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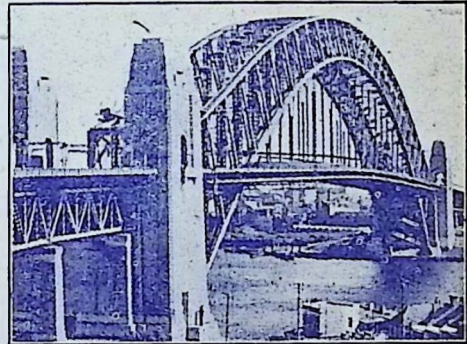
THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

IRA A. PATERNOSTER, Federal President,
invites us all to

SYDNEY, OCTOBER, 1956



Sydney is preparing to welcome delegates to the 26th Federal Conference, to be held Oct. 4 to 11, 1956. The challenging theme of the Conference will be "The Church — Commissioned! Committed!" — and around this theme great messages will be prepared and delivered by chosen brethren.

There are vital interests of a Federal nature to be considered, covering our Federal College; Federal Home and Overseas and Aborigines Missions; Federal Educational and Social Services, and, by no means least, the Federal Preachers' Provident Fund. Any one of these departments is worthy of a full day for consideration, but, in the short space of a week, such is not possible.

The women of the churches will this year have a full programme, and will be rejoicing over the report from Toronto of the finalising of plans for their World Federation of Women,

so we expect a strong representation of sisters present.

All will be anxious to hear the latest plans for the development of the Overseas work and the Preachers' Provident Fund, for to these departments were committed certain resolutions from the last Conference held in Brisbane in 1954.

Apart altogether from the business aspect of Conference, there will be times of delightful social fellowship, when those of kindred minds from all over the Commonwealth will share experiences of their Christian life with fellow believers, and nothing is more heart-warming than to talk together of what God through Christ has done and is doing for us.

Several interesting outings have been planned, not the least of which is an all-day cruise around "the most beautiful harbor in the world!" This of itself, surely, is enough to make the visit to Sydney worthwhile. For those who can spare the time to

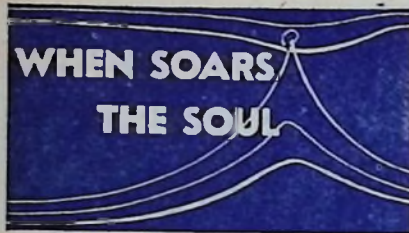
stay a day or so longer, a trip to the Jenolan Caves is envisaged. This would take you through the famous Blue Mountains, a sight never to be forgotten.

Sydney homes will be open to a limited number of delegates for bed and breakfast, and ample private hotel space is available to all who desire to come. To facilitate bookings we must have your registration form returned immediately.

Evening meetings of the Conference will be held in several of Sydney's beautiful church buildings, and arrangements have been made with our Baptist brethren for the use of their Central Building for business sessions and meals.

Plan now to be in Sydney next October, and, above all, make daily intercession for all who have responsibilities in connection with what we hope and pray will prove to be the greatest Federal Conference ever held.

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



If our gift is preaching, let us preach to the limit of our vision. If it is serving others, let us concentrate on our service; if it is teaching, let us give all we have to our teaching; and if our gift be the stimulating of the faith of others, let us set ourselves to it. . . . Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work, and let us keep the fires of the spirit burning, as we do our work for God.—Rom. 12: 6-8, 11 (Phillips).

It is worth while to look at the type of character which Jesus admires. How many of his parables turn on energy! Thus the parable of the talents turns on energetic thinking and decisive action; and these are the things that Jesus admires—in the widow who will have justice; in the virgins who thought ahead and bought extra oil; in the vigorous man who found the treasure and made sure of it; in the friend at midnight who hammered, hammered, hammered till he got his loaves; in the man who will hack off his hand to enter into life. On the other side, he is always against the life of drift, the half-thought-out life. There they were, he says, in the days of Noah, eating, drinking, marrying, dreaming — and the flood came and destroyed them. There is the person who everlastingly says and does not do, who promises to work and does not work, who receives a new idea with enthusiasm but has not depth enough of nature for it to root itself, who builds on sand, the sort that compromises, that tries to serve God and mammon, all the half-and-half people. It is energy of mind that he calls for.—T. B. Glover.

O Father, forgive us for the many dreams unrealised, the many tasks left undone. Give us the vision to see thy will, and the passion to do it. Amen.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfil;
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will.

—Charles Wesley.

A Rare Attainment

To attain the age of 105 years is a distinction gained by very few, but it belongs to Mrs. Catherine Johnson, a guest in the Emmaus Rest Home, Murrumbidgee, conducted by the Social Service Department of our Vic.-Tas. Conference.

Born "a McDonald of Sleat on the Isle of Skye" on Dec. 7, 1850, she migrated to Australia in 1890 and took up residence for four years at Murchison, Vic. In 1895 she married Knud Johnson, a farmer of Emerald, and led a busy and hard life working the farm with her husband.



Twenty-five years ago they left the farm, exchanging it for a home at Preston, where they lived until August, when they both entered the Social Service Homes. Up to that time Mrs. Johnson had gone shopping regularly, had done her own housework, and had cared for her husband, who had become an invalid. She was in membership with the Preston church and set an example of devotion to Christ and loyalty in attendance which shamed many much younger folk. On the Sunday following her 105th birthday she went back to Preston church, where a special welcome was accorded her and a birthday presentation made on behalf of the congregation by the minister, J. Searle.

In May of this year Mr. Johnson passed away at the Will H. Clay Nursing Home, at the age of 94.

Mrs. Johnson is of keen mind, physically active, a great reader, and

exceedingly devout. She is altogether unmoved by the honors showered on her because of her full years, save as they provide her with an opportunity of expressing gratitude to God and ascribing all the glory to him. Her first contact with the Social Service Department was four years ago when she came, unannounced and unattended, to the office on the fourth floor of Bible House to present two hand-knitted rugs which she had made for "the dear old people in the Homes."

On the occasion of her birthday congratulatory messages were received from Her Majesty, the Queen, the Governor General, Sir William Slim, and a host of friends. The message of the Queen read, "The Queen is much interested to hear that you are celebrating your one hundred and fifth birthday, and sends you warm congratulations and good wishes."

The Governor General said, "My wife and I offer you our most hearty congratulations on the occasion of your one hundred and fifth birthday."

Mrs. Johnson faces the future with calm confidence and trustful faith, assured that in Christ the best is yet to be.



Tribute to Mrs. R. V. Amos

At the N.S.W. Women's Conference meeting on Dec. 2, tribute was paid by the President, Mrs. Wylie, to the service of Mrs. R. V. Amos, who with her husband, will shortly leave the State, to take up the work at Blackburn, Vic.

"Mrs. Amos," Mrs. Wylie said, "has endeared herself to the women of N.S.W., who have grown to love, appreciate and admire her for herself, and for the joyful way in which she gave of herself in the work of the Master."

Mrs. Amos was President of the N.S.W. Women's Conference, 1954-55, and her year of office will long be remembered by those who worked with her and those to whom she ministered. Mrs. Wylie wished her and her family God's richest blessing.



Religious News Service reports that East German Communists are developing ceremonies to take the place of Christian baptism, marriage and funeral rites. They have announced "name-giving" ceremonies, to be held on Sundays in the offices of public registrars. Similar ceremonies will be provided for newly-weds. Upon payment of an extra fee, a small band will play "suitable music"! In the case of funerals, Communist functionaries will be available for speeches at the graves of the deceased.

South Australian Newsletter

Much attention has been directed to the new town opened near Adelaide. Considerable doubts about the easiness of saying "Elizabeth" are apparent. Nevertheless, people are pouring into the newly established town, with homes still being built to accommodate an ultimate population of 25,000. Twenty-one churches are to be built, with the Methodists already in the field. Our own brotherhood has had land allocated in a strategic location. We must now wait developments before taking action.

H. R. TAYLOR.

A representative gathering recently met in Grote-st., to pay tribute to one who has given a full life to the interests of the brotherhood in this State. At the turn of the century, H. R. Taylor and other young men went to America to train for the ministry of the Word. On his return, he entered into those activities which were to occupy his life. Ministries with various churches, including Maylands, Glenelg and Unley, coupled with a life-long association with Home Missions and General Executive, demanded an acute mind and energetic body. For forty years our brother gave himself to his tasks.

On the outbreak of the first World War, H. R. Taylor became a chaplain, and when the second World War came he had reached the rank of Colonel, and served as Senior Chaplain. For this service he was awarded the Efficiency Decoration by the King.

One of Mr. Taylor's most effective ministries was through the Central Training Class. Many men now in the ministry from churches around Adelaide owe much to the grounding they received from him. The writer was one of his "boys," and pays tribute to the worth of his teacher.

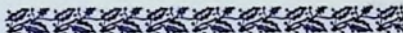
As an author he produced a book setting out the history of the South Australian brotherhood. This book is the only complete story of our work in this State.

Through these years, Church Extension and Home Missions found a steady servant, as Mr. Taylor gave a good business mind and an evangelistic spirit to them. In later years the Bookroom and church office were his particular care.

Perhaps he is best known as Secretary of the General Executive, as he rounds out 40 years of association with it. Through all the years, programmes and business sessions saw the impress of his guiding hand.

One of the highlights of the State

Conference in Adelaide is the Conference tea. For many years Mrs. Taylor, with a band of ladies, has organised this great function. In later years, ill-health has denied Mrs. Taylor the pleasure of attending, but through it all she has played a large part in its success. Not many of the present generation know her, but those who do, assess that she has



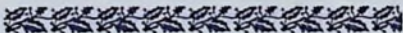
Christmas Bowl Appeal

Ira A. Paternoster, Federal President.

In the midst of our joyful Christmas festivities we are reminded again of the urgent need throughout certain areas for help for those in need.

Christian communities have been deprived of homes for worship, displaced persons live in abject poverty, little children starve in refugee camps—these facts force themselves upon us again as we consider the Christmas Bowl Appeal again this year.

We as a brotherhood have shared in the Appeal each year, and I have pleasure in commending it again to the churches, remembering, "He who gives himself with his gift feeds three, himself, his hungry neighbor and ME."



been a wonderful helpmate to her husband.

At the recognition meeting, Conference President, G. Whiting, presided, and in happy manner J. E. Shipway and Chas. Schwab, long-time associates, recaptured the story of the honored guest. A McGlasson then made a gift from the whole brotherhood. Mr. Taylor's response was not only nostalgic, but held the note of challenge to those who are building on the foundations laid by himself and men of like quality through the years.

The ladies of the Unley church, where he served as minister, and now as an elder, were responsible for supper.

NEW CHURCH.

On Nov. 27, the new church at Barmera on the shores of Lake Bonney, adjacent to the Murray, was formally constituted by interested brethren from Berri, Loxton and Moorook. Twenty-two members shared in the foundation covenant. A. Chapple (Berri) presided, the dedicatory prayer was given by J. McCormick (Loxton) and the address by J. Manallack (Berri). Over 90 crowded into the Legion Hall, where the church is to meet.

Through the Church Extension Department, land is being sought from the Department of Lands. A Bible school is to commence after the State school holidays, and already a team of members is preparing to take over this work.

The church at Berri is to share in the oversight of the work, and will use its manpower to set the baby church on its way.

GREETINGS

With the end of the year in sight, we take opportunity to wish all friends and readers God's blessing upon the festive season, and good wishes for 1956 from the brethren in South Australia.—E. P. C. Hollard.



W. W. Saunders, who, from Jan. 1, 1956, will give full-time service in the campaign to retain six o'clock closing of hotels in Victoria.

FRANK BYATT, Aust. Sec., Commission for Inter-Church Aid and Service
to Refugees, asks

WHAT MEAN YE BY K.C.W.S.?

"I have watched doctors open the eyelids of a dozen teenagers and saw, where the eye should have been, only a congealed mass. I was told that, when this little body was about to form the eye, there were not the necessary vitamins to make the eye formation possible — permanent blindness because of hunger."—Bishop E. C. Raines, of Indiana Methodist Church in the Washington Cathedral, U.S.A.

"Approximately 2,270 patients are being treated at clinics. A country T.B. clinic with a Korean doctor and two nurses can handle 100 patients a month for approximately £100. £10 would cover cost of drugs and incidentals for one patient for a year."—Dr. J. N. Burgess, of Melbourne with K.C.W.S., who is entirely maintained by our Australian Church gifts.

K.C.W.S. stands for "Korea Church World Service" and is the name of the ecumenical relief committee co-ordinating Christian relief in Korea. Its member churches include the Australian Presbyterian Mission Board. K.C.W.S. operates only in such projects that are too large or too general for any member church to undertake. Local pastors can be the distributing centres of relief food, clothing and medical supplies. Churches have their own hospitals, orphanages, educational work and evangelistic programmes. There are 300 Christian chaplains in the Korean Army.

But K.C.W.S. operations are also needed in a country where, two years ago, there were 2½ million war sufferers and four million economic refugees, 10% million needing rehabilitation.

The K.C.W.S. programme includes:

(a) **Rehabilitation of refugees and destitutes**—requiring supplies of livestock, loans for small farmers, community centre in Pusan, drugs and medical equipment and boys' work camp.

(b) **Relief**—procurement and distribution of relief foods.

(c) **Amputee Service**—three centres, artificial limbs, clinic, re-education centres, workshops. More than 900 civilians have benefited.

(d) **T.B.**—Clinics, Mobile X-Ray Unit, Hospitalisation.

(e) **Aid to War Widows**—(300,000 with over 600,000 dependent children) widows' homes and staffing, sewing

machines and material, vagrant girls' home.

(f) **Youth Work**—Day nurseries, milk feeding centres, training for orphanage staff, grants towards elementary schools, T.B. hospital wards and children's hospital, student work.

(g) **Agricultural projects.**

Of the T.B. situation it is estimated there are 1,300,000 cases needing medical clinical attention or hospitalisation. T.B. causes 80,000 deaths a year and is a matter for national concern. There are only 2,500 beds available. The first mobile X-Ray equipment ever to be sent to Korea is now in use by K.C.W.S. The first 100-bed wing of a hospital for T.B.

children in South Korea was opened at Masan on Oct. 1, while, next day, there was opened in Pusan, a 50-bed children's hospital.

The resilience of the Korean churches is almost unbelievable. Most of the 1,000 destroyed or partially destroyed churches have been rebuilt, and evangelism, whether among prisoners of war or refugees, has resulted in winning Koreans to the Christian faith in numbers greater than almost anywhere else in the world.

It is to this kind of work that our gifts go through the Christmas Bowl of Remembrance. Make gifts through your local congregation or direct to F. Byatt, Inter-Church Aid office, 37 Swanston-st., Melb., C.I.

ARNOLD C. CALDICOTT, minister, Lismore, N.S.W.,
asks of our Movement . . .

Restoration or Monumentation?

The Sydney Morning Herald recently produced a provocative pamphlet of its own in a series of articles headed, "The State of Religion." It is a result of the 1954 census, and deals exclusively with a survey of the religious climate in N.S.W.

Some of the amazing figures presented show that in a population of 3,500,000, only 8,438 profess no religion. Migration has been responsible for enormous increases in membership among ecclesiastical communities, with Roman Catholics predominating.

It is interesting to note that, of the Nonconformists, the Methodists have only increased 11 per cent, including 3 per cent. migration. Note this small increase after intensive campaigning. The Baptists have an amazing increase of 5,000, but that does not necessarily mean a baptised membership.

Perhaps the most alarming feature is our own increase of 300. More alarming when we compare them with the comparatively new efforts of the Seventh Day Adventists who show a 46 per cent. increase, with a baptised membership now at 7,991, 97 churches, Sabbath schools enrolment of 8,475, and note offerings for

1954 as a result of tithing £313,632/11/11, or more than £30 per head.

Facing the Problem

I've no doubt that other of our ministers throughout N.S.W. have been trying to find the answer to the question put to me by the local Baptist preacher, "What's wrong with your church, that you have an increase of only 300 in five years?"

We cannot deny that under the present scheme of things we have been marking time. Until recently Lismore has been a typical case of retardation and is no exception; only one major evangelistic crusade in 20 years. Some ten to twelve outlying causes were abandoned and the work centralised—with the result we are one average church among some fifty Methodist churches. With the disappearance of outlying causes a paralysis set in amongst the laymen. Seventy years on the North Coast have not been without glorious victories and problems of moving membership.

Causes of Disintegration

Democracy has its advantages but also its weaknesses. Educated young men are reluctant to train for the

ministry with the prospect of cleaning up churches ruled by one or two men; educated to fifth class, who think they can speak to their minister as to a council employee.

Then, again, some of the specialists prefer to remain with the stronger churches for a twelve-year ministry, which, whilst satisfying for all concerned, has meant repercussions to the work as a whole in other directions. Struggling churches are denied the ministry of the more experienced man, and the stronger churches are denied the privilege of strengthening the inexperienced man. Too often, the latter gives up after three years in some heart-breaking corner.

Let it be said that the ministerial appointments of Methodism are worthy of examination. At one time the "divine call," accompanied by prayer and fasting, was the method by which men were called to minister, but this has now resolved itself into a committee which makes recommendations to churches needing a preacher. Of course, I prefer the former!

Witness Within Ranks

"Coming out of denominationalism," said a young man to me recently,

"It is hard for me to understand why members of Churches of Christ, with so glorious a message, are not burning with zeal and evangelistic passion to get the message across to others."

New members are often puzzled and perplexed by the "couldn't-care-less" attitude of those reared in New Testament doctrine. One of the greatest tragedies in church work is to hear as I did one young man, "I nearly pushed my cycle 10 miles to hear that sermon, but it rained and I had no coat—I'm working in town now and can attend six times a week if need be . . ." and then, perhaps, in two years' time, find himself questioning as to whether he has been disillusioned.

Claiming to be the New Testament Church, and not living it, is a tremendous insult to God.

Pulpit Prerogative

At a recent district fraternal meeting of the local clergy, several bewailed domestic disorder. They were grieved about standards falling. I promptly suggested that they exhort their people on separation, adding that there was a hell to shun as much

as a heaven to gain. One venerable minister replied, "Hell is old fashioned." Any wonder his standards were falling!

Liberty of opinion can give, and does give, an inconsistent witness throughout our brotherhood. But with us, no fundamental doctrine ever becomes old-fashioned. All cries of "Dogmatism" must be ignored, for truth is always dogmatic.

It is the pulpit prerogative to sound forth all the silver trumpets of heaven. And it is time we did this, with no uncertain sound, upholding the tremendous Bible themes of our Restoration Movement, and by no means ignoring the doctrines of holiness and separation.

Specialists Needed

With so many world-wide conventions and World Council of Churches conferences held ever so often, it is high time the practical side of their findings, viz., the need for specialists, was put into operation, otherwise much globe-trotting becomes a farce. Specialists are urgently needed in the fields of evangelism, doctrine, finance, and literature. To this end, let us dedicate our men and talents.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



Monthly Reports

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The meeting was held at Grote-st. on Nov. 3. There were 122 present, and Mrs. Outlaw brought a fine devotional message on "Patience." Mrs. Kruger presided over the business session. Future meetings are to commence at 1.45 p.m., to enable the meetings to close by 3.30 p.m. The Home Missions Committee reported that a wonderful opening service was held in the chapel at Albert Park; on the first Sunday evening there were two decisions for Christ. The Overseas Missions Committee reported that another letter had been received from Pearl Anderson, of China, saying that she has been working in hospitals out in the villages. From Norseman, W.A., comes news that extensions are being made to the Kindergarten Cottage, and that plans are in hand for a building drive. The Hospital Committee reported that 224 visits had been paid to sick folk.—L. F. Hollard (Asst. Sec.).

NEW SOUTH WALES

There were 101 at the meeting which was held in the City Temple on Dec. 2. Devotions were led by Mrs. Saville, Bexley North. A play entitled *The Spirit of Christmas* (written and produced by Mrs. Saville), was presented by the Bexley North Women's Fellowship. Miss F. Bell led in intercessory prayer, specially remembering the relatives of Mrs. Les. Stimson, who recently received the Home call.—E. Hayward.

VICTORIA-TASMANIA

Vic.-Tas. Women's Conference Council meeting was held on Dec. 2, with Mrs. Lloyd in the chair. The devotional session was taken by Mrs. T. Weir (East Preston). As usual, many goods were brought for the Hospital Visitation committee to distribute among the patients of the various public hospitals as Christmas gifts.

Overseas travellers were welcomed home, including Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Cleland and Mrs. Jackel (Wangaratta).

A travel talk was given by Mrs.

Cleland, including comments on the meetings of the World Christian Women's Fellowship. A few slides were also shown to illustrate the meetings and places of interest.

The following recommendations were passed:—"That a recommendation be sent to Federal Conference, that our future devotional subject have a missionary content," and "that the Missionary Department become the Missionary Committee, with a superintendent, and when the committee of 20 members is elected, appointments to Overseas and Aborigine committees will be made."

General Business: Mrs. McGregor brought forward suggestions for the unifying of our work. She stated that the time has come for us to develop the plan of an overall Women's Fellowship for the whole of our women's work. The plan to form Women's Fellowships, passed at the 1953 Conference, had been carried out successfully in some cases, and in others it had not. The growing Y.W.F. needs our help to join in this wider fellowship. Mrs. Cleland stated in her address that we strive to be united in fellowship. To assist our planning to this end, Mrs. McGregor moved, Mrs. McIvor seconded, that a combined meeting of the Council and the Executive and delegates of the Y.W.F. be held the first week in February, date to be finalised when premises are available. Carried.—B. L. Williams.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Reviving Showers

R. McLean, Londua

The drought has broken and copious rains have fallen. After receiving no rain for weeks, nine inches fell in one night. The crops that were dying have been revived, and everyone is rejoicing over the bountiful supply of water. We do praise God for the rain, particularly when we realise that it is not usual to have heavy showers at this time of the year. September and October can be very dry months.

We pray now that as our island has been given new life and seemingly washed clean, so there will be a renewing and cleansing in the hearts of men. D. Crawford, author of **Thinking Black**, who spent twenty-two years in Central Africa without furlough, mentions an encounter he had with a native farmer during a drought. The farmer was toiling at the hard soil that was baked like a brick by the drought. The missionary said that he regretted the soil was so onerous and intractable. "Yes," replied the farmer. "A hard God has hardened the soil by denying the rain."

Ten years later the missionary again met this man. The farmer was working in the same field, his face wreathed in smiles, as two successive days of rain had soaked the soil soft. The missionary said that the soil was so soft that the work of hoeing must be child's play. The farmer, now a saved man, replied, "Truly soft is the soil, for the God who softened my heart also softened the hard soil. He has rained on my hard soul as well as on my soil."

We pray that the farmer's experience will take place in the hearts of many in the Islands.

Revive! Revive!

And give refreshing showers—
The glory shall be all thine own,
The blessing shall be ours.

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

Indian Hymn Writer

Narayan Waman Tilak was the son of a proud Brahman, who was cruel to his gentle wife, Narayan's mother, whom he loved dearly.

Narayan Tilak showed great intellectual ability and poetical genius, and being of high caste was granted a good education.

He was generous to a fault, and at times would give away all that he possessed to a man in need, even down to his coat and sandals. Although warm-hearted and lovable, he was unstable to a most marked degree.

Being a poetical genius, and an enthusiast for theatricals, he was much in demand to take part in Hindoo plays, for which he would compose poetry. In this occupation he would become so engrossed that for long periods he would quite forget his young wife and baby whom he really loved, and they would often be in real want, not knowing where to find him.

He read widely and also studied Christian books and the teaching of Jesus Christ. At first he was very angry at the claims of Christ because of the challenge they were to the religion of his fathers, and he tore up the Word of God, and spoke bitterly and blasphemously against the Christian Faith.

However, he could not cast the words of Christ out of his mind as easily as he had torn up the Bible, and one day, when travelling in a railway carriage, met a missionary who spoke to him of Jesus Christ.

This missionary sensed Narayan's hungry heart and asked him to accept a copy of the New Testament, and predicted he would be a disciple of Christ within a month.

Then followed a long struggle between faith and fear in Narayan's soul—faith in Christ as the Son of God, and fear of what his friends would say if he openly confessed his faith.

At this time he wrote in his diary "My spirit will never find rest until I confess my faith in Jesus Christ."

Shortly after this he published his conversion in a paper called **The Rise of Knowledge**, and, secretly going to Bombay, was baptised. Im-

mediately a fierce storm of persecution burst upon him, his wife left him, his friends persuaded, threatened, and plotted against him, and sought to poison him. In his new-found faith he was utterly fearless, and would not by any means be turned from his purpose. On many occasions he walked unscathed through dangers, which were unknown to him at the time.

After many years of walking with Christ he spoke of his unstable nature, which had been transformed by Christ, and deeply regretted unworthiness.

To Narayan Waman Tilak the Church of Jesus Christ of Western India owes its hymn book of beautiful hymns, full of love and gratitude to God and faith in Christ his Redeemer.

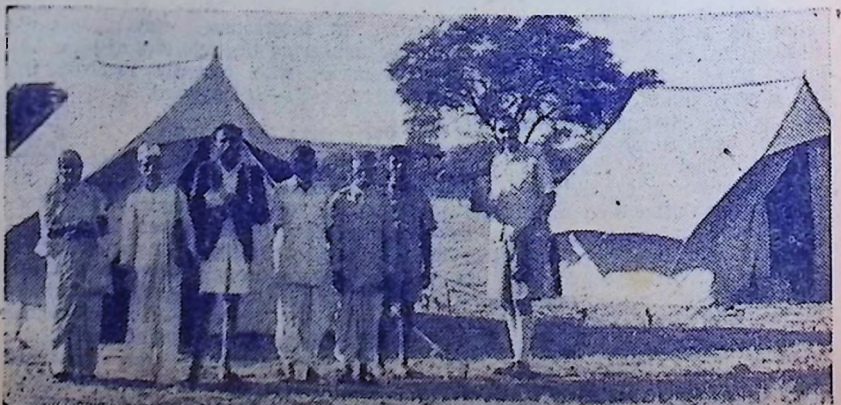
Among his hymns are "My heart is a beautiful temple in which God reigns," and "He who was not worthy to be a disciple or even wipe the dust from his shoes, did Christ raise up to be on the relationship of a friend, and bears him with love upon his shoulders."

What a miracle! What a change! What a transformation! Before a blasphemer and unbeliever; afterwards to preach Christ among the heathen.

Let us accept the challenge of Christ that such hungry hearts as these may hear the Word of truth.

Christ says to us who are saved by his blood, "If any man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am there also will my servant be."

—Ruth Roberts.



Evening group outside village. C. Thomas, Bible-woman and preachers.

BETTY THOMPSON writes from Geneva about Paris plans for

CHRISTMAS IN EXILE

The Christmas season for thousands of the world refugees is often a sad and lonely time. Far from their own people and the traditions to which they are accustomed, refugees face the human problem of reconciling their present tragedy with the message of ultimate peace and joy.

To bring the Christmas message of hope and joy to refugees in a tangible manifestation of Christian concern, many of the offices of the World Council of Churches Service to Refugees plan special Christmas observances.

"In our big city, Christmas is often the only religious festivity in which refugees participate. They are generally so lost and lonely," says Germaine Loustalot, of Cimade, the Protestant inter-church relief agency in co-operation with the World Council of Churches Service to Refugees, in Paris.

There are 600,000 refugees living in France, and Cimade is in close contact with 8,000 of them. The Christmas season at Cimade means not only the celebration at the Cimade Foyer, but special distributions of food and the finding of French families who will open their homes to the refugees.

"On Christmas Day, a huge Christmas tree stands in the centre of the Foyer," Mlle. Loustalot, Cimade resettlement officer, reports. "The gospel of the day is read by the refugees themselves and hymns of various countries are sung by several groups of refugees. A short meditation explains what Christmas really means to the world, and the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt is soothing to the heart. The Lord himself also was, one day, a refugee on the highways of the world."

"Plays are acted by one or two groups, then a cold buffet is provided for the participants. A distribution of Christmas gifts begins. Each has his own. This year everybody will receive a small badge representing a boat on which stands a cross (the World Council of Churches seal). The boat is the emblem of Paris as well as that of the ecumenical movement."

New Year's Eve is also celebrated at Cimade. A dinner to which lonely refugees are invited is held. On Jan. 6, the Orthodox Christmas is celebrated.

"Thus we have quite a long period of festivities to celebrate the coming

of the Lord on earth, which brings to our friends hope for the days to come," says Mlle. Loustalot.

A group of young French Scouts, connected with Cimade, are preparing a Christmas party for refugee children. They are busy making parcels and arranging for a Christmas tree and entertainment. Some of the Scouts will visit old people in their rooms, bringing them small Christmas trees, gifts, and sweets. Last year an old Russian couple, the wife paralysed and patiently nursed by her husband, received a visit from the youths. According to the Cimade staff, "the visit went deep in their hearts and they have written beautiful letters of thanks."

Food Distribution

Big food distributions, especially from Share Our Surplus Commodities, made possible by the giving of American churches through Church World Service, are being made in December, so that the Christmas menu will be more substantial. Butter, oil, cheese, and powdered milk, as well as soap, go into these packages.

"The refugees receiving these goods are living a miserable life. Mrs. B. is a Russian refugee, 73 years old. She is all alone, walks with crutches, and receives a small grant from a refugee committee. Once in a while she finds a translation to be done," Mlle. Loustalot says, in describing some of the recipients of the food packages.

"Mrs. S., also a Russian, is 76 years old. She receives nothing from anyone, earns her living by giving a few Russian lessons and doing a few hours of work as a charwoman. Mrs. K., whose husband died in deportation, lives in a room without heat or any possibility of having a stove; no chimney! Mr. L., a painter, occasionally manages to sell a painting. His wife suffers from arthritis and can hardly stand on her feet. So one can imagine what these distributions mean to them," she continues.

Home Celebrations

The French homes opened to refugees at Christmas time serve a special function of reconciliation. Last year several refugees were invited to the home of a Parisian artist. Two were Hungarian women, the mother, and a daughter who had been a cello soloist in Budapest. Life was then easy. Now they live miserably on the

small earnings of the daughter, who from time to time plays in churches. A few months before last Christmas, the father died and it was their first Christmas without him.

"These women had just moved into a more decent home, leaving a small room with a tiny kitchen in an unpleasant part of the city. A generous friend had helped them to make this change of dwelling," Mlle. Loustalot continues. But before they moved into the new flat, it was robbed and all their possessions, including "the small souvenirs they managed to save from destruction in their exodus."

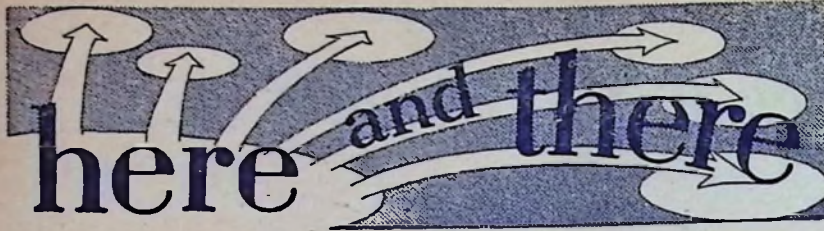
At the Christmas party they told their story with such humor, so "that, instead of being sad at their woes, everybody enjoyed the way they were telling them." A Yugoslav architect, who had lost his wife a few months before, was also guest of the artist. He was so grieved that he frequently walked fifteen miles to visit the cemetery. This Christmas dinner helped assuage his grief.

"A former Roumanian librarian, whose health is poor, was at this dinner. This intellectual, feeling his downfall, had become exceedingly shy and refused to meet other intellectuals. We had him invited to this dinner where he could be shown a little friendship and consideration."

"The hostess and her friends told their refugee guests of old French customs and Christmas tales. The refugees told Christmas traditions and stories of their countries. Music was played, songs were sung, and our friends spent a Christmas they will remember."



Meetings in the young cause at Geraldton, W.A., have been consistently good, with an average of thirty-four breaking bread each Sunday, and an average attendance of 30 at gospel meetings. Religious films have been used to advantage, the most recent of which was *This Way to Heaven*. Over 40 children and 18 adults attended the Christmas tree on Dec. 8, and five young people plan to attend the Christmas camp in Perth. Mr. and Mrs. G. McKenna left Geraldton for the metropolitan area during November. The Ladies' Guild conducted a stall from which £13 resulted. Members are preparing for the commencement of work on the new chapel, and a Building Fund was started at the end of October, with the balance already £70.



George Grainger (Springvale, Vic.) has accepted a call to the ministry of the church at Kaniva, Vic.

Christmas Day services at Albion, Qld., will be at 8 a.m. (communion), and 7.30 p.m. The church at Hornsby, N.S.W., will meet at 9.30 a.m. on that day. Chelsea, Vic., has services timed for 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Christmas Day, with B.S. at 9.30 a.m.

F. E. Buckingham, minister of the Ormond church, Vic., is recovering in hospital following an appendectomy operation.

For the past twelve years, the church at Lake-st., Perth, W.A., has been "on the air" on one Sunday in each month. This regular service by station 6IX will be discontinued after Dec. 25, as so many other churches wish their services to be broadcast.

Graeme Frecker, B.S. sec. at Brighton, Vic., has successfully completed a Dafydd Lewis scholarship course at the Melbourne University, having qualified, with honors, for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering. Mr. Frecker is a grandson of J. D. Lang, former elder of the church at West Preston, Vic. Two other successful engineering students were Paul Gerrand and Lindsay Cunningham, both of Hartwell church, Vic., who also qualified with honors for their respective degrees.

The Bible mission at Fairfield, N.S.W., led by the minister, W. Turnbull, concluded on Dec. 11 with a total of 15 confessions and 3 re-consecrations. 120 were present at the closing Sunday night service, the local Gospel Hall and Assembly of God folk closing their doors and attending the mission.

H. Hargreaves, retired preacher, has been an inmate of Bendigo Base Hospital for the past three weeks. Although there has been an improvement in his condition, it is expected that he will not be discharged from hospital until the New Year.

A very valuable corner allotment at Fawcner, Vic., about 126 ft. by 159 ft., has been offered to the brotherhood as a gift. All street construction costs will be paid, and the only condition is that a Bible school be started within a reasonable time.

Members of the Vic. Church Location Council, with other interested brethren, including representatives of Coburg, Moreland and Brunswick churches, have inspected the area. They agree that it is suitable for the development of a work and that the site is well located. Few other religious bodies are established in the area, and none is likely to be very close to this site. The matter has been referred to brotherhood departments and it is possible that they, together with one or more of the churches mentioned above, will soon establish the work.—B. J. Cambridge, sec., Church Location Council.

Annual meeting of the church at Wembley, W.A., confirmed the appointment of eight elders. During the year there had been 25 additions by faith and baptism, and church giving had increased from a weekly average of £44/17/7 to £55/15/-, for all purposes. All attendance records have been broken, and there is a fine co-operative spirit in the church. J. K. Bond is minister at Wembley.

Urgent memo to Bible School Secretaries and Superintendents. Some schools short-ordered Junior Scholar Workbooks for Jan.-March, 1956, and stocks at The Austral are exhausted. Schools which have spare copies available are requested to return them immediately and full credit will be allowed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cunningham and family were farewelled by the church at Stawell, Vic., on Dec. 12. Their five-year ministry has greatly strengthened the church, which extended best wishes to them as Mr. Cunningham begins his work with the church at Mildura. Recent decisions have been an encouragement to the church. There were 120 present at a Christmas tree.

The Victorian Youth Department conducts a postal Sunday School for isolated scholars. Austral Graded materials are forwarded to homes. Recently a Primary Bible Workbook, showing completed work, came from Mrs. D. M. Johnston, of Dhurringille, who wrote, "Gwyneth is enjoying her lessons very much and it is good that she is able through your postal Bible school to continue with the work now that she is so far from a Sunday

school." Church members in Victoria who are isolated and would like their children to receive help are invited to write to the Victorian director, L. A. Trezise, 161 Flinders-lane, Melbourne, forwarding names, addresses and birth date of children.

On Dec. 4, Temple Day Sunday for the church at Gardiner, Vic., there was unveiled the newly-installed 13 ft. by 8 ft. Gothic-style leadlight window, memorial to the men and women who began the church at Gardiner in the College of the Bible in 1914. In the apex of the window is the Bethlehem Star, surmounting two panels with the Greek capitals, Alpha on the left and Omega on the right. Below these are three long panels, highlighting the central figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The dominating colors are royal blue and deep red. Fred Sumpton, first secretary of the church at the College, unveiled the window. The congregation sang a dedication hymn written by a present-day worshipper, Mrs. H. Munday. On Dec. 11 a young woman made her decision, following the address by F. A. Youens. Temple Day offering stands at £1,522.

Temperance forces in Victoria are to use the Local Option Alliance as the spear-head of attack for the fight to retain six o'clock closing of hotels in that State. C. P. Hughes, of South Australia, who is also secretary of the Australian Temperance Council, has been made responsible for organising local and district committees, and has already commenced his work in some north-eastern towns. Mr. Carter, of Queensland, will be in charge of the Publicity Committee. Both these workers have been made available by their respective States for the duration of the campaign, without cost to the Victorian organisers. They serve on the Campaign Committee, together with H. Palmer Phillips (chairman), Robertson McCue (campaign director), W. W. Saunders (asst. sec.) and Mr. Rentoul. Mr. Saunders, who is associate-sec. of our Vic.-Tas. Social Service Dept., will take an active part in the campaign. Press publicity will commence about two months before the poll is taken on March 24.

Temple Day at the Ascot Vale church, Vic., on Dec. 4, marked the close of the ministry of Harold F. Gross, who has since left Melbourne to begin his work as New Zealand churches' Youth Director. In the morning, seven were received in, three by baptism and four by transfer. Temple Day offering reached £158. Extra seating was necessary for the evening service, when Mr. Gross preached the final sermon of a five-year ministry.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Robert Hollams, Elaine Biggs, Judith Pawson, Barry Lovell, Dorothy Lundeberg, Margaret Geddes, Ross Bengier, Ian Turner, Kevin Luscombe, Chris Hill, Albert Park, S.A.

Colin Kinna, Russell Trezise, North Richmond, Vic.

A. Crute, Neil Cunningham, Mrs. T. Waldron, Stawell, Vic.

John Towers, Miss J. Thom, Preston, Vic.

Miss V. Smith, East Ipswich, Qld.

R. Hasler, Fullarton, S.A.

Violet Cavanagh, Gordon Lees, Caulfield, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Williams, Peter Hargrave, Ascot Vale, Vic.

Mrs. and Pam Prosser, Lorna Sargeant, Fay Patterson, Wembley, W.A.

Josephine Connelly, Rodney Tonkin, Nailsworth, S.A.

Ruth Horsburgh, Beryl Wilson, Patricia and Terry South, Rona Green, Tamworth, N.S.W.

Mrs. A. Clark, Naracoorte, S.A.

Joy Penny, Vivienne Hoskin, Elaine Hackett, Naracoorte, S.A.

Mrs. and Pamela Pitt, Betty Pink, Lorraine Statford, Tarpeena, S.A.

Robyn Jamieson, Elizabeth Woodroffe, Marilyn Earle, Barbara Maddison, Pamela Tidy, Glenda Gordon, Mr. Dawson, Robert Donley, Hartley Abbott, Robert Taverner, Edward Rau, Jan Williams, Warren Spencer, Cowandilla, S.A.

Emily Butner, Margaret Porteus, Graeme Haylock, Collingwood, Vic.

Ian Cook, West Preston, Vic.

Elayne Fisher, Barbara Nock, Blackburn, Vic.

June Balfour, Jeannette Pollock, Moreland, Vic.

Mrs. G. Garth, Bendigo, Vic.

John Collyer, Springvale, Vic.

Irene Otelman, Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic.

Ralph Slimmon, North Richmond, Vic.

Mrs. Coghlan, John Diprose, Joan Norton, St. Kilda, Vic.

John McCarthy, Cheltenham, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. A. Smart, from Brunswick to Ascot Vale, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns, from East Preston to Ascot Vale, Vic.

Miss J. Locke, from Prospect to Nailsworth, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris, from Baptist church to Gardiner, Vic.

J. Bartlett, from Fairfield to North Richmond, Vic.

Miss N. Russell, from Ivanhoe to Preston, Vic.

Mrs. Rilstone, from Kadina to Albert Park, S.A.

Mrs. Turner, from Hawthorn to Albert Park, S.A.

Mr. Harris and Jennifer, to Blackburn, Vic.

Marriage

Noelle McLeish to Gordon Daff, Gardiner, Vic.

Sonia Hinde to Kevin Christensen, Frankston, Vic.

Freda Bodsworth to Joseph Bartlett, Moreland, Vic.

Beryl Dinsley to Neville Matthews, Caulfield, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. Marshall, Ascot Vale, Vic.

Miss I. Graham, North Richmond, Vic.

Mrs. Aston, Footscray, Vic.

Mrs. Hawke, Albert Park, S.A.

F. Smith, Cheltenham, Vic.

Western Australia

Wembley (J. K. Bond). — Church is rejoicing with Cottesloe members over success of tent mission of latter church, with J. K. Bond as missionary. Many members helped with transport and visitation. Local work kept healthy during preacher's absence. This is evident in confessions and baptisms of recent weeks. On Nov. 20, there were four baptisms and two confessions. On 27th, two J.C.E. members made their confession. On

Dec. 4 there were five confessions. Prayer meetings are well supported. Mr. Bond has started series of studies on personal evangelism, with view to greater intensity of work in district. B.S. picnic was held on 3rd. Many non-church parents were present, adding to fellowship of day. Progress on new manse is encouraging. Permit has been issued for erection of kitchen and store-room. Good attendances at communion services have been maintained, being especially so on anniversary Sunday, when 156 broke bread for day and there were 135 at gospel service. Guest speaker in morning was R. Raymond. Other visiting speakers have been G. Smith and A. J. Fisher.

Perth, Lake-st. (A. J. Fisher). — L. Cooke was guest speaker at morning service on Dec. 11. Other visitors have included Sir Phillip Messent and family, who attended communion on 11th, en route to Adelaide from Toronto Convention. Greetings have been received from Mrs. Cugley, who is visiting the U.S.A. On Dec. 10, in the home of Mrs. Povey, the Women's Fellowships and choir gave a farewell evening to Mrs. Fisher, when a presentation was made. The Dorcas closing session was held at the home of Mrs. Verge, when £165 was distributed to various funds and the president, Mrs. Fisher, was farewelled with a gift. There has been a Christmas tree for the kinder and Cradle Roll, and B.S. held a choral Christmas session on 18th. H.M. offering amounted to £129, a higher figure than last year's. Two young men recently made the good confession. They were baptised prior to the carol service on Dec. 18.

Queensland

East Ipswich (R. Hilford). — Church anniversary was held in Nov. when C. G. Flood (Ann-st.) was guest speaker. Talent thankoffering was also taken, which amounted to £429, making clear amount of £364 when £65 was repaid, originally given to members in 10/- notes. Church expresses sympathy to A. Jenner in loss of his mother, also to R. Coward and family in loss of Mrs. R. Coward, senr. H.M. offering was £29. There was one decision during Nov. Christmas tree was held on Dec. 3. Mr. and Mrs. D. Risson have returned from holidays.

Toowoomba (E. T. Hart and G. Gibson). — Mission at Crown-st. con-

cluded with two decisions. At final meeting, thankoffering was received, and L. Enchelmaier made presentation to E. T. Hart (missioner). Song-leaders were L. R. Pitman and E. MacGregor. Church is assisting with preaching at Ma Ma Creek and Gattou, whilst they are without minister. Y.P.F. journeyed to Ma Ma Creek on Nov. 25 for breaking-up function of C.E. Margaret-st. B.S. anniversary was held on Nov. 26 and 27. Afternoon programme was given by kinders on *The Lord's Prayer*. E. T. Hart gave talk and presented kinder and cradle roll prizes. After birthday tea, upper school presented programme on *Life of Lives*, and then received their prizes. Morning service on 27th was broadcast over 4GR and was a teachers' recognition service. During service, tribute was paid to memory of late Mrs. Wegner. Girls' Brigade entertained their mothers at Christmas party as their final meeting for year on 29th. Shields were presented to winning teams in both Junior and Senior groups.

Townsville. — Camp reunion was held in Nov. at Nellie Bay, and was attended by nearly 30 Y.P., including contingent from Charters Towers. C. Beale led in devotional studies. Thanks was given for restoration of Mrs. O. Irwin, after recent serious operation. Armstrong and Hermit Park Christmas trees were successfully held during first week in Dec. with record attendances. Charters Towers and Townsville members look forward to coming of K. Fennell as minister.

New South Wales

Mosman (D. W. Tonkin). — B.S. anniversary commenced on Nov. 20, with kinders providing afternoon programme. Mrs. Burns presented prizes. Senior school and junior choir assisted in evening service. There was one decision. Anniversary was continued on 27th, with choral service in afternoon; speaker being L. Thomas (Marrickville). Soloists were Miss P. Dale and L. Donaldson. Celebrations concluded at evening service, when there was a further decision. B.S. demonstration was held on 29th; items were rendered and film, *The Way He Should Go*, was screened. Awards were presented by V. C. Muir (supt., North Balgowlah school). Mr. Muir addressed church on morning of Dec. 4. Anniversary services were saddened by Home call of Mrs. L. J. Stimson.

Inverell (E. F. G. McIlhagger, B.A.). — Enjoyable garden party was held at home of Mrs. Boland on Nov. 30 to conclude Ladies' Guild activities for year, also combined Guild Christmas party was held in Butler Hall on Dec. 8, when approx. 200 ladies attended.

In absence of preacher, who visited Tamworth during week-end to attend mission, D. Willis (student-preacher) gave message on morning of Dec. 4. T. Young spoke at night. Jan Rutherford is improving after many weeks of illness, and church welcomed back Vivienne Jolliffe and K. Hamilton after specialists' treatment at Sydney and Brisbane respectively.

Lismore (A. C. Caldicott). — Two further decisions have been recorded since last report. Average of 110 continue to commune each Lord's Day. Church has been greatly inspired by visits of Mr. and Mrs. Robbins (Pahran, Vic.) and G. Knight, who represented Aborigine Board investigating Cubawee Reserve. Church has contributed £128 towards new Murwillumbah chapel. Woolwich college students, G. Davis and D. Willis, are now home. Women's work, Young Marrieds' Harmony Set, and B.S. are now in recess.

Tamworth (H. Walmsley). — Church and B.S. anniversaries were linked by week of special evangelistic services conducted by R. Amos (Chatswood). Special messages to church and young folk were appreciated by all. At annual church banquet, 59 adults and 36 children of church families sat down to splendid repast prepared by Women's Fellowship. Gifts to church by Women's Fellowship (£125), Inverell Y.P. (£11), youth organisations and individuals at Temple Day, exceed £200. Women's Fellowship also presented church with communion table and chairs. At special open-air film night, *I Beheld His Glory* was screened to large number of young and old. At conclusion of week of services, on Sunday night, presentation of books was made to Mr. Amos as a mark of appreciation from all. A Men's Fellowship was formed after address by Mr. Amos.

Taree (M. H. A. Pleper). — Kinder dept., which has enrolled number of new scholars, held successful Christmas tree on Dec. 3. Church extended welcome to G. E. Knight, Vice-Pres. of Conference, and treas. of Aborigines Mission Board, who was present on week-end of Dec. 4. He presented an interesting word on brotherhood work on Sunday morning, and at night, at after-church fellowship, showed slides on work being done at Boys' Home and in aborigines work in W.A.

Hornsby (K. R. Fennell). — Mrs. Bishop and Miss H. Tewksbury were soloists at recent gospel services. Boys' Club held break-up party on 6th, and Girls' Club theirs on 9th. Plans are in hand to secure services of preacher to succeed Mr. Fennell. B.S. held Christmas tree on 16th.

H.M. offering has reached £28/3/-. Recent speakers have been Messrs. Fennell, Childs, P. H. Morton and Henderson. Painting of chapel and hall roof has been completed by the men of church.

South Australia

Albert Park (J. B. Baker). — Two were received in by transfer on Dec. 4. Ten Y.P. were baptised on night of 11th, in presence of a large congregation. Many parents of B.S. children, who had never before witnessed a baptismal service, were present. A lad from B.S. made his decision at close of the service.

Brooklyn Park (A. E. Brown). — Fine services and good attendances marked B.S. anniversary on Nov. 6 and 13. Singing under able leadership of Mr. Barnes was greatly enjoyed. Church annual business meeting was held during month, and reports from various auxiliaries showed good progress and spirit prevailing. Appreciation of splendid work of Mr. and Mrs. Brown over past eight years was expressed at the meeting, especially of their work and interest so willingly given among Y.P. On Nov. 20, Women's Fellowship presented to church two silver communion plates suitably inscribed. Church treas., J. E. Smith, who has been ill for some weeks, is improving, although not yet recovered sufficiently to attend the meetings. On 17th, Ladies' Guild held missionary afternoon, with Miss Foreman as speaker.

Cowandilla (T. T. Robinson). — Two successful concerts were given by Women's Fellowship group on Nov. 16 and 23, in aid of kinder Christmas tree and group funds. Women's Fellowship visited Christian Rest Home on 9th, giving items and conducting devotions. Church offers grateful thanks to two friends for gift of fine organ for use in new chapel. W. Bartlett spoke to church on morning of Nov. 6. Barbecue held at Pitcher's home was enjoyed by tennis players and friends. Church has A and B tennis teams entered in Churches of Christ Association. C.E. visited Colebrook Home, taking groceries. Parcel was packed and sent to missionaries in New Hebrides. Church rejoices over so many decisions for Christ.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — Dec. 10 was a momentous occasion in history of church, the day set aside for return of talents. A basket was placed on table at front of building, in which members placed result of their talent effort. At conclusion of address, A. W. Morris gave the result—£344 (incomplete). After some words of dedication and thanksgiving prayer, the doxology was sung. At gospel service one man made the good

confession. Choir, led by W. Craddock, rendered an anthem.

Maylands (G. M. Mathieson). — Temple Day offering of £520 was a record. Church hall has been renovated and other improvements are noticeable. Women's Fellowship concluded very interesting period when Mrs. Bristowe and party rendered excellent items. £16/10/- and 70 coat hangers were given for Christian Rest Home. At well attended afternoon, ladies entertained our aged sisters and provided afternoon tea. During month, fellowship was enjoyed with Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield (Vic.).

Nailsworth (N. Gavros). — Attendances at morning and evening services throughout Nov. were satisfactory. There have been two decisions since last report. Most auxiliaries are going into brief recess until New Year. H.M. offering exceeded £50. Church officers attended Y.P.S.C.E. and provided programme. Women's Fellowship sponsored "gift" social, proceeds to be sent to aboriginal children in far north.

Naracoorte (D. R. Stirling). — B.S. picnic was held on Nov. 12, at Caves Reserve. There was a large attendance and a happy day was spent. C. E. Curtis (Bordertown) preached at gospel service on 20th. Ladies' Guild conducted special afternoon and trading table on 23rd to raise funds for cutlery and crockery, and now has a sum of £23 in hand for same. B.S. anniversary was held on 27th, when scholars from Tarpeena assisted at afternoon service. Speaker was G. Whiting (Youth Director and Conf. Pres.) who also conducted gospel service, when three Y.P. made their decisions. On 25th, surprise party was tendered W. Francis on occasion of his birthday. Final meeting of Ladies' Guild for year took place on 29th. On Dec. 2, Men's Fellowship invited all church members to Christmas social which was to have been held at Mr. Jurgens' property. Owing to inclement weather it became necessary to hire a hall for evening. This did not hamper enjoyment of happy evening. Mr. McKenzie preached at morning service on 4th and Mr. Stirling journeyed to Tarpeena where three were received into fellowship, and at the close of the service four accepted the invitation.

Blackwood (G. T. Fitzgerald). — B.S. has had record attendances and numbers over 80 scholars. During last few months, ten young people have made good confession, and all have been baptised and received into fellowship. Meetings continue to be well attended. B.S. anniversary was outstanding occasion, with splendid sing-

ing by school and choir, and very large attendances. Church has engaged preacher a further two years, and has increased his travelling allowance.

Williamstown. — B.S. anniversary services were successful, guest speakers being L. Armstrong (Balaklava) and M. Crosby (Adelaide). Tea meeting was enjoyed. Concluding anniversary services coincided with commencement of Loyalty month, and special speakers for the month were G. Pearce, W. Philp, A. R. Jones, C. Higgins and W. A. Norris. During last week in Nov. six brethren visited many homes and contacted present and former members. Prayer meetings were held in chapel during periods of visitation. Although no decisions were registered, church was uplifted and it was encouraging to see chapel full on Nov. 27, when amongst those present were many who had been visited.

Next issue . . .

JANUARY 10, 1956

There will be no copy of "The Australian Christian" for the next two weeks. We shall resume publication with the Aborigines Missions number on Jan. 10, 1956.

Happy New Year to all!

Victoria

Springvale (G. A. Grainger). — Baptismal service was conducted on Nov. 27 when two were immersed, and three others responded to invitation. Good Companions and Explorers enjoyed trip to Bonbeach for club break-up on Dec. 3. C. Monk has been elected to vacancy on Officers' Board. M. Kenzie, Bill and Corrie Kenzie (Tas.) were recent visitors. Three girls from Good Companions' Club were baptised and there were three other decisions on evening of 4th.

Surrey Hills (H. Earle). — Church has concluded six-weeks' Loyalty Campaign, during which helpful series of addresses was presented by preacher. Two interesting film services were well attended by senior B.S. scholars. L. Trezise gave interesting travel talk at C.M.S. meeting. Mesdames J. Barker, Cairncross, Bruce, Tully and Mr. Baird are in varying stages of ill health. B.S. made presentation to N. Ineson in appreciation of 12 months' help as supt. School has contributed £30 this year for Indian orphan upkeep. Scholars have been given offering bags in which to save for Christmas Remembrance Bowl Appeal. Young Explorers raised £20 for Manse Fund per medium of

two stalls. Club has record enrolment of 70. Six pennants and a cup have been won during year by Club. Ladies' Guild raised £128 for Manse Fund during year and supplied garments to Children's Hospital, dresses and linen for New Hebrides and gifts for hospital visitation. W.M.B. contributions amounted to £25, and £15 for support of Indian orphan. W. Yates is in charge of work on improving church grounds.

Clayton (J. L. Reid). — Church held kitchen tea in honor of Miss Barbara Wood, prior to her marriage. Y.P. Saturday night fellowship, at home of Mrs. Munyard, was crowded when S. Jones showed films of his trip around the continent. Fellowship hour was held after evening service on Nov. 20. Walter Post gave interesting account of work of Christian and Missionary Alliance on 27th. Church celebrated its 4th anniversary on Dec. 4 when K. Jones (sec., C.O.B.) was guest speaker.

Ararat (R. Duckett). — Every dept. of church is encouraging. Attendances are splendid and offerings outstanding. Following church's thorough preparation for two weeks' mission, Lloyd Jones gave of his best. Outstanding and faithful preaching made a great impact. All but two of the 16 adult and 4 Y.P. confessions have been received into membership. The mission marked close of first three years of present ministry; there is great joy in the church for the blessing experienced. In that time the membership of the church has doubled and offerings trebled. Recent B.S. anniversary was conducted effectively by H. Long (Horsham). Presentations were made to Val. Turnham for outstanding work with Good Companions. As result of past six months' work, Ladies' Aid presented £70 to church funds. In appreciation of past three years, minister has been given six weeks' paid holiday. He, with Mrs. Duckett and family, leaves by car to spend Christmas season in W.A.

Colac (R. Combridge). — Recently, Young Explorers took prominent part in evening service, and certificates were presented to club members. They also enjoyed picnic at Camperdown on Nov. 26. R. Dixon visited on 24th, and members gathered at home of M. Selwood to spend evening with Mr. and Mrs. Dixon. They enjoyed an instructive message and viewed pictures of their work in India. B.S. picnic with Christmas tree was held on Dec. 10.

Footscray (A. E. Hurren). — As part of planned programme, all auxiliaries have shared in conduct of evening meetings. Average attendance of 125 over past month have broken bread. Messages from H. Saunders, F. Mor-

gan, B. J. Combridge and F. Manning have been much appreciated. H.M. offering was £23/6/-. Cottage prayer meetings continue to be well attended. Dec. 9 meeting was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Dowling (Werrabee) when 30 attended. District Conference was held at Sunshine on Nov. 25, with L. Trezise as speaker. S. Smart has again taken over leadership of choir. After long period of illness, Mrs. W. Porter was able to attend church, and Mrs. Swallow has recovered after serious illness. £33/16/- was raised by ladies for Nurses' Home appeal. On Dec. 10, all auxiliaries contributed toward thankoffering, which amounted to £295. K.S.P. and P.B.P. clubs celebrated annual banquet on 3rd, and at annual trophy night, Sylvia Bonney received trophy for best and fairest in basketball competition, Moya McCrackett won literary competition, and N. Somsie the "Brian Saunders" memorial cup.

Frankston (H. R. Coventry). — On Nov. 27, Mr. Coventry was welcomed back from his trip to India; church expresses grateful thanks to all who assisted during his absence. At close of evening service on Dec. 4, Mr. Coventry showed films, which he took in India. Successful church anniversary dinner was held on 7th, approx. 75 attending. Films, musical items, and talk by R. C. Bolduan added to occasion. W.M.B. held final meeting for year on 1st, in home of Mrs. Paterson. Mrs. Coventry spoke of experiences in India. Sister Mildren is still indisposed through illness.

Hartwell (H. J. Patterson, M.A.). — Additional accommodation has been provided at manse in erection by voluntary labor at a very moderate cost of a small bungalow. Church services have been much helped throughout year by church choir, and on Dec. 4 by a men's choir, while on 11th a youth choir sang Christmas carols. Among visitors have been Miss Birch (Burwood), Mrs. Myers (Lockhart, N.S.W.), and Mr. and Mrs. Webb (S.A.). On Dec. 11, men of church gave old folk of Guest Homes a car outing. Mrs. N. J. Warmbrunn is in Will H. Clay Nursing Home. Church sorrows in death of Geo. Everett.

North Williamstown (H. E. R. Steele). — Temple Day offering closed at £281. Good group of Y.P. are attending gospel services. Mrs. Thomson was recipient of gifts from church, prior to changing her residence to Ferntree Gully. Various auxiliaries have held Christmas socials. Young Explorers were successful in winning two pennants. Monthly B.S. tea was held on Dec. 11, and films, *Basket of Blessing*, and *As For Me and My House*, were screened at gospel

service. After-church fellowships have been held in homes of Mesdames R. Hope, A. Haskell and R. Millard. H.M. offering exceeded quota set by Board.

Red Hill (J. Sutton). — Ladies held meeting on Dec. 7, when Mrs. Warne (East Kew) was guest speaker and Mrs. Holmes, soloiste. Prayer meeting is well attended and attendances at gospel meetings show a marked improvement.

Preston (J. E. Searle). — Average attendance of 220 for Nov. is highest for many years in the B.S. Kinder Christmas treat on Dec. 3 was great success, with 169 present. Women's Fellowship concluded splendid year's work on Nov. 30, when 30 spent day at Warrandyte. Presentations were made to pres., Mrs. Searle, and sec., Mrs. Rayner, for outstanding service. Meetings continue to be well attended. During Nov. there were two additions by faith and baptism, and one by letter. Church has sent letters of congratulation to its oldest member, Mrs. C. Johnson, who celebrated her 105th birthday on Dec. 7. Mr. Searle visited her at Emmaus Rest Home and a presentation was made from members.

Ascot Vale. — Camberwell choir gave splendid concert on 1st, which was much appreciated by large audience. Kinder held annual Christmas party on 3rd. Women's Auxilliary raised £22 with street stall, and over the year £135 has been collected and distributed for brotherhood work. Church has suffered loss in sudden death of Mrs. Marshall, who for many years served as church organiste, kinder pianiste, and in all church work.

Peel-st., Ballarat. — On Nov. 20 a baptismal service was held by Mr. Graham, when one young lady was baptised and later received into church. B.S. anniversary was held Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, when children sang well under leadership of A. Graham. Cradle Roll was called when cards and posies were handed to mothers by Mrs. N. Floate and A. Graham. Scholars took part in afternoon service, and in evening G. Reed interested with his address. Following Sunday, A. Graham was speaker. Children's tea was held on Dec. 8, prizes were distributed and film screened. Over 60 children were in attendance. On 11th, C.E. conducted evening service under leadership of Misses R. Birch and R. Hall and Mr. Anstis. Speaker at morning service was Mr. Feary. Miss Owen is home, after being several weeks in hospital.

Bendigo (R. V. Holmes). — At morning service on Dec. 4, preacher spoke on "liquor hours" question. In evening Y.P. ably presented *A Christmas Pageant* to large congregation. Hall

renovation fund benefited from successful variety concert on 7th. Graham Owins (Woolwich) addressed morning worship on 11th. At evening service there was one decision. Clubs and auxiliaries are in recess. Ladies' Bowls Club concluded year by distributing £40 to various funds. Good Companions enjoyed visit to Echuca club on 3rd.

Blackburn (S. Neighbour, B.A.). — Church and B.S. rejoice with nine scholars in the making of their decision. Good Companions enjoyed evening at City Baths on Dec. 10. Explorers and Good Companions held service of thanksgiving on 11th. Film, *The Kindled Flame*, was screened. Phi Betas announce with regret that Mrs. D. V. McDowell has resigned as their leader. B.S. pianist, K. Hodgins, is in camp doing N.S.T. W.M.B. farewelled Mrs. Neighbour at their last meeting, and expressed appreciation for her gracious help and contribution to the work.

Carnegie (A. R. Lloyd). — Women's missionary group held final meeting for year on Dec. 8. Guest speaker was Mrs. H. R. Coventry, who spoke on recent visit to India. All auxiliaries have broken up for holiday period. After-church hymn singing was held on 11th, led by S. Wilkers, followed by tea and biscuits served by tennis club. Two ladies came forward for reconsecration, and two girls made their decision.

Malvern (W. J. Thomson). — Many Christmas functions have taken place, including Explorers, Good Companions, Tennis club, B.S. party and kinder Christmas tea and tree. Ladies Dept. had successful final afternoon, which was a *Second Mile Thanksgiving*, decorations and afternoon tea being supplied by Mesdames Griffith, Hart and E. Smith. A. H. C. Pfeifer has accepted appointment as B.S. supt. Church regrets losing Miss Suzanne Leng, as she returns to her home at Mildura. Mrs. Eames had successful operation at Alfred Hospital, but has again been sick.

St. Kilda. — F. Manning (Mission to Lepers) conducted evening service on Nov. 20, showing films of work. Several visitors were present, including C. P. Hughes (S.A.), a former preacher. Ladies' Fellowship visited Emmaus Rest Home on 23rd. There were two baptisms on 27th. D. Ferguson (West Preston), after many weeks' help to church, conducted his final service on Dec. 11. Film, *What is a Christian?* was screened. A large attendance included a group from West Preston. A young married woman made her decision for Christ. C.E. took active part in carol singing and gift distribution at Caulfield Hospital and Keith House, Balaclava.

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Mrs. C. B. Ratcliffe (late Nauru)
have much pleasure in announcing
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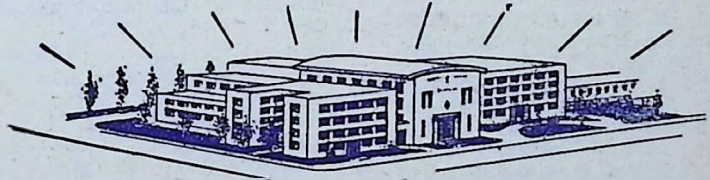
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65th Anniversary Minyip Church, Vic.

The sixty-fifth anniversary and home-coming services of the church at Minyip, Vic., were held on Nov. 12 and 13.

On the Saturday an enjoyable fellowship tea was provided by the ladies of the church at the Memorial Hall, where over sixty sat down.

Past members were present from Portland, Horsham, Warracknabeal, Mildura, Stawell and Nhill. Representatives were also present from the sister churches in the Wimmera. Cr. S. Westerland extended a civic welcome to all visitors.

J. C. Cunningham (Stawell) presided. The evening meeting in the chapel commenced with a song service, led by H. M. Long (Horsham).

Many greetings were received from past members unable to attend, some from pioneer members. Mrs. M. E. Goudie, of Kyneton, wrote: "It was in 1886 that W. D. Little, preacher of the church at Murtoa, came to Laen, and preached the gospel of Christ in the Mechanics Hall. Later these brethren were among the foundation members of the church which was organised at Dunmunkle." Among some of the early members were the Leng and Smith families, Flett, Mrs. Ryland, Inglis, Sanderson and Jackson. Among the preachers were W. G. Oram, A. R. Benn, E. Griffiths, H. Gray, H. Leng, A. W. Connor, W. Tomlinson, T. Ghent, and W. Burgess.

Mrs. A. R. Benn (Kaniva), Mrs. A. W. Connor, Mrs. E. Sindrey (Melbourne) and Mrs. R. A. Davis (Chinchilla, Qld.) sent warm Christian greetings and recalled memories and happy fellowship in the earlier days.

Guest speaker was F. C. Hunting (Ballarat). Several past members took part in the Sunday morning meeting. J. Blake and A. R. Rivett read, and J. R. Berry presided.

At the evening service about sixty were present, when A. R. Rivett led the song service. Mr. Hunting gave challenging and inspiring messages at both meetings.

Appreciated musical help came from Miss Lorna Rogers (Warracknabeal), Mr. and Mrs. Long, and Mrs. J. C. Cunningham. All too soon a time of Christian reunion and happy fellowship came to a close.

BIRTHS

GILMORE (nee Macindoe). — On Nov. 26, to Neil and Joy, God has given a son—John Charles.

WAKEFIELD (Bradley). — On Dec. 9, 1955, at Balrnisdale, Vic., to Rita and Don, a daughter—Anne Christine. Sister to Glenda, Janice and Peter.

At the Southern District Convention, Kellevie, Tas., early in Nov., there was an attendance of about 130 at the communion service on the Sunday morning, when T. Orr (Sandhill) presided, and B. J. Golder (West Hobart) spoke. A similar attendance was at the youth meeting in the afternoon, when a play, *The Shining Way*, was presented by the Kellevie B.S. scholars. A solo was given by Mrs. M. Davis, and B. Golder, M. Davis and W. Rushton gave brief and helpful messages. In the evening H. Street (Hobart) addressed a meeting in the Bream Creek Hall. This was the commencement of a mission, continuing for a fortnight with E. Taylor (Nubeena-Highcroft-Kellevie) alternating as speaker.

The year 1954 saw the Gospels translated into seven new languages, according to a report released by the American Bible Society. At least one

DEATH

GRAHAM. — On Dec. 6, at St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Ida, beloved member and secretary of the Nth. Richmond Women's Mission Band.

"We loved her well,
But Jesus loved her best, good-night."

IN MEMORIAM

COOK. — In loving memory of my dear husband and father, James Cook, who passed to higher service on Dec. 18, 1937.

"We will walk together side by side in the eventide."

—Inserted by his wife, Bessie and family.

TONKES. — Loving memories of our dear sister who passed away Dec. 18, 1950.

"Forever in our hearts."

—Inserted by her loving sister, Mary, and brother-in-law, George.

ENGAGEMENT

CLELAND—WILLIAMS. — The engagement is announced of Dorothy, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Cleland, Ringwood East, Vic., to Phillip, only son of the late Mr. W. Williams, and Mrs. E. Williams, Ascot Vale, Vic.

FORREST—LANGDON. — The engagement is announced of Elsie Anne, second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Forrest, Busselton, W.A., to Kenneth Ewin, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Langdon, 7 McMillan-st., Hamilton, Vic.

KERRISON—KINRADE. — Mr. and Mrs. E. Kerrison, Winter-st., Malvern, Vic., have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter Elizabeth, to John, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Kinrade, Dorset-rd., Boronia, Vic.

book of the Bible has been published in each of 1,084 languages and dialects since the printing of the Gutenberg Bible about 500 years ago.

Dr. J. C. Breakey, Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, Ireland, recently said he wondered if the time would not soon come when ministers would refuse to lend themselves to the mockery of marrying in church people who had no religion. He wondered if the time would not come when ministers should go on strike and refuse to be so used by people who wanted the church merely as a picturesque setting to the wedding, and who, once married, promptly turned their backs upon it, never to enter its doors again.

OBITUARY

Elva E. Lanyon (nee Perryman).

The sudden Home call of Mrs. Evan Lanyon on Sept. 26 at Boort Bush Nursing Hospital, Vic., at the age of 24 years, was sadly felt by her kinsfolk, fellow-members and friends in the district. Our sister made her stand for Christ in the Hinrichsen mission at Balwyn in 1945 and was baptised in the Balwyn church of Christ by Mr. Hurren. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Perryman (isolated members living at Borung). On her marriage to Evan Lanyon of Boort, she transferred her membership to Boort, where, as president of Women's Mission Band, she worked hard for missions. A true Christian and wonderful daughter, wife and mother, she has earned her Lord's, "well done." After a service at the Boort chapel, she was laid to rest at Boort Cemetery, Mr. Frost reading the service. Sympathy is extended to Evan, and son Trevor, and all the kinsfolk.—E.E.P.

Lily May Saggars.

The Subiaco church, W.A., was overwhelmed with sorrow when it was announced in the evening service on Nov. 27, that a cable had been received that evening from the Strathaird, telling of the death of Mrs. Saggars, for whom relatives had been preparing a welcome home for the following day. With her daughter, Joan, and her sister, Miss G. Stephenson, Mrs. Saggars had spent an enjoyable holiday in England and Europe, and, after an absence of eight months, was only a few days from home when she met with an accident and succumbed to her injuries the day before the ship berthed. Our sister was a member of the church for more than 50 years. She came into the church at North Fremantle when a young girl. For the past 26 years she was a beloved member of the Subiaco church. Our late sister was a gracious Christian lady, loved

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and honored by all who knew her.
There was a large and sympathetic
congregation at Subiaco on Dec. 4,
when reference was made to her
strong faith and beautiful life. Her
body was laid to rest in the Karra-
katta Cemetery in the presence of a
large and representative gathering. To
Ian and Joan, to her brothers and
sisters, and others who mourn her
passing, we tender the profoundest
sympathy of the Subiaco church and
the whole of the Western brotherhood.
—R.R.

Ida Graham.

The church at Coppin-st., North
Richmond, Vic., lost one of its most
faithful workers in the Home call
of our sister, Miss Ida Graham. Hun-
dreds of children, over the years,
came in contact with her and learned
of Jesus Christ. The Bible school
and Endeavor work were part and
parcel of her life. The Women's
Mission Band lost a faithful sec-
retary. She loved to help and en-
courage our missionaries, and took
an interest in every phase of church
life — both local and brotherhood.
As a deaconess she was most faith-
ful in her visitation of the sick and
"shut-in." At the service in the chapel
on Friday, Dec. 9, H. Earle referred
to her humility and faithfulness. He
made special reference to her "social
service" work in the community. Be-
fore our Victorian Social Service
Dept. came into existence, our sister,
along with two or three others, car-
ried out social service work. The
writer conducted the service at the
Box Hill Cemetery. We commend the
loved ones of our sister to our
Heavenly Father. As we think of the
life of our sister, devoted to the
church, we are reminded of the Mas-
ter's words, "He that is greatest
among you shall be your servant."
A great worker has gone to her
reward.—R.McK.

George Everett.

On the afternoon of Dec. 7, Geo.
Everett was called into that other
room where Jesus is. For many years
past he has been a patient sufferer.
It is more than fifty years since his
conversion in London under Archibald
Brown, a Baptist minister. On coming
to Australia he associated with the
church at Lake-st., Perth, during the
ministry of W. B. Blakemore. Later
he had fellowship with the following
churches: Vic.—Croydon, Mitcham,
Gore-st., Fitzroy, Nth. Fitzroy and
Sunshine; in N.S.W.—Bexley Nth.,
Tempe and Rockdale. In some of
these churches he exercised a minis-
try in the Word. Even in recent
years he gave religious instruction
in schools. One may say that during
these last years he was "made per-
fect through suffering." In spite of

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it all, his faith was undimmed and his lovely smile and trusting word were revelations of that deep assurance in his heart of the Saviour's love. He was always ready to say a good word for Jesus Christ. On Dec. 9 we laid his tired body to rest in the Box Hill Cemetery, the writer conducting the service. Sympathy is expressed to the widow and family, but they are assured of the certain hope we have in Christ.—H.J.P.

Susanna Violet Petterd.

The Warrnambool church, Vic., suffered a great loss with the death of Mrs. S. V. Petterd on the morning of Nov. 26, at the age of 74. Mrs. Petterd had had a long association with the church, having been a member of the Warrnambool congregation for 52 years. During that time she was a faithful and loyal supporter of the church, and served actively in a number of ways. She was for many years the kindergarten supt. and also served for a period as Cradle Roll supt. Our late sister also took an active part and interest in the ladies' work of the church. The congregation which filled the chapel on the following Monday was a magnificent tribute to the memory and worth of our late sister. Mrs. Petterd will be missed from the life of the church, and also by the members of her family, to whom we extend our deepest Christian sympathy. After such a long period of loving service to Christ and the Church, it was with a certain sense of thanksgiving that we were able to speak during the service in the chapel on the text, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." We give thanks to God because at the chapel, and again at the graveside, we were able to declare the great Christian message of hope and victory over death.—K.W.B.

Johann Richter.

Our late brother, Mr. Richter, passed to be with his Lord, having died peacefully in his sleep, on Monday, Nov. 21. He was 78 at the time of his death. His association with Churches of Christ goes back many years, and of recent years he was an isolated member of the Warrnambool church, Vic. After a service at the funeral parlors he was laid to rest in the Warrnambool Cemetery. Loving Christian sympathy is extended to his wife and other members of the family.—K.W.B.

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