord's work than something greater in the devil's service.

We may only have small tasks in the service of our Master, but they must be done faithfully or we will fail Him.

As Paul says in 1 Cor. 12, we all have our separate parts to play, whether they be great or small—all members of one body, and if we are not faithful in our part, the whole church is affected.

We have so many opportunities of serving. Perhaps we feel that we cannot do great things for our Lord and

the little we can do is not worth-while, but let us remember that in everything accomplished there has to be someone to do the small tasks. If they are done faithfully, those who have more important positions can go forward with confidence, knowing that all is well. As in the affairs of state, business, building, hospitals, etc., where the work of the junior staff must be efficient for successful administration, so it is with the work of God.

If we are faithful in our church work, we will do everything as unto God, and we cannot then be lacking in our household tasks and in our community life. If we are faithful in small things, then, and then only, are we ready to tackle greater ones.

Jesus, in relating to his disciples the parable of the unjust steward, stressed the point, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." He told them that if they could not be trusted with the riches of this world, how could they hope to have the true riches—the kingdom of heaven.

We may not have much earthly treasure, but whatever we have is only lent to us, and we must give account of how we spend it. Jesus himself commended the poor widow who threw two mites into the treasury—even all her living.

Do we use our talents faithfully in the Lord's service, or are we like the unfaithful steward, content to bury them. Unfaithfulness in little things not only brings our Master's work to a standstill but actually hinders its expansion. We can all have a full and worth-while life, but that can only be by our own efforts, and how rewarded

we will feel if we know that we can be trusted always to do all things well.

**HYMN.**

No. 607. "Saviour! Thy dying love Thou gavest me."

**BUSINESS.**

**MISSIONARY LETTERS.**

**PRAYER SESSION.**

**SOLO.**

**MESSAGE.**

**HYMN.**

No. 596. "Hark the voice of Jesus crying "Who will go and work to-day?" "

**BENEDICTION.**



## Open Forum

As a church secretary, a member of the N.S.W. Home Mission Committee and a Christian concerned with the apathy and indifference of some members to the gospel of Jesus Christ, I read with great interest F. N. Lee's article as published on 31/5/55. Whilst I rejoice at the increased interest and attendance at Thornbury, I would like to hear of the plan of campaign used; that we might try it at the Epping (N.S.W.) church. Doubtless, others would be vitally interested, so it would be good if, an article could be published on it—if not in the *Australian Christian* then perhaps by medium of the *Pro-vocative Pamphlet* or some other means. —Malcolm McArthur, Pennant Hills, N.S.W.

[F. Lee's article was written at our request. We wanted the Brotherhood to know just how it was done. This letter is a voice of several similar requests. Ed.]



## Sunraysia Conference, VIC.

The Conference was held in Mildura church on June 17-19, and the meetings were presided over by M. D. Keatch. Guest speaker was the President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference, B. F. Huntsman.

Conference opened with a devotional session on the Friday evening when Mr. Huntsman brought a message.

Business of Conference was conducted on Saturday afternoon when reports from churches and various departments were presented.

Conference Executive had held meetings regularly and representatives of all churches had attended. The sum of £15 had been paid to the Preachers' Provident Fund on behalf of Sunraysia preachers. The building at Buronga had been completed and the Bible school there was commenced in January last. A Boys' Club had now commenced.

Reports were received from the various churches showing that splendid work had been accomplished.

The following officers were elected: pres., H. J. Cook (Red Cliffs); vice-pres., L. Keatch (Merbein); sec., and treas., A. L. Martin (Red Cliffs).

The Youth Council reported that over 150 young people had attended the camps. The Youth Fellowship had held regular meetings on the first Sunday afternoon of each month at the various churches.

The Conference tea was held on Saturday evening and this was followed by a Youth Rally when the young people were present in good numbers.

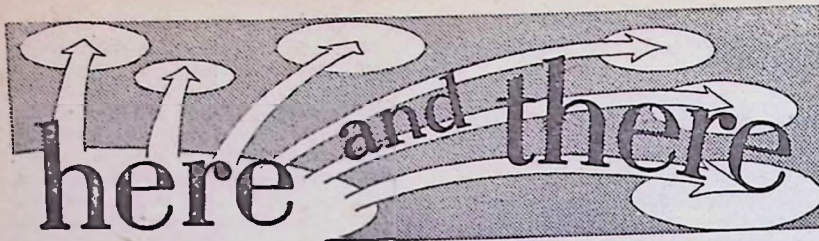
There was a fine gathering on Sunday afternoon when Mr. Huntsman preached the Conference Sermon.

On Monday, the Women's Conference was held, Mrs. C. L. Lang, the president was in the chair. The devotional session was led by Mrs. D. Thomas. During the year a rally was held at Red Cliffs and 80 ladies attended for the day. Clothes and a donation of £2 were received at this rally for our Aborigines missions. The women have as their missionary project, to work for equipment for the maternity wing of the Dhond Hospital. There is a credit balance of £15/5/4 in the general fund. The four Mission Bands have raised £672 this year and after contributing to the Conference project distributed the balance of the money themselves.

All meetings of Conference were on a very high plane and proved most helpful.



"Out of this life I shall never take  
Things of silver and gold I make;  
All that I cherish and hoard away,  
After I leave, on this earth must  
stay."



The Living Word pages for the month of July are supplied by L. G. Read, preacher of the church at Dandenong, Vic.

A working bee in July will erect a second tank at Nellie Bay (Qld.) Youth Centre, thus providing fairly adequate water for camp needs. Regional Electrical Authority is carrying power to Magnetic Island next year, and Nellie Bay should not have long to wait for electrical installations. Plans for a camp in August are well under way. Messrs. Horne and Vanham will be in charge. Camp will last ten days and include children from 10 upwards in two age groups.

The church at Warragul, Vic., announces that M. D. Keatch (Merbein-Dareton) has accepted a call to minister at Warragul commencing early in 1956.

Mrs. F. Sivyver, widow of the late F. J. Sivyver, passed away in a private hospital on Friday, June 24. She shared with distinction the responsible ministries of her husband in Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand. A wide circle of friends tender their sympathy to her only daughter, Gwen.

D. H. Paddon, preacher at Rockhampton, Qld., will commence a ministry with the church at Mackay, Qld in September.

The church at Kilburn, S.A., commenced a week of Visitation Evangelism on June 20, under the leadership of the preacher, H. G. Norris. For five nights, nine pairs of visitors faithfully called at selected homes. Membership Sunday on 26th was an unforgettable experience. 176 attended Communion service, and over 200 crowded the church hall for the gospel service. At the close of Mr. Norris' message 18 confessed Christ. With 12 re-consecrations, additions to the church total 30, with promise of more to follow. Mrs. Kelly was soloiste.

The church at North Essendon, Vic., has congratulated one of their members, Mrs. Dees on attaining her 90th birthday.

We learn that G. R. Stirling, B.A., preacher of the church at Canberra, entered hospital for an operation on June 27. On July 10, the church in the Federal Capital will celebrate its fourth anniversary. Ira Paternoster will be the speaker.

R. A. Banks, preacher at Swan Hill, Vic., has accepted a call to the church at Drumcondra, Vic., and will commence his ministry there in January, 1956.

The College community together with the Ladies committee of the Federal College of the Bible, joined to wish K. A. Jones bon voyage on June 28, prior to his departure for England, Europe and the World Convention at Toronto. Mr. Jones was presented with a travelling case.

### "YES" or "NO."

1. Am I yielding my life without reserve to Christ?
2. Do I reflect credit on the church?
3. Do I contribute time, money, and services to support the church?
4. Do I make Christianity attractive by being the sort of person I am?
5. Am I trying to be absolutely honest in my living—toward God and man?

The World Convention in Toronto will go to school at twelve simultaneous breakfast sessions—August 17 and 18, each limited to 100. Some 20 committees in 15 countries have produced manuscripts on six subjects. All the manuscripts on any one subject have been synthesised into one. The six subjects are **The Nature of the Church, The Place of Theology in the Church, The Christian Ministry, The Christian Hope, Christian Baptism, The Lord's Supper.**

We hope that J. McG. Abercrombie, who for over thirty years was secretary of the Advisory Board, which acted in a Federal capacity, will, at an early date write some of his experiences for **The Australian Christian.**

Mrs. I. Digwood, a Past-President of both Federal and W.A. Women's Conferences, who recently underwent a major operation, is now convalescent.

Readers of this journal will be interested to learn of the appointment of Eric Walter Stockton as Accountant to the British and Foreign Bible Society in Victoria. Mr. Stockton who is well known in missionary circles and also for his active service within the Church of England, commenced duties at Bible House, Melbourne, on May 30.



# MISSIONARY NEWS



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

## OVERSEAS' SECRETARY JOURNEY

The Secretary will leave Adelaide July 7 and travel by Quantas plane from Sydney, Saturday, July 9, direct to Vancouver. Dr. Jesse Bader, Secretary of the World Convention, has arranged a series of meetings on the journey across America. Of particular interest will be the anticipated few days at Indianapolis—the headquarters of the United Christian Missionary Society. The missionary programme of the Society will be of especial interest to him.

The journey across America will take five weeks. After the Convention at Toronto, he will fly to England and spend two weeks. During this stay he will follow an itinerary arranged by the Churches of Christ Missionary Committee. A few days will be spent in Europe, thence direct to India for the Annual Meetings and Jubilee celebrations.

## JUBILEE GREETINGS.

The Federal Board request that churches at home might care to send greetings to India on the occasion of their Jubilee. We are sure this will be appreciated by the Indian Conference. It will help too to cement the link with the churches of the homeland.

Send your greetings, per air letter (not later than end of August) to Bruce V. Coventry, Shrigonda, Ahmednagar District, India.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The Annual Meetings, India, will be held September 27 to October 2. Being linked this year with Jubilee celebrations, it is fitting that there should be some link with the past, especially giving emphasis to the One who has led us. The topic chosen is "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

## INDIANISATION.

The Annual Meetings this year will mark the second anniversary of the commencement of this important event. It will also mark the commencement of the second step in Indianisation. During the first two years, the Indian Conference were empowered to elect four members out of eight elected members of the Committee of Management and the Mission to elect the remaining four members. This next period will cover four years and the Indian Conference will elect six of the eight members, whereas the Mission will elect two.

The experimental stage has passed successfully, but the real test will come during the present period, for far greater responsibility will come upon our Indian leaders. Pray that they will "grow in grace, in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

## FINANCIAL NOTES.

**Island Offering.** As usual our Island peoples have been receiving their annual offerings. Because of the temporary suspension of aircraft to the group, mails have been delayed, and no full report is to hand. The average

for the Islands in recent years has been £1,500.

Per cable, J. Smith, Pentecost, advised that the churches there gave the record total of £667 — an average of nearly £50 per church. Practically one pound per week from each church on the island!

Such generosity from our simple Island people should strengthen our faith in the missionary programme and even make us humble when our giving for overseas' missions is compared with theirs.

**Annual Offering.** By the time this paragraph is read, most churches will have taken up the offering. Our future programme will largely depend on the result. The result of the offering will not be known to the Federal Secretary for some time because of his visit overseas. The brethren at home would hearten him greatly to have word sent on that the offering was a record one. Everyone must increase their giving this year if the goal is to be reached — £25,000 during this year of Jubilee.

## *A Worthy Cause is Growing*

In the spring of 1949 the Hinrichsen-Morris mission arrived in Albury and for some weeks conducted a very successful campaign. Among the converts were some folk from Wodonga, over the Murray River in Vic. Mr. Hall became sec. of the Albury church and Mr. Coulson B.S. supt. Mr. Hall was Government Dairy Inspector and it was he who proposed that we purchase a block of land in Ariel-st., Wodonga, with a view to erecting a chapel in that town. The matter was finally decided and the land purchased at a cost of £450. Having purchased the land it was felt that a move should be made to erect a chapel and commence work. At this time, A. W. Morris was preacher and doing a good work in Albury, the church was fortunate also to have V. B. Morris come to reside in the town, and the church officers after some discussion decided to ask J. W. Sproule to draw up plans for a chapel. Ian Sproule, a builder, supervised the work and with much voluntary labor from members, the chapel was erected in concrete bricks.

During this time the church lost the fellowship of both the Hall and Coulson families, but into the district came Mr. and Mrs. S. Winch, who have proved a power of help in the work.

The chapel was opened on Feb. 10, 1951. Presidents of both State Conferences being present, N. Matthews and A. B. Withers. Mr. Matthews officially opened the chapel and Mr. Withers gave the opening address. The Lord's Table has been set each week and a fine spirit prevails in the work there. At present about fifteen break bread. Albury church assists with speakers, and the service is held at 9.30 so that the speaker can return

to Albury for 11 a.m. service. Mr. and Mrs. Winch carry on the work at 10.30 with a B.S. of some 25 scholars.

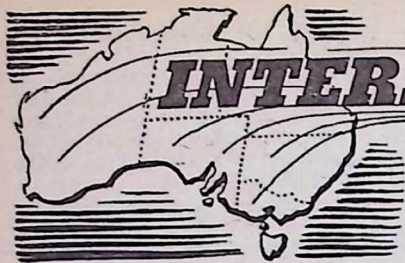
Feb. 20, 1955, marked the commencement of the gospel services. Albury members assisted in the service and the chapel was filled. The service is maintained once a month. The whole work has been financed by the Albury brethren.

At the end of the 1949 mission the Albury church was receiving a subsidy from the Committee of £3 a week. Today we have a manse and plans have been drawn up for a new chapel next door to the present building. The resident preacher, F. Levesley has this year commenced his ministry, and great things are expected by the church. Every member is supporting the work to the utmost, our pockets are empty but God has supplied all our needs. Next year we have to face up to repayment of £450 — loans privately obtained from members for Wodonga work. We do not know where the money will come from, it may even mean approaching the State Committees for help.

We feel that there is a great future for the work at Wodonga. The chapel is on the edge of the Government Defence Stores at Bandiana, the Housing Commission is to build on land opposite, the State School is across the road, and at present is hiring the chapel for a classroom, this being a help financially.

This is the last outpost on the great Upper Murray reaches, — Kiewa, Talangatta, Eskdale and Mitta Mitta, down to Omeo, Mt. Beauty and Bright. We have members in most of these places and should be doing something to help them.—A. E. Combridge.





# INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

## Discipleship

Robert Reynolds, Stephanos Prozac, Kalgoorlie, W.A.  
Mrs. and Miss Alexander, Mr. Chevor, Kingsford, N.S.W.  
Colin O'Hanlon, Kingaroy, Qld.  
Mrs. Sargent, Granville, N.S.W.  
Tony Davies, Mrs. H. Owen, Mrs. L. Conley, Mrs. O. Ratford, Janice Luton, Deanna McKay, Canberra, A.C.T.  
Mr. and Mrs. Davy and Margaret, Mr. Wedge, Barbara Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Sutton and Joyce, Mrs. Page, Mr. Maddox, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod, Barbara Williams, Mrs. Earl and Neva, Faye Smith, Sondra Smart, Kilburn, S.A.  
Christine Lawton, Unley, S.A.  
Carmel and Sandra Dobbin, Delma Russell, Carol Jones, Heather Fury, Lynette Dempsey, Jean Holmes, Rockhampton, Qld.  
Margaret Greig, Mitcham, Vic.  
Lorraine Cooper, Jim Paul, Marrickville, N.S.W.

## Membership

Mr. and Mrs. L. Simpson, from Blackwood to Murray Bridge, S.A.  
Mrs. Jenkins, from Hawthorn to Hartwell, Vic.  
Dorothy and Berta Griffiths, from Moreland to Drumcondra, Vic.  
Jeff. Barclay, from Prospect to Unley, S.A.  
Len Ramsbottom, from Brunswick Baptist to Surrey Hills, Vic.

## Marriage

Lois Brown to Lindsay Chislett, Red Cliffs, Vic.  
Miss Nicholls to Mr. MacKenzie, Surrey Hills, Vic.

## Fallen Asleep

Miss A. Rowlands, Semaphore, S.A.  
S. S. Wilkinson, Hartwell, Vic.  
Mrs. Rowe, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

Miss E. Clark, Norwood, S.A.  
T. P. Berry, Canberra, A.C.T.  
Mrs. Stokes, Unley, S.A.  
F. Morrison, Doncaster, Vic.  
Miss B. Taylor, Strathalbyn, S.A.  
Mrs. Davidson, Tamworth, N.S.W.  
Mrs. C. Lever, Carnegie, Vic.

## Western Australia

**Kalgoorlie (F. H. Griffiths).** — Pre-Pentecostal series of services under leadership of C. J. Robinson (Conf. Pres.) were keenly attended by members and most helpful. 57th anniversary of church on Pentecost Sunday was marked by fine meetings. Preacher was ill over this period and local brethren conducted services. Visit of R. Dixon (India) was much appreciated, and he was able to speak at several meetings. Preacher drove him down to Norseman Mission prior to travelling East. Number of Y.P. attended State C.E. Convention. Re-organised broadcast choir is providing splendid half-hour sessions on Sundays. Youth offering organised under collectors system amounted to £40, showing 100 per cent. increase. Preacher has just returned from conference of ministers in Perth. W. Lake conducted gospel service recently.

## Queensland

**Kingaroy (P. French).** — B.S. picnic was held on May 21, at Kingaroy Showgrounds. Corndale B.S. joined in with activities of the day. Parents of scholars were invited, and all spent a very happy day. On May 29, morning service was broadcast over the local radio station. Ladies' Guild has visited homes of Mrs. Horne and Mrs. A. Latcham, and have conducted special afternoon meetings. On June 5, preacher and one of the deacons took communion to homes of Mrs. Horne and Mrs. Hayden, who are "shut-in" members. The fellowship was appreciated by all. Preacher has just completed series of special messages on *The Holy Spirit*. At conclusion of gospel meeting on 19th, one young man confessed Christ.

**Townsville.** — Annual business meeting showed a debt free church, and promise was made to increase weekly income when a preacher is obtained for the circuit. Officers elected were C. Beale, O. Irwin and F. Hammond. Armstrong building is to be used as a Day Kindergarten for pre-school children. Men recently built a 1,500 gallon tank for Nellie Bay. B.S. picnic was held on Queen's Birthday week-end, over 100 children and adults attending. Saturday night tennis club includes most members, and is very popular.

**Gladstone (L. T. B. Barnes).** — Services during the month of June were very well attended. Preacher put into effect Programme for progress with results. Church choir was formed. Prayer meetings well attended. Y.P. evenings are bearing results. S. Vanham visited church on June 7, 35 were at the service.

**Rockhampton (D. H. Paddon).** — There was one decision on June 5, and a boy was baptised on 26th. N. Rees (Beverly Hills) is visiting Rockhampton and spoke at mid-week prayer meeting and morning service on 26th. Men's Fellowship was held in home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Dobbs on 20th. Social afternoon was held in home of Mrs. Andrewatha. Y.P.S.C.E. has been converted to a C.Y.F. and includes basketball, table tennis, etc. Pines and Christmas bushes have been planted on inside of new fence at side of chapel. Mr. Cooke is training B.S. for anniversary. Members have commenced canvassing for scholars for North Rockhampton B.S. which will commence on July 17.

## New South Wales

**Granville (C. Terry).** — Attendance is being well maintained at all meetings, B.S. showing an increase, with their aim for 100 present during next quarter being almost reached. A young mother made her decision on May 29 and was baptised on June 5. A group visited Woolwich Bible College on Queen's Birthday holiday. I.C.E. were visited by Loftus Park Y.P.C.E. on 10th, and paid a return visit on 24th. Fay Wright celebrated her coming-of-age with a party in kinder hall. Miss L. Murcott (Clayton, Vic.), and Mrs. N. Flint (Wyoming) have been recent visitors. Speakers have included J. Boswell, W. Rugendyke, F. Reynolds and W. D. Smith. On 12th, Mr. Cunningham (Borneo Evangelical Mission) spoke at fellowship tea, using colored slides. He also gave his testimony at gospel service.

**Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.).** — Visit of Mr. Knight with pictures of Aborigines' Missions, on June 5, was much enjoyed. Messages from E. Heard (India) have also been appreciated. Mr. Heard addressed the church on June 19 and screened films of "Our India" at combined youth night on June 21. Cottage prayer meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray, on 8th, proved very helpful. A mother and daughter have been baptised and a man has made his decision.

**Hornsby (K. R. Fennell).** — On June 25, a number supported the O.M. meeting at Epping at which E. W.



Heard showed slides and spoke on work of Our India. Monthly fellowship tea was held on 26th, guest speaker was D. Dakeyne (C.M.S.). K. Crawford conducted gospel service and was assisted by G. Glazier in song, Mr. R. and Miss E. Dwyer assisted in song at gospel service on 5th, and E. Germon on 19th. Speakers at recent services have been Messrs. Ellerby, Fennell, Kallmier and Laney. Church continues in good heart, fellowship with visitors has been appreciated and some members have been absent because of sickness.

Marrickville (P. E. Thomas, B.A.). — Second bi-monthly evening meeting of Women's Fellowship was held on June 14. Mrs. P. E. Thomas (pres.) and Mrs. R. Maxwell (sec.) led business session, followed by devotional session conducted by younger members of the Fellowship. Mid-week meeting on 15th commenced with devotional period followed by election of elders and deacons. Members wholeheartedly placed on record the excellent work of A. Paris as deacon for many years, and his untiring services in all phases of Christian work. Meeting adjourned to school hall where a short social period and cup of tea was enjoyed. At Communion service on 19th, H. Palmer represented Home Mission Committee and presented address. Gospel service was time of rejoicing when two young people were immersed. Social Service Committee was represented at prayer meeting on 22nd by C. Baker and J. Ellerby who gave talk on activities in that phase of brotherhood work. Youth Council organised squash evening in home of Mr. and Mrs. Dean on 25th when a time of fun and fellowship was enjoyed. Brotherhood Month in special campaign was brought to a close at communion service on 26th when A. W. Stephenson instructed membership on Bible College activities. Elders and deacons were dedicated to their calling at this service. Men's Fellowship enjoyed afternoon meeting when H. A. Elphinston (cricket umpire, N.S.W.) gave interesting talk.

Tamworth (H. I. Walmsley). — Morning and evening services are still well attended. Preacher is giving series of addresses in evening services where questions placed in question box are answered. B.S. attendance is 103. Mr. and Mrs. Horsburgh have been welcomed to teaching staff. Berean Bible class started on June 26. Club for 8½ to 11 years old girls and boys has an attendance of 24. C.Y.F. teenage group meet on Friday nights with 25 present. A number of adults and B.S. scholars are on sick list. Church paper *The Christian Echo* made its first appearance on 19th.

Mosman. — On June 12, W. C. Roffey (Social Service Committee) exhorted church, and S. J. West (Paddington) gave gospel address. On Saturday evening, B.S. teachers gave a "Crazy Hat"

social and £4 was collected for equipment fund. R. Greenhalgh (Youth Director) was guest speaker at morning meeting on 19th. L. Donaldson gave gospel address. On 26th, C. A. Murray spoke at morning meeting and Alec. Surtees (Chatswood) addressed gospel service. Men and women of church have been busy painting and renovating manse ready for coming of D. W. Tonkin to Mosman.

### South Australia

Nailsworth (N. Gavros). — On June 17, an All Nations social proved very successful. Attendances at Sunday services for month of May averaged 115 a.m., and 94 p.m. Ladies' Guild anniversary meeting was attended by over seventy ladies and was addressed by Mr. Jones (Social Service Dept.). Inspirational rally on 25th attracted a large congregation, Lloyd Jones (Mile End) being speaker. Suitable references to the life and work of the late Mrs. Thomas were made at morning services on 26th.

Norwood. (D. G. Hammer). — Attendances are keeping up. Girls' Life Brigade tea was well attended, as was youth gospel service which followed. B.S. anniversary on June 19 was said to be best for some years, with special platform in use again for first time in many years. Mr. Dix led the singing very effectively. Speakers were G. A. Whiting (Youth Director), and D. G. Hammer. Prize-giving and social evening was held during following week, and L. Hollett provided an excellent programme.

Murray Bridge (P. R. Whitmore). — Activities centred around new Youth Hall are rapidly nearing climax, with official opening plans for Aug. 13 complete. Co-operation of all members in countless ways, in time, labor and gifts has resulted in a magnificent addition to brotherhood work. Of proposed new seating, eighty-three chairs are gifts by families and individual members. Baker family have been farewelled. Mrs. Haupt, Mrs. Downing and A. C. Page are remembered in church prayers during times they have been laid aside through illness. Mr. Gruhl, senr., has been welcomed back after long holiday interstate. Three members made cars available for assistance with others in unsuccessful bid to prevent further hotel and storekeepers wine licences at adjoining township of Tallem Bend, on recent Polling Day. Assistance was appreciated by resident Methodist minister. B.&F.B.S. made annual district deputation visit, S. E. Hawkes speaking at morning service and B.S. United week-night Bible Society sound films were screened at Presbyterian Hall to large audience despite very wintry weather. Messrs. Whitmore and D. Dix being newly appointed pres. and sec. of Bible Society committee in district. Mr. Whitmore attended recent Preachers' Refresher Course at Longwood.

Semaphore (R. H. Sercombe). — Attendances at all services have been maintained. Average communicants for month was 66. Y.P. visited Advertiser Printing Office and spent an interesting evening. Sisters' Guild is preparing for annual tea. B.S. is conducting campaign to raise money for Inter-Church Aid. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wormald in passing of her father. Ishbel Foote is making satisfactory progress after illness. Fellowship was enjoyed with John Jarrett (on leave from service in Japan).

Flinders Park (J. B. Baker). — The work is steadily moving ahead. Growth has made it necessary to build. Tenders are being sought for plans drawn up by W. L. Brune, architect. B.S. is meeting under extreme difficulties. 165 is the new record to be crowded into existing building. Anniversary services this year will be held in the R.S.L. Hall. Last year people sat and listened outside windows around the chapel. Several additions by baptism and a few by letter have been received into fellowship over the past 12 months. Youth auxiliaries are functioning well. Very splendid meetings are being held. In absence of preacher, due to circuit arrangements, local brethren carry on. Preacher recently entered his 4th year with church and 2nd with circuit. Church is grateful to S.A. brotherhood for response to call of League of 1,000 on their behalf for new building to commence erection very soon.

Strathalbyn (A. E. Cremin). — Number of church folk and friends witnessed dedication of church manse which was opened by T. Butler on June 25. M. A. K. Crosby (Conf. Pres.) was chairman. A. E. Cremin and G. R. Durdin (sec.) spoke, and M. Caudle (builder) after speaking handed the key to Mr. Butler. Miss W. Thorpe helped in the programme with a solo. Inspection of the building elicited praise for those responsible for substantial home of six rooms and conveniences which will fill a great need and help the work of the brotherhood. Afternoon tea was served by Ladies' Guild. Church has lost one of its honored and loved members in Home call of Miss Betty Taylor on June 4, after a faithful membership of 80 years. Attendances have been well maintained. Young Married's Christian Fellowship meeting has been formed under leadership of Mrs. Cremin.

Unley (I. J. Chivell). — A favorite hymn night attracted large congregation, with a splendid message from preacher. Further favorites were sung at after-church fellowship. Mr. Chivell attended preachers' refresher course at Longwood, and also took remaining week of his holidays. While away services were taken by H. R. Taylor and E. Hollard. M. A. K. Crosby (Conf. Pres.), brought challenging message to church, and Overseas Missions sec., A. Anderson, spoke in connection with



forthcoming offering. Brotherhood Missionary Rally in our hall attracted large audience on very wet evening. Miss Mary Cox (Student Christian Movement) assisted at evening service on June 26. Women held two all-day sewing meetings to mend and darn for for Morialta Children's Homes. Men have continued monthly working bees and buildings have an improved appearance. Y.P. are enthusiastically preparing for two-night concert, proceeds being for equipment for new hall.

**Grote-st., Adelaide (A. W. C. Candy).** — A young married couple made their decision on June 26. C.E. conducted their meeting with Y.P. at Salisbury on 27th. Choir is planning a Back to the Choir reunion. Monthly after-church fellowships are enjoyed at which series of Bible study in the home films are being screened. Sympathy of church is extended to Mrs. Peet in passing of her sister. Plans are in hand for installation of fluorescent lighting in chapel. W.M.B. raised a generous amount for Overseas Missions offering. Dorcas Society is making garments for our Aborigines' Mission stations.

**Prospect.** — Church is happy to have temporary leadership of A. R. Jones, who began an interim ministry on June 5. After the evening service a social hour was arranged to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Jones and family. G. Whiting (Youth Director) and family have recently taken up residence in Prospect and have been welcomed into fellowship. Y.P. took an active part in evening service on 12th. Chapel was filled on 26th, when film *Decision* was shown. One B.S. scholar confessed her faith in Christ.

## Victoria

**Ivanhoe (S. Davey).** — Morning services are being well attended. Helpful addresses from preacher are enjoyed. Attendances at the gospel meeting have shown improvements over recent weeks. A referendum regarding change of time for gospel services showed an overwhelming majority in favor of 7 p.m. Church is greatly encouraged by commencement of work on school hall to be completed in Feb. 1956. B.S. requires use of three outside halls so the new hall will be of great value. A well attended church picnic was held at Eltham on Queen's Birthday holiday. On June 18, men of church built a new path to chapel door and cleaned front of church property. Men are attending series of talks by J. E. Brooke (Balwyn) the subject being *The President at the Morning Service*.

**Drumcondra (R. Wilson).** — On June 5, a large congregation attended evening service to witness screening of Billy Graham film *Hour of Decision*. Speakers during preacher's holiday have been R. Watt, R. Tattersall and L. Mountjoy. Ladies' Fellowship had an enjoyable evening to celebrate their 6th birthday.

**Essendon (M. Roberts).** — Y.W.F. celebrated 7th birthday on June 7. Mrs. E. L. Williams was speaker and also showed slides of recent overseas tour. A delightful supper was spread in kinder hall. The birthday cake, made and iced by Mrs. Buttress, was cut by Mrs. Jenkins (State President). N. Cheal was speaker at morning service on 12th. On 17th, Explorers held sale of plants. L. Croxford presided at morning service on 19th. Mrs. Warren rendered solo at evening service. Mrs. Bright-Parker was speaker at Y.W.F. on 21st. Mr. Roberts and church officers held fortnight's visitation, visiting all homes of church members. Church has been inspired and uplifted. Attendances at B.S. has reached 106. Mrs. Bone is still unable to attend meetings because of illness.

**Hartwell (H. J. Patterson, M.A.).** — Attendances are still well maintained, average for June being best for that month as was that for May. On June 19, Mrs. Heard (India) gave an informative message to church. On 26th, 165 were present at morning service. A lady was received into fellowship by letter of transfer. Dr. Crowley addressed Bible class of 37 in afternoon. Church is purchasing block of land out East with intention of initiating new work in that rapidly developing area.

**Parkdale (C. Dunse).** — Attendances for month of June were good. At worship service on June 19, R. S. Baker presided. At gospel service on 26th, F. Manning gave address and showed films on *Mission to Lepers*. Monthly Snowball meeting was held in home of Mrs. F. Talent at which Mrs. Beyderwellen, a visitor from Holland was guest speaker. Y.W.F. celebrated their 7th birthday and presented a play *Women at War*, many visitors attending. Teenage group enjoyed a film night given by T.A.A., including W.C.T.U. film, *It's the Brain that Counts*, and a talk by Mrs. Nance-Kivell. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and Ann have been farewelled, and received presentations from Mothers' Club and Men's Fellowship as they leave Parkdale to settle in Perth, W.A.

**Warracknabeal (W. Wakefield).** — Church is pleased to note improvement in health of preacher after his illness. Dorothy Corneliuss (Adelaide) recently gave an interesting missionary talk and showed a number of films.

**Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).** — All services are well attended. A pantry gift evening was given to Mr. and Mrs. T. Sires. Earlier, the Y.P. Club paid them a surprise visit. Y.P. Club held barbecue at home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Milne. The ladies again catered for Rotary Dinner and made a profit of £6/9/-. Jumble sale was held on June 3, when £53 was raised. Women's Fellowship has given further £50 to Kinder Hall Fund. Some Y.P. went to youth camp at Swan Hill on Queen's Birthday

week-end. On 21st, a social afternoon and presentation was given to Lois Brown prior to her marriage. Red Cliffs Girl Guides attended church parade on 26th. Girls' choir sang.

**Bentleigh (J. Wiltshire).** — Morning meetings are very well attended, there is room for improvement in the evening. Delegation visited Gardiner mission on two occasions. On June 26, over 30 men and lads on church roll met at invitation of officers for conference and tea. Aspects of proposed mission were discussed and Mr. Watt (Tootgarook) played tape recording of message by K. A. Macnaughtan on veracity of the Scriptures. M.I.S. had interesting visit from Messrs. Watt and Kennedy (Hartwell) who showed films and spoke on art of public speaking. Members gave £20 for new building at Tootgarook.

**Dawson-st., Ballarat (F. O. Hunting).** — At evening service on June 5, Brougham-st. chapel was crowded for screening of Billy Graham film *What God Cannot Do*. On 12th, during preacher's absence at Hall's Gap, Dawson-st. church was addressed in the morning by J. Wilkie, and at night by Mr. Sheriff (York-st.). Visitors for day included Mr. and Mrs. Malin (Brighton), Mr. and Mrs. Lee (Warrnambool), Mr. and Mrs. Anderson (Northcote). On 19th, one young man made his decision and his wife and another young lady re-dedicated their lives. At Y.W.F. annual meeting, Beth Thomas was elected pres., Lillian Price, vice-pres., Hazel Hunting, sec., Gwen Franklin, asst.-sec., Esther Holmes, treas. W.M.B. has been busy and packed two boxes for United Aborigines' Mission. Both Mrs. N. Reed and Mrs. J. Rimmington are home from hospital. Mrs. Young is confined to bed with broken ribs.

**Doncaster (F. B. Burt).** — After a long illness, F. Morrison passed to higher life on June 18. Deepest sympathy of church is extended to bereaved members of the family. As a result of Talent Quest, the Finance Committee has raised £505 to help swell the Building Fund. Result of God's Acre Quest is awaited with interest. Talent Quest was brought to a close on 14th, when J. Ross (Thornbury) showed film *All that I Have*, which was much appreciated by all. Afterwards, a short time was spent selling articles for the Quest. Church is preparing for 92nd anniversary services.

**Surrey Hills (H. Earle).** — Explorer boys and parents-helped church members to fill chapel on evening of June 5, when W. F. Newham, Chief Explorer, gave address and led service, assisted by club members. At mothers' social on 17th, the boys entertained 43 mothers. Club attendance averages 65 each Friday. Boys won Pennant for Indoor Sports and have collected 85 pounds of old linen for Mission Band



to forward to the "Islands." B.S. has forwarded £15 for support of Indian orphan. Ladies' Guild have raised £50 for Manse Fund from Time and Talent project. Plans are being made to celebrate 65th anniversary of church.

**Wangaratta** (R. J. Anderson). — Much blessing resulted from gospel service on June 26, when a young lady visitor from Mitcham confessed Christ. A young man and young lady re-consecrated their lives. Miss Hooper (Poona and India Village Mission) visited on 26th, and spoke at combined after-church meeting. Good Companions' Club is progressing well under leadership of Mesdames Anderson and Patrick. Members of Explorer Club are enthusiastic. B.S. is strong with over 100 regularly attending.

**Balwyn** (J. E. Brooke). — On June 19, two young ladies were welcomed into membership. Monthly average attendance was 121 communicants which compares favorably with 105 for same period last year. P.B.P. Club is sponsoring collection of second-hand clothing for Oriental Missions. Preacher is making certain hours available on week nights for interviews in church vestry to any who may be desirous.

#### BIRTH.

**BOND** (Esmā Quirk). — On May 28, to Esmā and Geoff, at Cloncurry, Qld., a daughter—Michel Wendy. (Sister for Heather and Philip.)

#### DEATH.

**SIVYER**, Florence Beatrice. — On June 24, Florence, of 9a Sidwell-ave., East St. Kilda, wife of the late Frederick James Sivyer (Nelson, N.Z.). Loving mother of Gwen.

#### IN MEMORIAM.

**MURDOCH**. — Loving memories of my dear husband, George, who passed away, June 21, 1948, at Victoria-st., Flemington.

—Inserted by his loving wife, Ethel.

**WATERS**. — In loving memory of Edwin Joseph, our devoted husband and dearly loved father, who passed to higher service, June 27, 1951.

"Ever remembered."

#### ENGAGEMENT.

**SHEPHERD—HUTCHISON**. — The engagement is announced of Hazel, 26 Church-st., Marrickville, N.S.W., to Lionel, only son of Mrs. M. Hutchison, Marrickville.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

D. A. V. Thomas (preacher, Shepparton church), 69 Edward-st., Shepparton, Vic.

N. E. Vogler (secretary, Lowood church), M/S 435, Lowood, B.V. Line, Qld.

I. A. Paternoster (Federal Conference President), 32 Cammeray-ave., Cammeray, N.S.W.

#### APPRECIATION.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Black wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to their many friends for well wishes, visits, letters, cards, messages and prayers during the time Mr. Black was in hospital and since returning home. As it is impossible to reply personally to all, will you please accept this in grateful acknowledgement of your brotherliness.—George T. Black.

Mrs. A. H. Pratt sincerely thanks all who sympathised by flowers, messages, or personally, in the sudden call to heaven of her beloved husband. Especially the brethren who took part in the three services. Will all please accept this as a personal expression of gratitude.

#### PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

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hour week. For appointment ring MY 2160; after hours WF 8437.

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29th Anniversary Services

Saturday, July 16:  
8 p.m., Family Birthday Party.

Sunday, July 17:  
11 a.m.,  
Speaker: L. E. Snow, B.A., Dip.Ed.  
7 p.m., Speaker: A. E. White, B.A.  
Former members specially welcome.

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Saturday, August 13, at 3 p.m.  
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July 5, 1955.

## OBITUARY

George Leslie Murray.

It was with a profound sense of loss that the church at Surrey Hills (Vic.) received the news of the sudden passing of G. L. Murray on May 4, en route to England on the liner Strathmore, at the age of 65 years. He was a member of the church for fifty years. Through the years he served as teacher, superintendent of the B.S., choir master, secretary of the church, member of the official board and, at the time of his death, was a beloved elder of the congregation. His was a shining example of the dedicated life. Victorian churches conferred upon him the highest honor when, in 1940, he was elected President of Conference. He served on the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference Executive, Home Mission Committee, Advisory Board, Properties Corporation, Co-ordinating Committee (of which he was chairman from its inception), and as Treasurer of Conference. For many years he was a member of the Board of Management of the Federal College of the Bible and was deputy chairman.

Always gracious, he adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour. His great capacity, trained mind, balanced judgment, fine courtesy, and rare devotion made him a wise counsellor and a trusted friend. He had the unquestioned esteem and regard of the whole Brotherhood as was evidenced by the large gathering at the Service of Thanksgiving for his life and work held in Lygon-st. chapel on Sunday afternoon, May 29. Tributes were paid by the President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference, B. F. Huntsman, who presided, V. L. Gole, representing business and professional colleagues, F. W. Cheshire, of the Burwood Boys' Home, of which Mr. Murray was chairman and superintendent of the Bible school, E. L. Williams, Principal of the College of the Bible.

Through more than forty years, Mrs. Murray had been a partner in his service for the Brotherhood. But for her co-operation, he could never have attempted all that he did. We commend her and the members of the family, Margaret (Mrs. Greig), Douglas, Joan (Mrs. Lancaster) and Joyce (Mrs. Hough), to the God of all comfort. He was a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ. He rests from his labors and his works do follow him.—H.E.

Keith A. Ewers.

After nine months of very patient suffering, Keith A. Ewers, fourth son of Mr. and the late Will Ewers, was called Home at Port Lincoln, S.A., on May 18. He was a B.Sc., serving with the Education Department of South Australia as a teacher of science at the Port Lincoln High School, where he was held in high esteem by scholars and staff. He served in the church at Port Lincoln as Club leader, Bible school teacher and member of the

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board of elders. Previously he was a  
teacher at Wudinna High School and  
was a great help to the church in that  
place. A service was held in the home  
and at the graveside, attended by a  
large circle of friends. Although the  
school was on vacation, all available  
pupils and staff lined the roadway to  
pay a last tribute as the cortege passed  
the school grounds. He leaves a widow  
and two little daughters. They were  
about to celebrate their third wedding  
anniversary the following day when he  
lapsed into unconsciousness from  
which he did not recover, passing away  
two days later. The time of his suffer-  
ing was a shining witness of his great  
faith to all who knew him. He knew  
he was going on to a bright Eternity  
and a happy reunion with his loved  
ones in the Morning. To his widow,  
daughters, mother and other members  
of the family we extend sincere sym-  
pathy.—I.W.N.

**Mary Ellen Holloway.**

The church at Hampton was sad-  
dened by the passing of our sister on  
June 7, after being ill for about a year.  
It was a great regret to her when  
sickness made it impossible for her to  
attend the Lord's Day services, mid-  
week meeting and Ladies' meetings.  
Miss Holloway was associated with the  
work at Hampton almost from its in-  
ception and her letter of transfer from  
Lygon-st. was received in 1917. Through  
the years she demonstrated her quiet  
Christian faith and loyalty, serving as  
pianiste in the Bible school, and or-  
ganiste of the church. Her Bible was  
ever by her side as a constant com-  
panion and sure comfort in her long  
weary days of weakness. Now she is  
asleep in Christ having finished her  
Christian pilgrimage at the age of 69.  
Our lives are the richer for having  
known her.—K.J.C.

**Samuel Sibcy Wilkinson.**

After a brief illness and without  
suffering, on June 24, in his 86th year  
S. S. Wilkinson was called Home to be  
with his Lord. On the preceding Lord's  
Day, as his custom was, he was in his  
place at the Lord's Table. As a lad of  
18, he journeyed from his old home in  
Lincoln, England to Queensland, but  
soon made his way to Melbourne, Vic.  
After a short time in the employment  
of Robt. Reid, he entered into business  
on his own account as a customs agent.  
In this business he continued until his  
retirement when he was over 80 years  
of age. He took a trip to the old land  
with his wife on the occasion of the  
Second World Convention of Churches  
of Christ in Leicester. He was one of  
the earliest members of Nth. Richmond  
church and later of Hartwell church.  
He was a lovely gentleman, and the  
Hartwell church will sadly miss him.  
To his wife and children sympathy is  
expressed. After a gathering in the  
home, the friends proceeded to Kew  
cemetery where the writer conducted  
the service. He hath given his beloved  
sleep.—H.J.P.

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