

Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

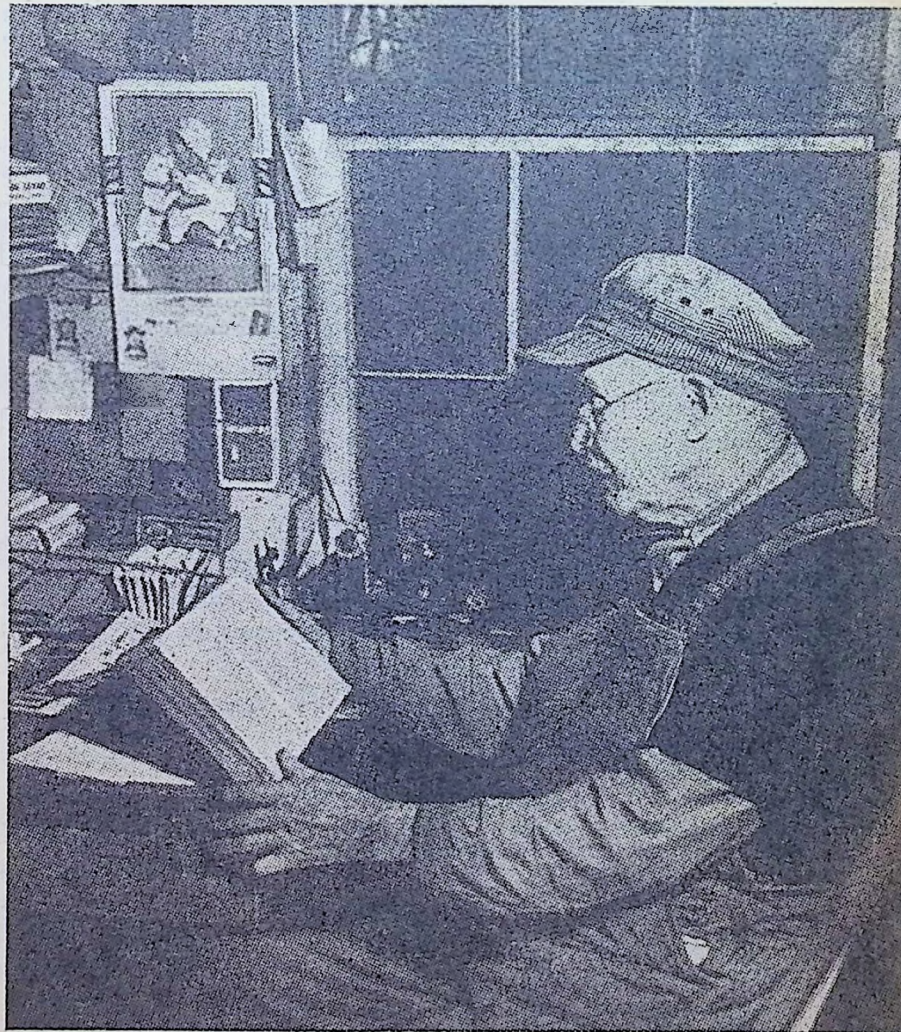
## *The Christian's Text Book*

The Church is always in need of consecrated leaders—elders, preachers, deacons, who not only possess the word but of whom it can be said “the word possesses them.”

The Church needs members who will devote some time to further their knowledge of “the book,” so that in the office or the workshop, on the doorstep or in the comfort of the home, they are not only ready to give answer concerning the hope which they possess, but be willing, and able, to lead others to faith and obedience in Christ Jesus the Saviour.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2: 15.)

—Block, “The Christian-Evangelist.”



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THE AUSTRALIAN

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NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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## News of British Churches

At time of writing these notes, British churches are gravely concerned at news received from India by cable that J. C. Christie and two of his Indian colleagues have been sentenced to eight months' imprisonment with hard labor. The cases were heard some months ago, judgment being deferred. Announcement of the sentence has been received with consternation both in India and at home, for it was held to be against the weight of evidence, or alternatively, to be excessive, even if the charge was true. Bail was allowed until May 28. Missionaries in India and the Missionary Committee at home have held high level talks with a view to retrial or appeal.

After a year's furlough, Miss J. Tinto has returned to Nyassaland. Mr. and Mrs. V. Smith and their family have arrived on furlough from the same station.

At the Men's Easter Convention held in Leicester, a presentation was made to J. Gray, former Principal of Overdale College. The presentation — a cheque and books — was made by W. Mander.

David Luo, a Chinese missionary, stayed for a few days in Britain on his way to join the mission staff in Thailand. He spoke at meetings in Leicester and London.

Following out the policy advocated by Annual Conference, the churches in Furness have held another rally, the second of the series, with Baptist churches in the area. The speakers were James Gray and H. L. Watson, Areas Superintendent of Baptist churches in Lancashire and Cheshire.

The church at Hornsey, London, is well known to overseas visitors. On a recent Sunday there were present ten members of Disciple churches, completing a tour of overseas mission stations, and ten members of Australian churches. A reception was held for the visitors.

W. Harrop has completed 25 years as secretary of the London churches. At the annual meeting of the London Association, the churches expressed their appreciation by gifts of a travelling case and rug.

Churches in England and Scotland have shared in the Billy Graham Crusades, either directly or by relay services. Several churches report additions by baptism. Recent correspondence in the *Christian Advocate* reveals a conflict of opinion on the value of the Crusades.—G. J. Hammond.



# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Those who travel by air may find themselves looking down upon the twinkling multi-colored lights of a city. We have thought of it sometimes as looking down on heaven. But with that thought comes the far too serious reflection of the strange and awful mixture of love and hate, goodness and wickedness, tenderness and violence, generosity and greed, below the city lights. There will be those who recognise the sanctity of life whilst others count it as nothing. And some may be contemplating the taking of their own lives!

Statistics make sad reading when one sees that an average of eight hundred people a year in Australia take their own lives. Eight hundred annually! And that does not include the number who failed in the attempt, or those who were discouraged to the extremity of despair. We can only visualise such numbers by thinking, perhaps, of men marching eight abreast and how long it would thus take for eight hundred to pass.

The Psalmist has said that when men are "at wits end they call on the Lord." Many have done this and the lives they sought to end by their own hands have been used in some wonderful way by God. Despite sickness, agony of mind or whatever it may be that would bring us to the verge of self-destruction, God would yet have us fulfil our destiny. But there are still multitudes who do not know him or are not ready to trust him. Would that more could say with Longfellow:

*"Discouraged with the load of life,  
I sit beside the road:  
But let me only think of Thee  
And then new life springs up in me."*

The lack of faith in the Fatherhood of God is the world's great tragedy and shining faith its greatest triumph. Where there is a lack of faith in God, it is not likely that life will be held as a sacred trust—a trust of which we must some day render an account of the deeds done in the flesh. Faith and trust makes us recognise the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and that there is a plan and purpose for each life and power to accomplish, until such time as God calls us.

It is an awry world in which we live, however, or should we say, it is a world where men are bad stewards of God's goodness. The liquor traffic, for instance, is not only licensed but given every facility to extend at the cost of human ability, happiness and life. The "Trade" sets out to make every one of us a moderate drinker knowing that every drunkard was once a moderate drinker. Many young people are caught up with this idea, "I'll be a moderate drinker, that's the ticket." But what may the next ten years of their lives reveal.

Their "moderation" has too often led to vice, crime or crashes on the road—for a car is always as drunk as its driver. Authoritative figures have now been publicised revealing that 90 per cent. of road accidents are due to drink. With a Commonwealth accident roll to June, 1954, of 46,349, of which thousands of those injured are permanently incapacitated, and 1,963 killed, one wonders what the figures to June, 1955, will reveal. Many useful lives have been lost or broken by the careless driver who has been made so by intoxicating liquor. In any case, life is life, and cannot be replaced. But statistics will never reveal the loss of manhood or womanhood, of goodness or virtue through this life-destroying agency.

Gambling has been legalised, in some form or another, almost everywhere. And yet behind prison walls are some very able and likeable men wasting away years of their lives because they stole to pay gambling debts.

Space does not permit the enumerating of all the ways in which life is held cheaply and in which we through our governments may be condoning the very things that bring so much evil in their train. Thus we are like the men who kept an ambulance at the base of the cliff to pick the people up who fell over. The obvious remedy was a fence at the top of the cliff which would have saved grief and pain—and the ambulance.

It is good to remember, "there is no vice so simple but assumes some mark of virtue on its outward parts." Yet we still have civic leaders who can see only the assumed virtues on soul-destroying practices. Too many of us have forgotten that "no man liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself," whilst some have followed a convenient philosophy that not only absolves them from neighborly goodness but like Cain they cry, "Am I my brother's keeper?" At the door of any of us, or all of us, may be laid the failure of some of those discouraged in life or the broken hearts of those fallen by the way-side:

One of O. Henry's stories tells of a small girl neglected by her father and sent on to the street to play, despite the protests of her mother. In later years she murders her lover in a dance hall and then throws herself into the river. O. Henry dreams his climax, for it is where the girl is being tried for murder and suicide. She has no defence, but is acquitted. The court officer comes out and calls the man who arrested her and tells him to quit making these false arrests for the real criminal was the father. It is high time that all men recognised the sanctity of life.



# Church Centenary Hindmarsh, S.A.

## A Brief History of Past Events

One hundred years of witness for Christ. The illustration opposite tells us of the formation of the Church of Christ at Hindmarsh in 1855. This record, taken from the original minute book, dated June 10, 1855, is set forth in permanent form on a wooden tablet hanging in the present chapel. This minute framed originally as a resolution became at once the simple constitution upon which the church has been built. It outlined the simple faith of those brethren and sisters listed thereon and commenced the work which has now continued for 100 years. This tablet has a very definite place in the hearts of all those who have worshipped and have come to know their Lord among the brethren at Hindmarsh.

Our history has been made to the glory of God and his Son Jesus. For 100 years the voice of the gospel has never been stilled and many, many souls have been brought into the Church. The Lord's Table has been set up unceasingly to the permanent witness to the reality of Christ.

The first meetings were held in the home of Thos. Magarey. The room was lighted with tallow candles and the hymn book in use was one published in England by a James Wallis. New members were received into communion by immersion. The full gospel according to the New Testament was preached. Baptisms were performed in the River Torrens and also in a large, lead-lined bath, specially built for this purpose and situated on the verandah of Mr. Magarey's residence.

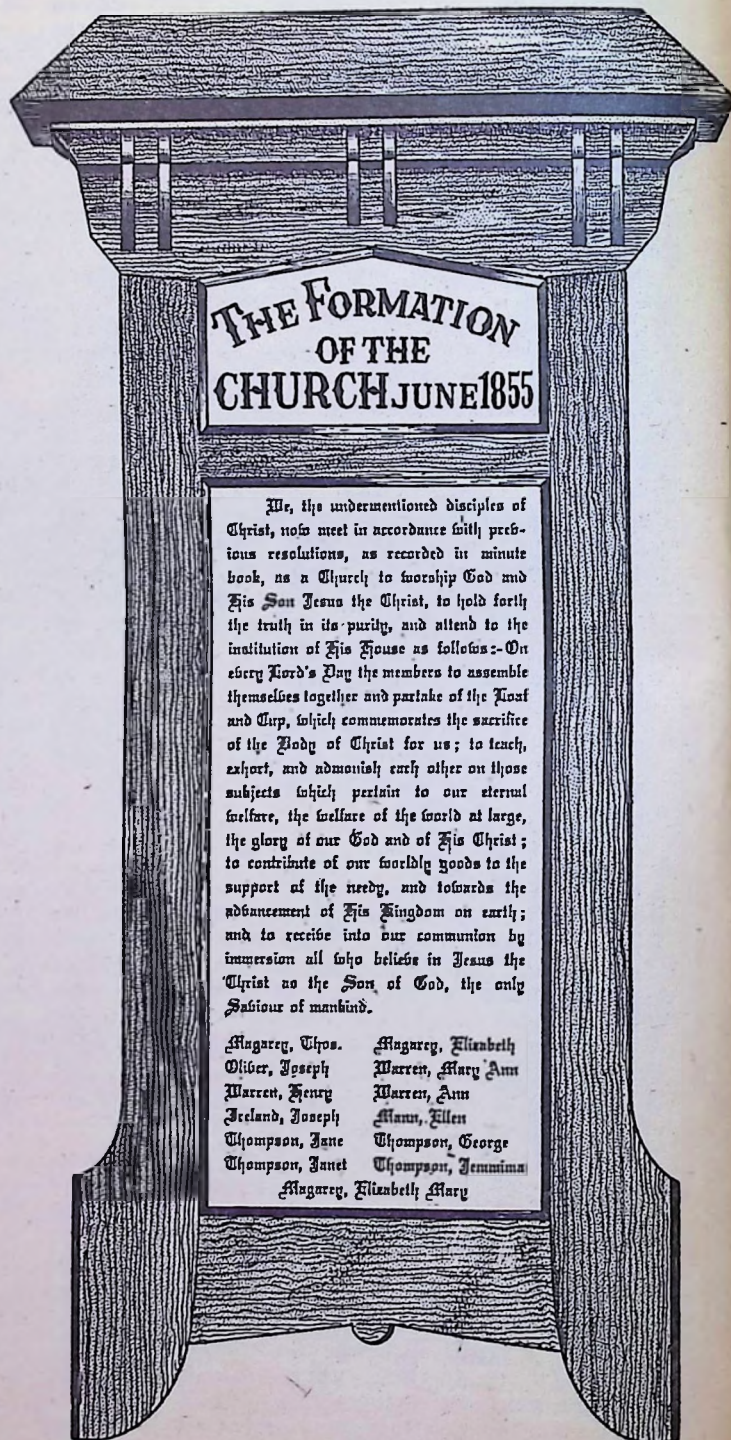
In 1855 the membership was recorded as 25—there had been many more conversions, but times were difficult and members were continually moving out to other districts. By 1868 membership had risen rapidly to some 200, mainly as a result of the very successful ministries of H. S. Earl and J. W. Webb. The first chapel building (portion of the present structure) was completed and opened in 1866 on October 2. Once more the name of Thos. Magarey features—he made a gift of the land upon which the chapel was built.

About this time it is recorded that causes were established at Stirling East, Two Wells and Mallala by members moving out from Hindmarsh.

1869—Congregations were large; the building was filled to overflowing; seats were placed in the aisles even for mid-week meetings. 1871—Cottage prayer meetings were introduced and the Bible Class established. 1875—H. D. Smith commenced an almost uninterrupted ministry of 20 years; election of elders and deacons, and monthly meetings of church officers' board. 1880—The Bible school costing £1,000 was erected, the first of its kind built by Churches of Christ in the Southern Hemisphere. 1881—Work was commenced by brethren from Hindmarsh which resulted in formation of a church at Henley Beach and in 1884 a similar work was commenced at York. In 1888 the debt on the Bible School Hall was paid off, with appropriate celebrations.

1892—Saw much needed additions to the chapel including the front porch, gallery and classrooms at rear (these additions cost £850.) A congregation of 700 attended the re-opening service. That year also saw the formation of the first Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. 1898—The Robert Street

(Continued foot of first column next page.)





# Presenting Our Case to the Press

G. R. Stirling

"The Atlas," Australian Capital Territory newspaper, has asked the various church groups in Canberra, to provide them with a statement of their basic beliefs and practices. Each week one of these statements appears under the heading "About Your Religion." Each statement has to be compressed into one column, which makes the task of those preparing them rather difficult. "About Your Religion, No. 3" was devoted to a statement on "Churches of Christ." As it was impossible to fit the New Testament into one column of the paper, the writer had to do his best to present some of our views concisely and with an eye to the Canberra scene. The following is what "The Atlas" printed, and "The Australian Christian" readers can judge for themselves whether it is a fair statement or not. Readers might well exercise themselves as individuals or groups, in asking themselves what they would have written had "The Atlas" telephoned them for such a statement.

Primarily Churches of Christ believe that the New Testament contains all that we need to know of the mind and will of Jesus Christ for the Church and its members, and for the world as a whole. Thus Churches of Christ believe that the New Testament should be the only authoritative rule of faith and practice for the Church.

Secondly, they believe that all Christians could, and should unite on the simple basis of the New Testament. Already most denominations accept the authority of the New Testament, so that on this point there is a common ground. They are divided on human opinions, customs and traditions, and credal and confessional statements. Churches of Christ believe that Christian Unity will come when we all have the courage to forget the things that divide us, and come with unbiased and open minds to the New Testament, to discover there, in the spirit of love and humility, the principles and pattern of the Church for the modern world.

In practice, Churches of Christ have tried to base their faith and life on the teachings of the New Testament. This does not mean that they claim that their Christianity is superior to that of others. It does mean that they believe that in the modern world the Christian Church needs to put aside

non-essentials, in order to get to the very essence of Christianity in Christ and the New Testament.

The worship of Churches of Christ is dignified, but simple, containing the elements of Christian worship found in the New Testament. These are fellowship, teaching, reading the scriptures, prayer, singing praises, and the Lord's Supper or Communion, which in Churches of Christ is the central part of each Sunday morning service, and to which all who love Christ are invited.

Churches of Christ believe that the New Testament teaches the "priesthood of all believers," and that all Christians are ministers of Jesus Christ, each fulfilling those functions for which God has given him gifts. Thus while ministers are trained and ordained to the full-time service of the Church, there is no distinction between "clergy and laity," nor special rights or functions of one class as against another. Thus "laymen" may administer the Lord's Supper if they are qualified to do so in a way that edifies the worshippers. Similarly, if they are qualified, they may preach or teach or take other parts in the services or government of the Church. Churches of Christ do not believe that the New Testament raises certain individuals to a higher status of priesthood, but that it elevates every Christian to the

ministry of Christ, according to his capacities and abilities.

Church government in the local congregation is by elders and deacons appointed by the church and responsible to the church. Each congregation manages its own affairs, but all co-operate through State and Federal Conferences, in the management and support of promotional work such as home and overseas missions, social service, training and youth work. However, Federal and World Presidents of Churches of Christ Conferences do not have a higher status than the humblest Bible School teacher in a local church, because each is fulfilling the function to which he has been called by Christ.

Churches of Christ do not use their name in any exclusive or arrogant way. They believe that every Christian congregation is A Church of Christ, and that all the Christian Churches together go to make up the Church of Christ. Believing that denominational names perpetuate division, they would like all Christians to use the divine name.

Churches of Christ believe that where there is a clear lead from the New Testament, it ought to be followed. Thus they practise what was clearly the baptism of the New Testament, the immersion of repentant believers; believing that the intention of Christian baptism was the conscious, personal identification of the believer, in the symbolic burial in water, with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (See Romans 6: 3-9; Colossians 2: 12.)

On the other hand, where there is no clear lead from the New Testament, Churches of Christ believe that Christians should try to discover that action which will be most in harmony with the spirit of Christ, and the good of the whole Church; that they should do this in the spirit of love; and that they should respect completely, the opinions of those who arrive at different conclusions. "In things essential—unity, in non-essentials—liberty, in all things love."

But above everything else, Churches of Christ seek to apply the message of the New Testament to practical daily living.

Literary Society, its object being intellectual and moral advancement.

1900—Complete renovation of building at a cost of £70; a monthly paper *The People's Friend* was introduced and 1,000 copies distributed gratis. 1914—The erection of Gymnasium Hall. 1917—The manse was purchased for the sum of £550. 1928—The tiled baptistry was first used.

The Bible School was actually commenced prior to the formation of the church. As far as can be ascertained meetings commenced in Sept., 1854.

The first meeting place was in a converted dwelling-house with the interior walls removed for the purpose. This house was given by Thos. Magarey.

The Bible school thus commenced was the first work of this nature related to Churches of Christ in Aus-

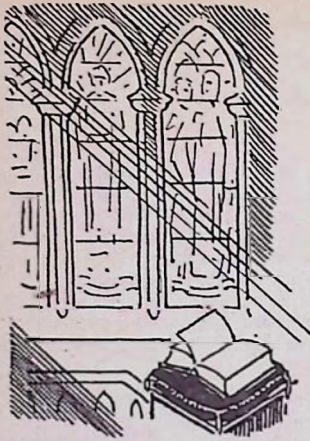
tralia. The Bible school has been truly the nursery of the church and succeeding generations have been nurtured within its walls to become the backbone of the church.

Progress in the early years was gradual, but in 1880 the necessity arose for more accommodation and the lecture hall was built. Accommodation was increased still further in 1892, when extra rooms were added to the rear of the chapel. It is recorded that there were 300 on the roll in 1905. The kindergarten hall was erected in 1910.

Considerable improvements by way of stage curtains and facilities were added to the lecture hall in 1935.

Throughout the years the church has maintained a faithful witness and enters another century with the confidence that an effective ministry will be continued.





# THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Sunday, June 26

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 6.

Summary.

If the Book of Isaiah had been arranged with stricter attention to chronological order, this would have been the first, not the sixth chapter. In one of the most glowing and worshipful chapters in the Bible, Isaiah tells of his call to the office of prophet. The call of the great evangelical prophet is fittingly read alongside that of the great evangelical apostle. Vv. 1-4 describes Isaiah's vision of Jehovah enthroned and the worship of heaven; in vv. 5-7 he confesses his sin and is absolved; in vv. 8-13 he receives his prophetic commission.

Explanatory Notes.

"His train" (v. 1). — His skirts sweep outward and upward and fill all the space, and the awe-stricken prophet looks at them, rather than at the divine form and face.

"Seraphim" (v. 2). — Derived from the verb "to burn," and may simply indicate the fiery or flowing appearance of Jehovah's attendant angels.

"Smoke" (v. 4). — The "cloud" which often accompanied the appearances of God (Exod. 14: 19; 40: 34; Ezek. 10: 4).

"Lips" (v. 5). — The pure praises of the seraphim made Isaiah think by contrast of his own sins of the lips.

"Make the heart" (v. 10). — The result of the prophet's preaching described as though it were the purpose. Most of his hearers will stubbornly reject his message, with the result that they will become dead to all impressions.

"How long?" (v. 11). — Isaiah feels that such a state of things cannot be allowed to continue, and is assured that Jehovah will interpose with a terrible judgment of war and exile.

"A tenth" (v. 13). — This doctrine of the Remnant is characteristic of Isaiah (cp. chap. 4: 3; 7: 3; 10: 20-21).

"And it shall return" (v. 13). — R.V.

"It shall again be eaten up." The meaning is that the coming judgment is not a single one, but a series.

"Whose substance" (v. 13). — R.V. "Whose stock remaineth." As when an evergreen tree is cut down, the stump remains from which new shoots may grow, so there will be a faithful remnant of Israel left, to be the germ of a renewed people.

Suggested Theme.

"THE CARDINAL NOTES OF WORSHIP."

Introduction.—"The vision is but the service in the temple transfigured. The prophet fell into a trance while beholding the service and musing on its meaning. Suddenly the house and service and the ministers became transfigured; the walls went apart, and the roof lifted itself up till it seemed the high dome of God's palace on high, under which he stood, and the Lord the King sat upon his throne, receiving the adoration of all holy beings." Does anything like this happen to us in church? It could—and should!

I. THE HOLINESS OF GOD (vv. 1-5). — (a) The Divine King displaces the human as hero. (b) The glorious holiness of God. (c) The pure service of the heavenly beings. (d) The consciousness by contrast, of his own sin — that first—and then that of his people.

II. THE MERCY OF GOD (vv. 6-7). —(a) The forgiveness of sins. (b) The live coal from the altar, symbolising the painfulness of the cleansing, and its radical nature.

III. THE CALL OF GOD (v. 8). — (a) The call not direct, but general. Isaiah could have let it pass as for someone else. (b) The personal and willing response.

IV. THE SERVICE OF GOD (vv. 9-13). — Its hardness—lack of response, and resultant tragedy. (b) Its hope—a remnant would be faithful, and God's purpose be fulfilled through them.

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 26: 1-18.

Summary.

This is the third record in Acts of Paul's conversion. Luke records it in chapter 9, and Paul himself tells it twice, in chapter 22 and here. The address is a powerful argument from his own experience. He spoke that which he knew. He himself was a living fact, the great change in his own life wrought by Jesus, his risen Lord. And he stood there a living miracle, "an incarnate argument." Jesus Christ must be living and Divine to work such a change. He says, in effect, "You stumble at the doctrine of the resurrection. I know it is a marvellous thing that God should

raise the dead, but God has raised me from the dead—I was dead in trespasses and sins."

Explanatory Notes.

"Agrippa" (v. 1). — Agrippa II, ruler of the tetrachies of Philip and Lysanias in Northern Palestine. He was the son of Herod Agrippa I, who slew the apostle James (Acts 12: 1-2), great nephew of Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist; and great grandson of Herod the Great, who massacred the innocents in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus. He was made supervisor of the Temple at Jerusalem and had the privilege of appointing the high priest. As Paul says, he had sound knowledge of all Jewish affairs.

"The promise . . . unto our fathers" (v. 6). — Paul is at pains to emphasise that, in his adherence to the Way, he was not at all disloyal to the principles of his ancestral religion. Religiously, his position is utterly orthodox.

"Unto strange cities" (v. 11). — He had persecuted Christians in other foreign cities than Damascus, though Acts gives no account of these expeditions.

"In the Hebrew language" (v. 14). — The deepest experiences are best expressed in one's mother tongue. So the revelation to Paul seemed to be expressed in Aramaean, the language especially dear to Jewish hearts.

"And of those in which I will appear" (v. 16). — Paul's experience of Christ was a continuing one.

"To open their eyes" (v. 18). — This verse is strikingly reminiscent of Colossians 1: 12-14.

Suggested Theme.

"THE CONFESSION OF A CHANGED MAN."

Introduction. — The Christian gospel declares that "No man need stay the way he is." It has abundant witnesses to prove that statement. Paul is not ashamed to tell of the change in his life, because it brings glory to Christ.

I. WHAT HE HAD BEEN (vv. 1-11). —(a) A thoroughly orthodox Jew. (b) A fierce persecutor.

II. HOW HE HAD BEEN CHANGED (vv. 12-15). — (a) A light. (b) A voice. (c) A Person.

III. WHY HE HAD BEEN CHANGED (vv. 16-18). — (a) To witness to others of the change Christ can make—by word, and by example. (b) To declare good news—of blindness and darkness ended; transfer from Satan's power to God's, forgiveness of sins, and a share with the sanctified.

Conclusion.—Unless that change has taken place in us, we have no story to tell. When that change has taken place in us, we have a story we must tell.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



# QUEENSLAND NEWSLETTER

Christian Unity has been spotlighted by two recent happenings. One was the vote of the Presbyterian Assembly in favor of resuming union negotiations with the Methodist and Congregational Churches. The other was a pre-Pentecost series of unity prayer meetings organised "unofficially" by three men prominent in the Ecumenical Movement—Ivor Church (Anglican), J. F. Peters (Presbyterian) and C. J. Locksley (Congregational). Each is the Principal of his denomination's Theological College. Meetings were held simultaneously each day in the Anglican Cathedral, the Central Methodist Church and the Valley Presbyterian Church.

We note an interesting vote in the Presbyterian Assembly negating a proposal to establish teen-age Youth Clubs. Successful opposition to the motion was led by a speaker who urged that over-emphasis on entertainment and sport was tending to deflect the Church from her spiritual mission.

It is encouraging to observe that church activities are gaining increasing publicity in the secular press. The Commonwealth Campaign of our Queensland churches has several times been headlined by both metropolitan papers, particular prominence being given to the Men's Movement. The Campaign, which is being directed by F. Langford (Kedron) produced some encouraging results in the pre-Easter drive for increased attendances at Sunday services. Plans are now well in hand for the State-wide Stewardship Drive during June, and preparations are being made for a Teaching Mission in every church early in the Spring. In the meantime Men's Fellowships are being organised in all the churches.

Two local churches, Kedron and Ipswich, also hit the headlines, when each member was given ten shillings with which to trade during a given period at the end of which the increase will be received at a special service. Both churches responded to the idea with considerable enthusiasm.

Arthur Preston, a leading Methodist minister made big news with the inauguration of his *Bring the Church to the People Campaign*. His first meeting held in the Lyric Theatre (West End) attracted a gathering of one thousand in contrast to his usual Sunday evening congregation of two hundred. People queued up at six o'clock for a service timed to begin at seven-thirty, and the theatre manager is reported as giving expression to his surprise at seeing so many of his "regulars" in the line-up. Mr. Preston plans a series of eight such meetings.

A reading of the past records of Ann-st. church reveals that the last twelve months of R. W. Graham's ministry was the best in its history.

Observers say that now under the leadership of Cyril Flood the Central City church is moving forward to still greater things.

The past three years have seen six buildings built for the brotherhood by teams of volunteer workers. A seventh is now in course of erection at Gatton for the new cause sponsored by the church at Ma Ma Creek under the leadership of W. Davidson. Sister churches in the area are helping in providing working bees.

Mackay church, pastorless for four years, will be provided with a preacher in September when D. R. Paddon, after three years ministry with the church at Rockhampton, moves further north to take over the leadership of the church. Joint Federal and State assistance plus the practical help of Thornbury church (Vic.) has made this possible. The local church has risen to the challenge of its opportunity, and has increased its financial strength. Improvements are being made to the interior fittings of the chapel which

is also to be painted in readiness for Mr. Paddon's induction.

Finance is now available to make possible the appointment of a preacher to the Townsville area. The opportunity now awaits the man who will respond to the challenge of a ministry in the North. Membership is small, but there are two well-situated chapels, and the very fine facilities of the Magnetic Island Youth Camp. So far enquiries have failed to reach the right man.

The Queensland Temperance League, anxious that drink and other social evils should be more effectively brought before the membership and youth of the churches than is being achieved by present methods, has offered the churches an annual subsidy of £500, provided the church raises a like amount to put a man in the field to specialise on these matters. The Conference Executive has accepted the proposal on behalf of Churches of Christ, and the Social Service Committee is now considering plans to implement the proposal.—S. Vanham.

## Ministries of Our Women

Today we take the work of women in the church for granted. In fact we expect them to work. This is good, because we all know that we receive more blessings from the Father as we busy ourselves in his service. Because women have not been satisfied to remain in isolated groups within the local church, they have launched out and banded themselves together to form first of all a State Conference and later a Federal Conference. So it was interesting to receive this report from Mrs. G. E. Elliott who was the first secretary of the Women's Conference in Western Australia fifty years ago.

### THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### FIFTY YEARS FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

In accordance with a resolution of the General Conference, the Executive officers met representative sisters on July 24, 1905, to discuss the formation of a Sister's Conference. A constitution was drawn up for submission to Conference, 1906. This constitution was adopted at the first Conference, April 11, 1906, under the inaugural presidency of the late Mrs. D. A. Ewers.

There were about 80 sisters present. Officers and superintendents were elected to the various positions. The work embraced *Prayer, Home and Overseas Missions, Hospital visitation, including Woolooloo Sanatorium and several homes, Dorcas, Isolated and Catering.*

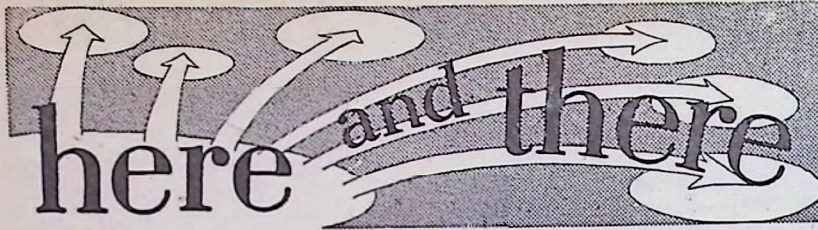
It is impossible to tabulate all the work that was accomplished by our sisters or to mention names. So many of our early workers have been called Home, but have left behind them sainted memories for the work they achieved and the examples they were to the younger sisters. We honor them for their love, their devotion and their consecrated leadership, and in looking back over the past fifty years we have much to thank God for.

As loyal Christian women we like to look back and remember and compare the small beginnings with the work of today which now also includes work among the *Youth, Young Women's Fellowships, Aborigines and Social Service.* There is still much to do.

What of the future? Its gigantic needs call to each one of us, and our labors can only be fruitful by having a clearer vision of God, for it is his work, and he expects from us our very best. We must not disappoint him. Our God has loved us with an everlasting love. He has been our leader in the past, and we need not fear the future while we follow in his footsteps.

Calling all country churches! We have been advised that some tyre retreads have material wound around them. This material when washed is excellent for bandages, handkerchiefs, etc. These are very welcome in the missionary boxes, yet it is an inexpensive way to help. We understand only country orders are treated this way.





The B.S. at Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A., recently presented a memento of appreciation to Miss M. Leedham who has just completed 40 years' service as a teacher.

All arrangements are well in hand for centenary of the church at Hindmarsh, S.A., from June 19-26. The chapel has been beautifully renovated for the occasion. Along the front of the Tennis Courts a new cyclone fence will replace the old wooden one. Sheds are being painted and grounds cleaned up by working bees. Temple Day offering on May 28 amounted to £415. This was a great response as nearly £600 had been previously collected. After 71 years of service in the one church, Jonathan Richardson was called Home on May 29. A reading desk, reconditioned by him just prior to his passing, was dedicated as a memorial to his life and work on June 6 at evening service.

A week of special meetings with missionaries H. J. Patterson, M.A., and L. E. Brooker was of great benefit to the church at Ringwood, Vic. The meetings were preceded by visitation and missionaries also spoke at youth and men's teas. Average attendance was 85 and the oldest church member, Mrs. Edyvane was present at every meeting. The series included a Mothers' recognition service. Church expressed appreciation to missionaries after final meeting when all joined in a social hour after supper. The preacher at Ringwood is W. F. Nankivell, B.A.. B.D.

There have been decisions at Canberra on the past three Sunday nights. Nine on May 22, one on 29th, and five on June 5. These decisions include a whole family of mother and father and two boys, a married couple, and three mothers of families, together with eight Y.P. The Canberra church is rejoicing in these manifestations of the Spirit of God in their midst.

At a recent gathering over which preacher, W. A. Wigney presided, tribute was paid to R. Ward who has retired from secretaryship of Box Hill church, Vic., after 30 years' service. Presentation was made of a beautiful standard lamp. Appreciative words were spoken by H. A. G. Clark (a former preacher), E. Hammond, G. Clare, W. Reed, G. Nicholson, J. Scott, G. Gray and K. Mitchell. J. E. Allan (another former preacher) sent a greeting of appreciation. Mrs. Ward, who also shared in the appreciation,

having acted as church organiste in former years, was presented with a bouquet by Mrs. McFarlane, sec. Women's Fellowship. Mr. Ward in reply, spoke of the great joy it had been to him to work for the church as sec. over such a long term.

The church at Carnegie, Vic., held Temple Day and 42nd church anniversary services on May 28-29. Chapel was open from 9 a.m. on 28th to receive offerings. Devotional services were held hourly, preacher being assisted by officers' board. £530 has been received to date. This is the largest offering ever received by the local church. Officers gave a lead by giving one week's salary. Money received goes to reduction of manse debt. Buffet Tea was held at 6.15 p.m. At 8 p.m. a musical programme was given by City of Caulfield choir. Church anniversary was held on 29th when fellowship was enjoyed with many past members and friends. B. F. Huntsman (Conf. Pres.) addressed morning meeting and A. R. Lloyd spoke at night. Miss J. Milne was soloiste. 116 broke bread during the day. A. R. Lloyd has commenced his second year of ministry with the church.

Miss Norma Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williams, now of Mason City, Iowa, has received a Fulbright Scholarship for a year of study at the State Institute of Music in Stuttgart, Germany, beginning in September of this year. She recently added to her list of scholarships by receiving a 35 dollar cash scholarship from the Musicians' Club of Chicago. The club voted the scholarship after hearing her sing and decided that she should be encouraged to continue her training. Mr. Williams has been serving with the First Christian church, Mason City, for seven years. Since January of this year 102 have been added to the church.

## World Convention News

Following the World Convention at Melbourne, 1952, Dr. Jesse M. Bader extended an invitation to Principal A. W. Stephenson and Mrs. Stephenson to attend the Toronto Convention and make a tour of colleges and churches in U.S.A., Canada, and Great Britain. This tour was endorsed by the World Convention Committee and the details of the arrangements have been worked out by Dr. Bader. Mr. Stephenson is

to give three lectures at a number of our colleges in the American brotherhood and conduct services in the various churches at many centres.

In order to make the tour possible, under the arrangements suggested by Dr. Bader, it is necessary for Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson to remain in America, visiting the churches and the colleges until the early part of December. They will then proceed to the United Kingdom and make contact with our churches there.

As soon as the Woolwich College Board was acquainted with the extent of the opportunities offered in this overseas' tour, the Principal was granted every encouragement to accept the invitation of the World Convention Committee.

A. G. Elliott has agreed to serve as Principal and to attend to the duties involved. Mr. and Mrs. Saxby, of Lane Cove, have agreed to enter college and serve as housemasters. Mr. Saxby has been a member of the College Board and has given valued service on the House Committee of the College.

The Principal and Mrs. Stephenson will leave on the Oronsay on July 15, from Sydney, and return via Great Britain, Fremantle, etc. by ship, to reach Sydney at the end of January.

We are glad to know that Mr. Stephenson has consented to send to *The Australian Christian* some occasional notes on his experiences abroad.

## Day of Prayer for Students

JUNE 26, 1955

On this day, students of the Student Christian Movement of the University of Melbourne will be taking part in many metropolitan church services, and at 4.15 p.m., in St. Peter's Church of England, Eastern Hill, Melbourne, there will be a special Day of Prayer service to which all interested friends of the Movement are invited.

This year, the Day of Prayer coincides with the Student Movement's Re-orientation Week in the University. At special meetings during the week Alan Walker, leader of the Mission to the Nation, and John Lewis, of an Anglican order in Adelaide, will be the main speakers and a special students' service will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral, at 7 p.m.

Our reporter on College affairs tells us that preparation for the College Concert is going on at top speed. This year two dramatic presentations, *The Terrible Meek* and a play for young people, *The Carpenter*, are being presented. The services of a brilliant young saxophonist have been obtained—plus some other surprises. Tickets are available at your local church and our advice is—buy early.



# THREE EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS

## A N.Z. Venture

R. A. Blampied.

It began a year ago when a Committee on Evangelism, consisting of two representatives from each of the nine churches in the Nelson District plus the ministers, met to consider plans for a Year of Evangelism on the basis of the Comprehensive Evangelism programme of our American brotherhood.

Immediate plans had to do with increasing Bible school enrolment in all our district schools—a project which resulted in most of the schools obtaining a 15 per cent. increase in membership.

The long term policy was to engage an evangelist to come into the district and lead in concentrated mission efforts as a climax to this Year of Evangelism and to do the reaping following the preparation and cultivation of prospective new members by each congregation.

A District Field Day in March was organised in the historic Spring Grove church grounds with the theme Faith of our Fathers, emphasised in stimulating messages and pageant form. This proved a splendid spiritual preparation for the mission effort, in that the attempt was made to recapture some of the evangelistic zeal of our fathers in the faith, and the more than 300 members present were stimulated by the re-emphasis of our historic plea.

On April 15, F. A. Youens, the minister of the Gardiner church in Vic., was flown over to Nelson by the Gorge Farm Trust to be the district evangelist for five weeks to conduct a week's mission in each of the main centres. Some apprehension was expressed as to the outcome of such short missions in each centre and some felt that the time could better be used by conducting fewer missions and concentrating longer periods in the centres chosen. Right from the outset it was stressed that it was to be one mission, but held in five different buildings and all the churches were asked to give their full support, irrespective of the location, with contingents arranged each night of the week.

The first week was held in the Annesbrook building, and it was soon evident that we had an outstanding evangelist, who would fearlessly preach the gospel. Every night saw the Annesbrook building crowded to capacity with nine decisions for discipleship.

Richmond was the next venue for the mission and this began with a district rally on the Sunday afternoon, at which the Richmond Town Hall was filled to capacity. Each night saw the Richmond church building well filled until the last night it was crowded out

and a prominent business man and his wife made the good confession.

A week at Motueka followed with attendances building up each night until the Memorial Hall was required for the last night, at which many decisions were recorded, making a total of 16 for the week.

At Spring Grove in a rural setting attendances and enthusiasm was just as keen, even though the number of decisions was not up to expectations. In spite of this, the church in this area received a great spiritual uplift.

The concluding week was held in Nelson City and climaxed a number of missions which had been conducted earlier in the month by other Christian bodies.

Never in the history of the Nelson church have so many people crowded into the building; an improvised gallery was made with access by means of a borrowed ladder, the aisles were so crowded it was a wonder people could make their way to the front seat to make their decision. The building was filled each night 30 minutes before the commencement of the service, and never have we experienced such enthusiasm and glow for the work of Christ and his Kingdom.

## "Mission to You"

EAST MALVERN, VIC.

W. W. Saunders led the church at East Malvern in a fortnight of Mission to You, which climaxed a period of visitation and study on the theme of Pentecost. Commencing on May 22, the mission was a great inspiration to the church. The challenge of the messages brought all face to face with Jesus Christ and the responsibilities of Christian living. Singing was under the leadership of R. F. Geyer and S. Corlett and proved a great preparation for preaching of the gospel.

Musical items rendered by Hartwell Youth Choir, local and visiting soloists were features of the effort.

The meetings were well supported by sister churches, Gardiner, Carnegie and Hartwell and attendances maintained a good average — Sundays 47, a.m.; 68, p.m.; with 48 communicants, and week-nights, 62.

The Mission resulted in eight decisions being registered and brought some families, who had been out of contact for some time, back into closer fellowship again. Perhaps the most valuable work done was in extension of church contacts among people of the district.

Following the closing service, words of appreciation were spoken by R. N. Gilmore and presentation was made to missionary and song-leaders.

Helpful Billy Graham Hour of Decision, and Fact and Faith films preceded the mission each night until the last night when the School of Music was required to seat the more than 500 people who wanted to attend.

On one week-night it was noticed that 82 cars were parked outside the building. Among the eleven decisions recorded in Nelson were two Roman Catholics who felt they must accept the scriptures as their only authority in spiritual matters.

For the five week's effort a total of 40 people decided for Christ and hundreds of others have been stimulated in Christian fellowship and faith. Thanks are due to the untiring efforts of F. A. Youens, who in addition to the services in the five centres fitted in visits and services at Tadmor, Takaka and Bainham. Our appreciation goes to the Gardiner church for so willingly releasing their minister, and to the Elborn Trust for a most welcome and unsolicited donation of £60 towards the cost of the Mission.

For the nine churches in the Nelson district Our Year of Evangelism has had a splendid climax and all have been encouraged to continue this evangelistic emphasis.

## Mission at Ascot Vale, VIC.

A short evangelistic mission was conducted by E. J. Miles, of Bambra-rd. church from April 24 to May 1 at Ascot Vale. The song-leader was Russell Whittaker, also of Bambra-rd.

Special services were held in preparation, during the previous week.

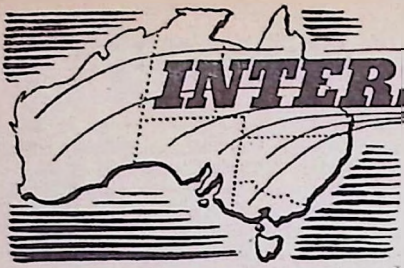
The film, *Venture into Faith*, was shown on April 17, and in the week that followed J. Luff, of the Coburg church, and Capt. Guy of the Collingwood Salvation Army Corps, challenged the members to dedication and evangelism.

During the mission itself, interest mounted, and regret was freely expressed that the effort was not a greater one. Mr. Miles helped all those who heard him, and Mr. Whittaker made an excellent contribution to the week's meetings. Soloists who helped in the mission were Miss J. Milne (Bambra-rd.), Mr. Corlett (Oakleigh), Miss Summers and Miss Blakeley (Prahran). After the service on May 1, opportunity was taken to express to the missionaries and those who helped musically, our great appreciation for their services.

Two girls from the Bible school took their stand for Christ as a result of the missionary's effort.

We thank those friends from Bambra-rd and Nth. Essendon and elsewhere who supported the mission services by their attendance.—H. Gross.





# INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

## Discipleship

- Paul Muller, Box Hill, Vic.  
Yvonne and Ron. Clark, Bev. Haskell, Graham Steele, North Williamstown, Vic.  
Joan and Len Goudge, West Preston, Vic.  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Davies, Mrs. R. E. Clark, Donald Davies, Sandra Berry, Chris. Berry, Maureen Shannon, Lia Boeve, Lorraine Abigail, Canberra, A.C.T.  
Maureen Bennetts, Hamilton, N.S.W.  
Norman Sullivan, Jordanville, Vic.  
Mrs. Alexander, Miss Kelly, Miss Alexander, Miss Featherstone, G. Jones, M. Williams, Kingsford, N.S.W.  
Ken Crawford, Margaret-st., Launceston, Tas.  
E. G. Graham, Bendigo, Vic.

## Membership

- Mr. and Mrs. T. Stevenson, Miss S. Stevenson, from Box Hill to Ringwood, Vic.  
Mr. and Mrs. F. Burden, Ian and Ken, from Croydon to Ringwood, Vic.  
Mrs. Morrison, Miss Pat Morrison, from North Essendon to Box Hill, Vic.  
Mrs. McDonald, to Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.  
C. Jacobs, from Glenelg to Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.  
Grace Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. G. Coates, Graham Coates, Shirley Skelton, Mr. and Mrs. Wingad, Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. McArdle, all from Oakleigh to Jordanville, Vic.  
Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Joyce Evans, Mrs. J. Whittaker, Mr. and Mrs. Tatterson, Doryl Tatterson, all from Ormond to Jordanville, Vic.  
Eunice Hindle from Carnegie to Jordanville, Vic.  
Mrs. H. Coventry, Muriel Coventry, Janet Coventry, from East Malvern to Jordanville, Vic.  
H. Whittaker, from Caulfield to Jordanville, Vic.  
E. Holloway, from Malvern-Caulfield, to Jordanville, Vic.  
Mrs. Parker, from South Yarra to Jordanville, Vic.

- Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Morgan, from Frankston to Footscray, Vic.  
Mrs. McArthur, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, to Kingsford, N.S.W.  
Mrs. Weeks, from York to Fullarton, S.A.  
Mrs. N. Wiltshire, from Unley to Fullarton, S.A.  
Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Byard, Miss B. Byard, from Caveside to Margaret-st., Launceston, Tas.  
G. Trevaskis, from Shepparton to West Preston, Vic.  
Mrs. Curtin, from Coburg to West Preston, Vic.

## Marriage

- Lois Mudford, Bendigo, to Glenton Witham, Hamilton, Vic.  
Enid Simpson to H. Woods, Hamilton, N.S.W.

## Fallen Asleep

- G. Brown, Chelsea, Vic.  
Mrs. Randall, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.  
Mrs. F. Thomas, Nailsworth, S.A.

## Queensland

Boondall-Zillmere (R. Clymer). — Both morning services have been showing progress over past month. June Kempster has been added to B.S. teaching staff at Boondall. Annual B.S. picnic was held at Marchant's Park when Boondall won Sports Banner. Boondall church has recently held a garden party in home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Lawrence, their son, made over £20 on his stall alone, and with Jeff. Milner, another club boy is to be congratulated. Total proceeds reached £160. Both Boondall and Zillmere had special Mother's Day services when both chapels were comfortably filled.

## Western Australia

South Perth (S. H. Wilson). — On Empire Youth Sunday, groups of Y.P. marched in procession and later attended combined rally. At youth tea on 29th, Miss J. Robertson was guest speaker. On June 1, B.S. held scholars' tea—kinders had special treat in kinder hall. R. Hillier (Youth Dir.) entertained scholars with Happy Hour, then Coca-Cola Ltd. brought an interesting film evening to whole school. I.C.E. and J.C.E. attended convention in Town Hall. Juniors took part. Church congratulates one of the juniors (Shirley McIntyre) for gaining second prize in C.E. essay competition. A number of Y.P., and B.S. teachers, including Mr. and Mrs. S. Wilson attended combined

teachers' camp at Waterman's Bay over holiday weekend, June 3 to 6. C. J. Robinson addressed morning meeting on 5th, and F. Stevenson, evening meeting. Good Neighbors had Mrs. Kasgner from Marriage Guidance Council to address meeting on May 30. Meetings continue to grow. Ladies' Fellowship aim for £150 for their talent.

## Tasmania

Margaret-st., Launceston (C. H. J. Wright). — May was observed as Loyalty Month, averages being 11 a.m., 109; 7 p.m., 119; communion 123. There was one confession on 8th and three on 29th. Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Prichard and Miss Lyall are all in hospital. Members of C.E. Fellowship have been active in visitation work recruiting new members for the Society. Loyalty Month in B.S. resulted in increased attendances—115 scholars being present on 22nd. Two new scholars were enrolled and Loyalty Certificates were presented to all children who attended every Sunday during May. C. H. J. Wright has been elected pres. of C.M.S., and J. Piper, sec., 34 men attended May meeting. Miss Helen Maiden is leading J.C.E. during absence of Mr. Snoxall. Ladies' Guild collected 1,500 bottles for General Hospital. Y.W.F. is still very active and having good attendances at fortnightly meetings. They conducted gospel service on May 8 and C.M.S. took charge of evening meeting on 22nd. Film Talents was screened on 15th. Gospel service on May 29 took form of a Testimony Meeting when three Y.P. spoke on What Christianity means to me. B.S. staff and church officers have forwarded £20 to Youth Dept. towards salary of Miss Bates.

## New South Wales

Hamilton (C. J. Mackenzie). — Church is enjoying helpful and interesting messages from preacher whose widespread visitation campaign is now in full swing. A girl from C.E. made her confession and was baptised on May 29. There were 75 present at gospel service. Renewed interest is visible in Ladies' Guild and O.T. studies at prayer meetings are much appreciated. Chapel was packed on 28th to hear E. W. Heard. His message and slides concerning missionary work in India was highly interesting. An important step forward is series of meetings held in May as training classes for men of our district churches. All our district preachers gave lectures.

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.). — Church anniversary proved happy occasion on May 28 and 29. Saturday evening meeting was well attended. Music was provided by Misses



D. and P. Mitchell and Mrs. Peters. Greetings were brought by Mrs. Lovell (Women's work), Mr. Lacombe (Youth) and Mr. Smith (deacons) and a fine film in color, dealing with Personal Evangelism was screened. D. McElvenny was thanked for his part in the new baptistry screen. Enthusiastic gatherings made Home Coming Day a time of rich fellowship. Guest speaker, E. C. Hinrichsen delivered morning message. In gospel service, Mr. Wylie was soloiste. Three have been welcomed into fellowship after baptism, three others by transfer, and three decisions have been recorded in recent weeks.

**Wagga Wagga.** — Farewell was given to preacher, A. W. Morris, wife and family, prior to their transfer to Fullarton, S.A. Large gathering paid tribute to their faithful ministry with the church. Mr. Morris was presented with a wallet of notes and Mrs. Morris received gifts from Ladies' Aid and Y.W.F. There have been a number of new members welcomed, mainly from Air Force and Army Camps in the district, this being attributed to work performed by Mr. Morris whilst with church. D. Revell has transferred to Norwood, S.A.

**Paddington (H. C. Wheat).** — Work continues to progress steadily. Y.P. clubs are well attended. B.S. is working hard for coming examination. Mothers of church conducted gospel service on May 8. Mrs. Riggall led meeting, assisted by others. Mrs. Lacombe's address was much appreciated. Film evening, held by courtesy of Gas Coy., on 13th was enjoyed. Church anniversary was held on 15th. Addresses by special speakers Dr. Millar and Mr. Williams were much appreciated. Fellowship Tea and gospel service following were well attended. Temple Day offering amounted to £36. Strathfield Choral Society gave a very enjoyable concert on 24th, after which ladies provided supper for artists. Visit of Principal Stephenson (Conf. Pres.) was appreciated.

## South Australia

**Glenelg (W. B. Burn).** — Church has embarked on erection of manse, and is looking forward to its completion. Youth groups of church are in great heart and attracting a fine group of Y.P., as also is the B.S. Senior groups too, are very prominent and are a great asset to church, being the Ladies' Guild, Young Women's and Men's Fellowships. Highlight for May was visit by Principal E. L. Williams who preached at gospel service to large congregation. This was a very powerful declaration and much appreciated. After-church fellowship followed when pictures were shown and explained by the Principal. At gospel service on 29th, two ladies decided for Christ.

**Grote-st., Adelaide (A. W. C. Candy).** — Church membership is increasing. Sympathy is expressed to family of late Mrs. Randall. B.S. has commenced

drive for new scholars. Miss L. Candy and L. Hughes have joined teaching staff. £56 has been collected by B.S. in drive to equip lecture hall with new seating. £10 has been donated from "copper" offering to Maryborough church, Qld., which recently suffered flood damage. Women's Fellowship held a birthday party when over 60 ladies enjoyed an entertaining programme.

**Wampony (B. Crowden).** — B.S. anniversary services were held in April when visiting speaker E. P. Hollard conducted afternoon and evening services. Combined Wampony-Mundalla Women's Fellowship monthly meeting was held at Wampony when a games evening was enjoyed. On May 15, C. Curtis (Bordertown) was speaker in afternoon and at combined evening service with Mundalla, B. Crowden was speaker. On 22nd, J. Western (Glen Iris, Vic.) gave address at afternoon service. Several families have been absent from meetings through sickness.

**Nailsworth (N. Gavros).** — A. E. Stevens (Whyalla) addressed morning meeting on June 5. Mrs. F. Thomas, an aged and beloved member, passed away following street accident on 2nd. Her husband pre-deceased her five weeks ago. Sympathy of church is extended to Mrs. H. Charlick who has thus lost both parents within a short time.

**Fullarton (A. W. Morris).** — Meetings have been fairly well attended. Misses J. and E. Overland sang duet at gospel service on June 4. Two ladies were received into fellowship by transfer. Mrs. Bray suffered a fall, breaking her leg. After church fellowship was held at which two films were screened.

**Kilburn (H. G. Norris).** — Ladies celebrated third anniversary of Guild on May 31, when attendance of approx. 90 appreciated message from Mrs. K. Crosby. Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Farmer were soloistes whilst Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Stas played pianoforte duet. Representatives from many sister churches brought greetings, and a splendid programme concluded with afternoon tea and cutting of birthday cake, made by Mrs. Milne. Work amongst ladies is very encouraging. Week of visitation evangelism is planned during June and preacher is busy preparing church and special visitors for this effort.

## Victoria

**Ararat (R. Duckett).** — Work of altering and renovating the chapel throughout is almost completed, and there is keen anticipation for the re-opening. Services have been held in church hall during renovations. Attendances at all services are very encouraging, particularly all branches of the Y.P. work, weekly Bible class and prayer meeting. Preacher was released for two Sundays and part of the week to assist Minyip church during May.

**Box Hill (W. A. Wigney).** — On May 21, Cricket Club held annual dinner and presentation of trophies, followed by concert in school hall. Mrs. G. McCredden gave valued help in arranging concert programme. Baptismal service was held on evening of 22nd. Visitors at morning service on June 5 were Mr. and Mrs. Barlow (Shepparton), Miss E. Gill (Bendigo) and Max Sandells. Mrs. Ferris, senr., is very ill in hospital.

**Chelsea (B. Bust).** — About 40 Y.P. sat down to happy youth tea, and chapel was filled almost to capacity on evening of June 5. Hartwell youth choir assisted in service of joy and praise. Two young ladies from local Presbyterian church were baptised. Thought provoking addresses by student preacher are appreciated. Loving sympathy goes out to Mrs. Brown and family in passing of G. Brown.

**East Preston (T. V. Weir).** — B.S. reached an attendance of 238 during May. This increasing trend is causing concern in so far as adequate seating and tables are concerned for both primary and kinder depts. Successful efficiency campaign **Building a Church** is in its final stage and plans are underway to maintain competitive efficiency spirit which has been developed. Teachers have accepted proposal to replace the school picnic with separate departmental group and class picnics for early 1956. This proposal it is thought will be more effective in developing close scholar-teacher relations and less wasteful in finance and effort. Renovations to primary hall are complete 21 teachers journeyed to Castlemaine and appreciated Y.P. Dept. Conference. Fellowship with visitors from Eaglehawk, Shepparton and R.A.A.F., Laverton, has been enjoyed. £105 (by direct giving), comprising £92 interest, £12 insurance, and £1 principal, has been paid off Building Fund during first quarter of 1955.

**Hamilton (R. W. Saunders).** — Church was delighted to welcome back Elinor Mountjoy, missionary on furlough from Gnowangerup, who addressed various auxiliaries, and in gospel service on May 22 gave, with the aid of slides, an interesting picture of work in that centre. Preacher made arrangements for many interesting functions during youth month, including participation in Empire Youth march, basket tea for B.S., and display by H. Mountjoy of two films, *The Lie that Grew* and *What's Your Excuse*, a Billy Graham feature. A solo by Judy Martin and items by youth choir were enjoyed. Attendances were very high on May 29 with 126 at B.S. on that day and 123 on June 5. Teachers are obliged to provide promised tea and social. Mr. and Mrs. McPherson (Norseman Mission) were welcomed back at special function on May 29. A Y.W.F. has been formed. Y.P.S.C.E. has organised wood



cutting and selling scheme to augment kinder hall fund.

**Maidstone (E. H. Randall).** — Average attendances at Lord's Table for past month have been 46 and evening services have averaged 51. First Sunday in each month is recognised as Youth Sunday and on June 5, K.S.P. took part in morning service, and P.B.P. at evening service. In morning, three young men presided and read for first time, performing their duties very creditably. On May 15, presiding brethren exchanged with Footscray. Mouth-organ concert by Yarraville M.O. Band was given on 18th in aid of School Hall Fund. On 28th, a barbecue was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. K. Clencie (Box Hill). This yielded over £4 for Hall Fund which now stands at over £1,300. Six members attended Combined District Prayer Meeting at Sunshine on June 1. B.S. is progressing well and concert on May 11 was great success with takings of over £20. P.B.P. held their banquet on May 14 with a large number of Y.P. present. 19 Young Explorers visited Ascot Vale on June 3 and performed well in Indoor Sports. A. Pfeifer has been appointed treas. of church and B.S.

**Ringwood (W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D.).** — Visits by B. F. Huntsman (Conf. Pres.), who spoke at services recently, also at youth tea, were much appreciated. Church also appreciated screening of film service by Mr. Marks. Older girls have commenced P.B.P. club. Record church attendances were attained during May with average attendance of 107, a.m.; 88, p.m.; breaking bread, 99. Max Deuter has been appointed church secretary.

**Jordanville (J. Warfe).** — On May 22, 25 were welcomed into membership by transfer. There have been four decisions and one baptism in recent months. Average attendance at morning service is 37, and evening 26. 137 attended first young people's service recently. The organiser, Miss M. Coventry intends to hold these services monthly. Highest B.S. attendance has been 237. Building, which was only erected recently, is much too small for B.S. and kinders have to use a marquee. Even with marquee there is still serious overcrowding and a shortage of teachers. Average attendance at Boys' Club is 50 and Girls' Club 30.

**North Williamstown (H. E. R. Steele).** — Three B.S. scholars were baptised on May 22, and received into fellowship on 29th. Youth tea and fellowship was held on 29th, and large congregation attended gospel service when film *The Great Discovery* was screened. Church appreciates assistance of B. Marks (Springvale) who arranges these monthly film services. Weeknight working bees are renovating manse. Young Explorers have entered finals of Indoor Sports Championship.

**Montrose (B. J. Richards).** — Men of church are combined with Croydon for monthly Men's Fellowship meetings. Last meeting was at Montrose with Col. Leggett (Bayswater Boys' Home) as speaker. At Ladies Quarterly Church Parade, Mrs. E. L. Williams was speaker and showed colored slides of overseas trip. Youth Fellowship has been commenced, and meets in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger on Saturday night. K.S.P. is being formed for older boys. Explorers had combined sports night at Boronia. Girls' Basketball Club is doing well. Margaret Cameron being selected to play in Country Week. Thanks is expressed to Mr. McIntosh for his services during vacation. Building Fund and Talent Scheme have been started to finance proposed Youth Hall.

**Bentleigh (J. Wiltshire).** — Members and friends of cricket team have commenced regular social evenings during winter months. W.M.B. with ladies from our churches in surrounding districts enjoyed visit from Miss G. Batterham. M.I.S. had interesting tour of inspection on P. and O. liner *Arcadia*. Sadie Corner (Mt. Margaret Aborigines Mission) has had fellowship for some weeks. A certificated nurse, she returns to work with her own people. Her message in song and testimony was an inspiration. Every phase of Y.P. work continues to develop. Mrs. Heard has left for trip overseas.

**Footscray (A. E. Hurren).** — Attendances have been well maintained following recent mission. During absence of preacher on holidays, messages were appreciated from W. W. Saunders, B. J. Combridge, G. Tyrer, and F. T. Morgan. Mission Band birthday was held May 3, when a good representation from district churches heard an interesting message from Miss Gwen Batterham (India). Cottage prayer meetings, held weekly, are well attended. B.S. department conducted training classes for district B.S., over period of four weeks, with fair attendances. Mission Band conducted meeting at Baptist church on June 2 when Mrs. Heard was speaker. At C.M.S. monthly meeting, J. Nimmo (Australian Red Cross) gave an interesting address. Church appreciates fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Morgan and family, Mr. Morgan being chaplain at local Technical School.

**Maryborough (M. A. Coombs).** — Attendances for May were, 72 a.m., 60 p.m. and 69 communicants. On May 7, Y.P. travelled to Castlemaine for M.Y.F. Miss B. Drake was official representative for special service in connection with Empire Youth Sunday. Entire evening service was conducted by Mothers of congregation on May 8; Mesdames Coombs, Shepherd, Drake, A. Simons and Nicholls. Ladies' Aid Birthday was held on 12th, when Gwen Batterham (India) was guest speaker. Youth Sunday was held on 15th, when evening service was led by Y.P. The

Mayor (Cr. Phelan) was guest speaker. R. Banks (preacher Swan Hill church) was guest speaker at 93rd church anniversary on 22nd. Choir rendered special anthems. On 29th, Christian Union Sunday, Mr. Coombs was speaker at Methodist church; exchanging with Mr. Heath (Methodist). Sympathy of church is extended to Sis. Wheeler and Smith in their recent bereavements.

**Dandenong (L. G. Read).** — On May 15, a Bible Recognition Service was held at which Mr. Rainey (B.&F.B.S.) was speaker. On 22nd, preacher at morning service was J. Edwards. Miss Jean Milne was soloiste at evening service. An after-church fellowship hour was held. A barbecue was held by Y.P. on 27th. W. Berthelson was speaker at morning service on 29th. A duet was rendered by Mesdames Pearson and Rookes at gospel service. On June 1, Mission Band held anniversary service. Youth fellowship was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Reveleigh on 4th, at which F. Savage (Methodist church) was speaker. Miss L. Sommers was soloiste at evening service on 5th. Plans for new church building are advancing and are now in final stages of preparation by architect.

**Bendigo (R. V. Holmes).** — A. G. Ball (Melb. City Mission) addressed May C.M.S. meeting. H. Hargreaves has given second address in series on second advent. Two vases have been dedicated in memory of late Mrs. M. Perkins who served faithfully and long. On evening of June 5, senior C.E. group led a *Hymn and Author* service. A father and daughter were baptised. Miss Lois Mudford—a choir member and C.F.A. agent—was honored at social evening and kitchen tea. Two teams have been entered in Badminton Pennant competition.

#### BIRTHS

**QUAIFE (nee Salisbury).** — On June 2, at Bethesda Hospital, to Betty and Alf, a son—Alfred John. A brother for Merlyn.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**CARR.** — In loving memory of Philip John, VX 965, 2/2 Aust. Fd. Regt., A.I.F., died, June 11, 1945, age 27 years. —Inserted by his loving parents, sister and brothers.

**HANCOCK.** — In loving memory of Alice Maud Sarah, who was called Home on June 19, 1953.

—Inserted by her loving husband and daughters.

**McKAY (Combridge).** — A tribute of loving memory of Gertrude McKay (Cissie) who went Home, June 3, 1953. —M. Piper.

**MORGAN.** — Treasured memories of David Francis, beloved husband of Beanie and loved father of Deryn, Gwen and Kent. Called to Higher Service, June 19, 1952.

"Forever in our hearts."



## Red Letter Days

OF THE CHURCH AT BAMBRA-RD.  
CAULFIELD, VIC.

### 35th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

The church remembers with gratitude and expresses thanks to God for the work of the pioneer brethren. Past achievements serve as a challenge to the present generation.

There have been a number of Red Letter Days in the record of the church at Bambra-rd, commencing with:

The vision of Conference Departments in 1920; church built in a day; successful missions; erection of present chapel; twenty-fifth and thirty-fifth church anniversaries.

Thirty-fifth anniversary celebrations held on June 5 commenced with a prayer meeting at 7.30 a.m., attended by 50. Reference was made to the Boronia level crossing tragedy, being the anniversary of the day when a number of North Essendon and Caulfield young people received their Home-call. The communion service at 11 a.m. was led by L. Smith (past elder) assisted by brethren who had all been in membership in past days. 270 were present. D. W. Mansell (East Kew) delivered a challenging message.

The afternoon service took the form of a Musical Festival and P. Retchford (Prahra) addressed the congregation.

At the evening service attended by 320, extra seating had to be provided. P. Retchford was speaker and musical items were given by Miss J. Milne, Mesdames R. Brooker and C. Ferris and special anthems by the choir.

Thanksgiving offering received on the previous day amounted to £350. The past is gone—the future ours to maintain a victorious Christian witness.  
—W.A.B.

### DEATH

LOVELL. — On June 8, at her son's residence, 63 Gallipoli-st., Pascoe Vale South, Sarah Elizabeth, the dearly beloved wife of Cecil, and loved mother of Winifred (Mrs. Caldecoat), Clara (Mrs. Withers), Ada (Mrs. McGregor), Charles, Muriel (Mrs. Melody), Edwin, Ouston, Dorothy (Mrs. Millard), and Jack. Aged 77 years.  
"In God's care."

### COMING EVENTS

A Memorial and Thanksgiving Service  
in memory of

#### A. H. PRATT

(late preacher Mt. Evelyn church)

will be held in the

PUBLIC HALL, MT. EVELYN

on Sunday, June 19, at 3 p.m.

Please bring Sankey or Churches of Christ Hymn Book.

## North Sydney Jubilee

The Special Jubilee services which commenced, Wed., May 18, and concluded on the 25th, were a great inspiration to all. On the first evening a Members' Tea at 6.30 p.m. was well attended, and this was followed by a meeting, the guest speaker being Mr. Justice Athol Richardson, a Supreme Court Judge, who out of his experiences of Court life challenged all to make the Word of God the guiding principle of their lives.

On Friday the 20th, the chapel was filled with women when Mrs. Evan Lewis gave a searching devotional address, and Miss Needham, Resettlement officer of the W.C.C. told of the work being done in assisting displaced persons and others in need of help.

Sunday morning, A. W. Stephenson (Conf. Pres.), delighted all with a message from the Revelation of John, and F. Horsey created an atmosphere of

worship as he presided at the Table. At night Ira A. Paternoster preached. Fellowship Tea at 5 o'clock and supper after the evening service was enjoyed by a large company of members and friends. Offerings for the day were over £90.

The crowning meeting was Wednesday night when Alan Walker, Missioner to the Nation spoke most seriously of **The Church the World Needs Today** — a Church with a daring faith in God and Christ Jesus the only hope of the world.

At the tea on the 18th, opportunity was taken to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Paternoster on their Golden Jubilee Wedding anniversary, and H. Larcombe made presentations on behalf of the church.—Ira A. Paternoster.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A. W. Morris (preacher, Fullarton church), 9 Milton-ave., Fullarton East, S.A. UX 2834.



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of the

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Conductress:

Miss M. E. Pittman, L.Mus.A.

will be held in

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Choral programme supplemented by items from talented supporting artists.

Elocutionist: Mrs. C. Cordy.

Trio:

Jean Cox, Coral Francis, Ann Roberts.

Flautist: David Whisker.

Proceeds toward defraying cost of choir's gift of radio and public address system at Will. H. Clay Nursing Home.

Chairman: Will. H. Clay.

Admission, 3/-.

An invitation to all to enjoy a splendid programme and assist a worthy cause.

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**JULY 15**

**Special Programme**

**BACK TO NORWOOD SERVICES**

Speaker: I. A. Paternoster

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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**ENGAGEMENTS**

SEAL—BEST. — The engagement is announced of Shirley Mildred, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Seal, 26 Birch-st., West Preston, to Stanley Richard, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Best, 225a Gilbert-rd., West Preston.

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June 14, 1955.

## Hymns of Gerhardt

(A Hymn for June — No. 524, June 26.)

An article under the above title was "in the rough" when a good friend lent me a book with the prison letters of one of Hitler's victims of 1945. Repeated references there make redundant some of my assessments. The writer says: "What a great comfort Paul Gerhardt's hymns are! I am learning them off by heart." "Every hour or so I repeat to myself the words: 'Thou art a Spirit of joy,' and 'Grant us strength and power.' These words are a great comfort—from Paul Gerhardt's Whitsun hymn, which I love so much."

Gerhardt's early disappointments, his heavy labors and ill-health, the religious controversies and persecutions of his day, had him truly "sifted in Satan's sieve," as the inscription on a portrait of him says. But natural good cheer, refusal to be embittered or discouraged and unswerving faith in God were the spiritual soil in which his hymns matured.

What hymns they were that put him next to, or even above, Luther amongst German hymnwriters! Many a British congregation in the dark days of two world wars must have sung with deep feeling his words: "Give to the winds thy fears, hope and be undismayed . . . Wait thou his time; so shall this night soon end in joyous day" — and sung them neither knowing nor caring by what route they had come, sure only that they came from God.

The lines above (part of our No. 433), as well as today's hymn ("Jesus, thy boundless love to me") are two of John Wesley's magnificent renderings from Gerhardt. Both Gerhardt and Luther have a part in Wesley's conversion story — early in 1738, Wesley says his constant prayer was "O, grant that nothing in my soul may dwell but thy pure love alone!" (part of verse two of today's hymn); the memorable conversion took place on May 24 of that same year while he was reading Luther's writings.—F.J.F.

## OBITUARY

Jonathan Richardson.

On Sunday morning, May 29, just at the close of the church hour, Jonathan Richardson, at the age of 84 years slipped silently and suddenly to be with his Lord. He was baptised in 1884 and had been a member of Hindmarsh church for 71 years. He was not a public man as far as platform work in the church was concerned, or teaching in the Bible School, but what he could not do in this way he made up for as a carpenter who gave his services to the Lord. Pedestals for floral decorations, a beautiful communion table, a reconditioned reading desk, a hymn book table in the porch, are memorials of his work that will

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artisan in his trade. He loved to do  
what he could and always did it well.  
His passing removes another of the  
older generation being called Home. He  
rests from his labors and his works  
follow him. We commend his family to  
the loving comfort and guidance of  
our gracious heavenly Father.—J.E.S.

**Arthur Herbert Pratt.**

Mr. Pratt, preacher of the church  
at Mt. Evelyn, Vic., was called to  
higher service on May 18, 1955, aged  
71 years. Mr. Pratt was baptised at  
Boonah, Qld., by W. G. Alcorn in 1907.  
He was married to Emily Frances Green  
in 1910. He assisted the church at  
Boonah in a ministry of the Word and  
in song. In 1920 he entered the College  
of the Bible and as a student assisted  
churches at Montrose, Red Hill and  
Stawell, in this latter field he became  
their full-time preacher. Other minis-



tries were conducted at Williamstown,  
Essendon, Swan Hill circuit, Castle-  
maine, St. Arnaud and Ringwood-  
Mitcham circuit. In interim ministries  
for the Home Missionary Committee he  
assisted the churches at Hamilton and  
Drumcondra. Then he retired to his  
home at Mt. Evelyn and set up the  
Lord's Table on June 1, 1947. The  
beautiful chapel, built by voluntary  
labor, was opened on July 18, 1953; in  
the building of which it was said "Bro.  
Pratt was always on the job." All this  
ministry at Mt. Evelyn from 1947 to  
1955 was on a voluntary basis. Mr.  
Pratt died in hospital after an opera-  
tion. Mt. Evelyn chapel was crowded  
for the service held on May 20, in  
which his brother preachers took part:  
B. J. Combridge, R. McKenzie, C.  
Young, W. F. Nankivell and the writer.  
At Fawkner Cemetery, a service was  
conducted by R. McKenzie, J. Turner  
and W. Wigney. Mr. Pratt was a man  
with a beautiful simple faith; his deep  
sincerity was always apparent; his un-  
selfishness was touching. The writer  
(who enjoyed a long and valued friend-  
ship with him) confessed that he looked  
upon Mr. Pratt as the closest possible  
approach to his ideal of a Christian  
gentleman. Mr. Pratt, who knew that  
his earthly race was drawing rapidly to  
its close, gave a message for the church  
and all his friends: "My beloved breth-  
ren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable,  
always abounding in the work of the  
Lord." We commend Mrs. Pratt to the  
care and comfort of our beloved  
Heavenly Father.—W.G.

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