

The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ

On Being Ready to Speak a Word for Jesus

MANY Christians shrink from the testimony of their faith because they are under the impression that it requires special theological training or that it is apt to embroil them in discussion and argument. Both assumptions are wrong; and that they exist is in itself an indictment of the visible church of Christ as an organisation which has lost the clear understanding of its mission. The kingdom of God comes like a mustard seed and a leaven. God has chosen the base things of this world to confound the mighty. The shepherds and the fishermen were the first witnesses. God is able of stones to raise up children to Abraham, out of the mouths of babes and sucklings he has ordained praise. The Christian's witness, the kerygma of Christ, is not a matter of profession and acumen. It is the simple statement to the next man that the witness has known Christ and has found him to be Lord and Saviour, and wants to share him with others.

Nevertheless the fact remains that the average Christian does find himself plagued by ineptitude or awkwardness when the time comes to witness of Christ. That means that the whole mighty programme which God set into motion at Calvary and fostered through the Word and the Spirit and made alive in the Christian man through the life of love, now is in danger of stalling at the very point that it is ready to produce the life in the person at whom it aims. How can the Christian man overcome this lag and block?

Let us remember what he is doing. He is speaking to a person who has seen that Christ lives in the Christian; who has discovered that the Christian man loves. That means that the Christian's witness must begin with that fact. He cannot resort to detours and subterfuges like "I wish you would talk to my minister," or "Come along to church with me sometime," or "You ought to know what my church does for people." But the Christian now needs to talk about what Jesus has meant to him himself. If he has any idea, he will have some simple words for it; and the simpler they are, the truer and better. "When we found that we could be sure of God as our Father, through Jesus Christ, then prayer became easy; then we knew we could go back to God also when we slipped; then we knew that God lived with us every day, and that we could use him and put his life to work every day; then we found that there were things in life worth more than money; then it became easier to want to help other people, and we still don't manage to do more than a quarter of what we should like to do for people; then we found that being a good person is not simply doing good things on the surface, but finding God at work down inside of us," and so on in many variations.—Dr. R. R. Caemmerer.



A RISING TIDE IN EVANGELISM

AMERICA.

Growing Revival

BILLY GRAHAM, his party, and I, were supposed to fly from Los Angeles to Minneapolis the morning after his great meeting in the Pasadena Rose-bowl, which was attended by more than 60,000 people delighted to recall the first most-blessed campaign in Los Angeles a year ago. The end of his powerful address was marked by the shrieking opposition of a demon-possessed woman trying to hinder the thousands of seekers from going forward. After the meeting Dr. Graham was restless, so he decided to fly that same night. He was the only one without a ticket, so the party proceeded on a crowded plane minus one, for I have no objection to staying a while longer in Los Angeles any time, an idea shared by my wife. Next day I flew to Chicago alone.

Stopping off between planes to see my friends, I discovered that Mervin Rosell was commencing a Chicago campaign in the great Orchestra Hall on the famous Michigan Boulevard, sponsored by "Youth for Christ." Until the start of the present revival, I had known Mervin Rosell as a witty, wise-cracking, popular and successful "Youth for Christ" evangelist. But in 1949, in the prayer meetings of the ministers, Rosell publicly abased himself, and announced his determination to obey the Spirit henceforth in all things.

Last spring Dr. Rosell's Long Beach campaign in California attracted huge crowds and won many souls to Christ, by the hundreds. This summer he moved into Kansas City, where a strange thing happened, for the pastors of the city came and begged him to preach first to them and their church members on revival. The Holy Spirit was outpoured, and the city manager of Kansas City postponed an \$18,000 painting contract to allow the evangelist to continue an extra week and then another. Attendances were in the tens of thousands, so that streets had to be roped off for the overflow crowds.

Rosell's next move was to Des Moines, for an "Iowa for Christ" campaign. Extraordinary blessing followed. Authorities allowed him to pitch a 2000-seat tent on the Capitol lawn, then another seating 5000, and another 5000. Imagine 12,000 and more nightly meeting almost under the dome of the great State legislature! The governor was deeply moved, and the climax came when he and Mervin led a prayer meeting of 30,000 on their knees on the Capitol steps. Since then, the revival has gone into the churches, with the revived pastors leading their own meetings.

So I felt that the Spirit had led me to miss the plane in order to hear Rosell's message. I was amazed at his preaching, a truly prophetic utterance. He wasted no time denouncing absent modernists, but instead pitched into the fighting fundamentalists, exposing their complacency, belligerency, and utterly wrong eschatology which allowed them to hide behind the Laodicean theory of no revival. Some were insulted, but the power of God began to fall. —Dr. J. Edwin Orr.



GREECE.

Police Action Against Blasphemy

BLASPHEMY has become a punishable offence under a decree issued by the Chief of Police in Athens. Religious News Service (New York) reports.

Severe penalties are prescribed for insulting saints, clergymen, religious ideas or objects, or Greek national traditions. Songs, recordings and printed matter are included in the ban.

TOGOLAND

New Religious Choral Music

THE August number of "Vie Nouvelle," the Protestant journal of Black Africa, published at Douala in the Cameroons, contains an interesting article on religious choral music in Togoland.

The author writes: "The non-Christian religions of our country also have their religious songs. Most of them are very beautiful and the words are really inspired. Unfortunately the art of composition was nearly lost when the old religions disappeared.

"In nearly all circles the native songs are being replaced by Christian hymns. The missionaries have brought us Christian hymns. These hymns have been translated into the Ewe language, which is the literary language of the country. At the present time we have 481 hymns.

"Although the European hymns and chants are beautiful and famous, they do not adequately supply the spiritual needs of us Africans, with our different feelings and our different way of expressing them. Recently, however, several African Christians like Amu, Yeboa, Appo and others have written hymns whose freshness appeals to all. In some cases the words of the original pagan composers are retained; some of them even retain the old melody, slightly modified. These hymns set the real tone for the people of Togoland during the Christian festivals."



EUROPE.

Churches of Latin Countries

A CONFERENCE was held at Torre Pellice from Sept. 25-28, under the chairmanship of Pastor Marc Boegner, one of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches. This conference had been convened by the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches, and was attended by representatives of the Latin countries of Europe. Official delegates were sent from the Protestant churches of Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland, and representatives from other churches in Europe, the U.S.A. and Latin America were also present. The delegates from these churches which (with the exception of Switzerland) are all minority churches, were able to examine their common problems together for the first time. Three commissions were formed, one on evangelism, one on youth and the church, and the third on religious liberty.

After hearing and adopting the reports of the two first commissions, the conference passed two resolutions, one being on religious liberty.

"The conference of the churches in the Latin countries of Europe summoned by the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches, after examining the situation of the minority churches in several countries of Western Europe, feels called upon to denounce emphatically the denial of religious liberty, or the various obstacles placed in its path, in certain countries with a Roman Catholic majority.

"The conference reaffirms the declaration of the Amsterdam Assembly in the following four points, which are valid for each national or confessional situation:

"1. Every person has the right to determine his own faith and creed.

"2. Every person has the right to express his religious beliefs in worship, teaching and prac-

tion, and to proclaim the implications of his beliefs for relationships in a social or political community.

"3. Every person has the right to associate with others and to organise with them for religious purposes.

"4. Every religious organisation, formed or maintained by action in accordance with the rights of individual persons, has the right to determine its policies and practices for the accomplishment of its chosen purposes."



OKINAWA.

Crisis in Missionary Co-operation

SPEAKING to a conference sponsored by the Far Eastern Joint Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, held in New York and attended by more than 100 mission board executives from major Protestant groups, Dr. Thoburn T. Brumbaugh, Methodist missionary leader, said that the unwillingness of Christian groups to work on an interdenominational basis in Okinawa threatens to demoralise Christian work on that island.

Dr. Brumbaugh said that a number of mission groups who had recently entered the island were "totally disregarding the agreement reached shortly after the war that Christian work in Okinawa should be done on a co-operative basis."

He warned that should this practice continue it would undermine the United Church of Christ in Okinawa, the main Protestant body to which the great bulk of Okinawa Christians belong.



AUSTRIA.

Centenary and Fresh Departure

ON Sept. 24 the Vienna branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society celebrated the centenary of the foundation of the society's first branch in Austria. During this century the distribution of Bibles has frequently been interrupted; one reason for this was the measures taken by the Government under the pressure of the Roman Catholic Church, in spite of the efforts of the Council of the Protestant Church; another reason was political events. Since the end of the war the Government's liberal policy and the collaboration of the Protestant churches (both historical and free) through the Austrian Bible Committee have enabled satisfactory progress to be made.

Bishop Berggrav, honorary president, and one of the founders of the World Bible Alliance, who was recently elected one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches, preached at the special morning service. The general secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society Mr. Platt, Bishop Berggrav and the representatives of several Bible societies spoke during the commemoration service, which was attended in the afternoon by about 2000 people, including several outstanding personalities in the government and the church.

On this occasion the World Bible Alliance held a regional conference of representatives of Bible societies, mainly Europeans; the chief items on the agenda were questions of distribution, the relations between Bible societies and churches, and the Biblical renewal in the Roman Catholic church. The unanimous desire was expressed that the churches and parishes would co-operate in promoting the study of the Bible in all Christian circles.



DR. MARTIN NIEMOLLER visited England in November under the auspices of the Movement for World Evangelisation. His evangelistic meetings were held at London and other centres.

One Examination After Another

WITH the end of the year examinations face students. After months of preparation and study their work is put to the test. Some of the problems set may seem far removed from the routine of life, and may appear to involve a waste of time. But life is full of unexpected tests. An examination does indicate whether a student is able to wrestle successfully with this or that situation. While the particular problems of an examination may never be faced again, it must be realised that all life is crowded with situations that must be overcome. To learn in the examination room how to conquer these tests will enable a person to weigh and judge the facts of life, and then to make wise decisions. So, despite the fact that examinations are not always popular, they do provide valuable training for those who are setting out on life's journey. Perhaps examination methods might be in need of a change, but examinations themselves do prepare us for life, and cannot be ignored.

II.

WHAT is play if it is not also a repetition of tests? In a race, the problem is how to run skilfully and to overcome those set against us. A ball must be thrown or hit to gain some advantage. So long as games do not become the end of life, as in professional sport, it helps to prepare youth for the struggle of life. Once it used to be said that the battles of Britain were won on the playing fields of her schools. He who is able to overcome the various tests set at colleges is well equipped for some of the more difficult tasks of life.

Jesus had twelve men whom he trained. Before he left them to carry out the great commission entrusted to them, he set them a less difficult task so as to test their training; he sent them out, two by two, among their own country-men. How did they fare in that examination? All the men returned rejoicing. They had come up against problems and came into conflict with the power of Satan, but, in everything, they were able to see the victorious effect of their preaching of the gospel. These good results were but a foretaste of better things to come.

Jesus made it clear that life is like an examination. He told of men who had been given talents. One man used his five talents so well he increased them to ten, another doubled his two. Put to the test, those men passed with great credit. One man who was asked to care for one talent failed. He was too lazy or faithless to pass the trial his master set him. He had the ability to care for one talent; he was not asked to do something beyond the measure of his strength, but even then he failed. The Lord requires of us that we face up to our obligations. He expects us to be faithful in the various responsibilities placed upon us.

III.

BEHIND life there lies the shadow of the judgment that comes from sin. To consider that life is a voyage on a sea, always calm and pleasant, is to ignore many lessons. Numerous voyages end in shipwreck. The vessel has not been able to weather the tests of the storms. The gospel has no meaning unless it is presented against the background of what Christ called hell. In many of the parables Jesus taught, he warned men of judgment to come. Behind the preaching of Paul there was also the dark threat of the "wages of sin." This background to the gospel made Paul preach with a sense of urgency. He was prepared to become a castaway, if he could, in some way, awaken his people to their danger.

Once, when Dr Jowett was giving a lecture, he referred to the gospel as "good news." A university professor asked this question of Dr. Jowett. If the gospel is

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good news, then there must be bad news. What is that bad news? The great preacher pointed out that the background of "hell" was always present when he presented the gospel. Although he rarely referred to the fact of the judgment to come, and pleaded with men in love, it was, nevertheless, behind all he had to say when preaching to men of the facts of the gospel.

IV.

JESUS never left men in doubt about the dangers they faced in this life and in the life to come. In vivid language he sent home to men the need for repentance. "Unless you repent," he once urged, "you shall all likewise perish." In the parable of the "Sheep and the Goats" he showed that men and women are being put to the test in such little acts as the giving of a cup of cold water in his name to one in need. Those who fail to measure up to the examination of life will face the doom and judgment revealed in the teaching of Jesus. Not until the church recaptures the background of "bad news" behind the gospel will the good news be preached with urgency and as to dying men.



LET'S GO ROUND THE WORLD

A WORLD picture of how the Christian church is faring may be seen in the 1950 report of the British and Foreign Bible Society; this is entitled, "Make the Tree Good." As we read the fascinating story of the appeal the Bible makes to peoples of all races, we travel through most of Europe, to the Middle East, down to Africa, in the vast areas of Asia, across to the Americas and then around the South Pacific.

This report also reveals the growing interest of Roman Catholics in the Bible. In Poland, the theological students at Krakow University have formed their own Bible study circle, and use Bibles obtained from the Bible Society depot at Warsaw. A leading Roman Catholic paper carried an article not long ago urging the reading of the Bible because "on it depends eternal life," while in another journal a Jesuit Father wrote, "Let it be understood that the sectarian Bible is not false—the Bible published by the British and Foreign Bible Society is complete except for the Book of the Maccabees. The secret of the success of the sectarians is that they read their Bibles. We must have Bible study in our Catholic associations. We ought to arrange colportage work among our people."

While this and similar opinions are as yet minority views amongst Roman Catholic priests, they are important indications of a growing concern. There is plenty of bigotry still to be encountered, the Bible Society's report states, particularly in country districts, but the tide is beginning to flow in another direction.

We are told stories like that of the gipsy in Germany who had been given a Bible, then taught himself to read so as to find out what was in the book. "I have read that book day and night," he said, "yes, until my eyes were sore. I thought to myself, surely someone will be coming along to explain things to me." The Bible woman then spoke to him of the gospel; she was amazed to learn how much he knew. When the words Paul spoke to the jailor in Philippi were read: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house," up sprang the gipsy and shouted, "Yes, and my caravan, too!"

We are told that one third of the human race possess the Christian scriptures; surely that fact provides sure ground for hope!

Great Days and Great Changes

Social Service Notes and Comments by Will. H. Clay.

ON Saturday next, Dec. 9, some hundreds of our brethren and sisters will gather at Christian Guest Home to celebrate another year's effort by women of churches of State towards meeting their objective. Last year they decided to accept the obligation for the payment of the Nurses' Hostel at Murrumbena, which approximates £12,000 and raised over £1400. They are aiming for £1500 this year. This represents organisation and sacrifice. For many years these occasions at the home have provided excellent fellowship when members from all parts, some from the country and even interstate, have joined in praise and thanksgiving for the tangible evidence of vision and growth in our social outlook which the Home affords. When the new home for women and the nursing home at Murrumbena are opened for service, which occasion is being planned for early in the New Year, accommodation will be provided, including the Oakleigh Home, for about 95 guests. It is impossible to give a definite date of opening at present. It can be said, however, that the new properties will incorporate much of the modern furnishings which go to make them up to date and a source of joy and satisfaction to contributors. Furniture and furnishings for the two homes will cost in the region of £7000. The committee is meeting the future in faith. They are confident that members, individually and collectively, will desire to have a part in donating some memorial article such as a bed, a chair, or even a room or a ward. Such donations will be appreciated. The cost of a nurse's room will approximate £80 and a ward in the Nursing Home from £220 to £420 according to size of the ward. Costs have more than doubled since we commenced the work. We have no alternative but to go right ahead.

Social Service.

The problems of social service have changed with the times. Following immediately after the depression, there was the need of food, clothing, and money to meet current expenses—needs that were beyond our power to meet adequately. To-day the problems are more often associated with plenty. High wages and better working conditions have almost completely reversed the order. Prosperity has produced greed and selfishness in many, until there appears to be a wild scramble for things just beyond their reach. That which promised satisfaction has proved deceptive, and nothing really satisfies. The moral effect of these conditions is felt in the home and in human relations. Strikes and discontent amongst workers are evidence of this. High wages, shorter hours and amenities offered by wealthy concerns, the government being one of the foremost in this direction, have brought people from their homes into the labor market, and many homes are not what they were, or what they were intended to be. The married relation is sometimes strained. Children, 14 years of age, are being offered inducements to work which are altogether disproportionate to common values. Many children have too much money to spend on themselves, and they spend it with results which are only too apparent. This is where the social worker becomes involved. The physical problem has given way to the moral problem, and while both are serious, the latter, while not so obvious, is perhaps the more so. Paul was right, "The love of money is the root of all evil." The problem of housing is a major one which is responsible for others. Houses cannot continue to be overcrowded without dire physical and moral results. The solution is not as easy as some would have us believe. While we have wide differences of living and habits such as are occasioned by bad language, drink, and smoking, not to speak of behaviour, there is

bound to be a large section of the people who will not be prepared to surrender the sanctity and harmony of their homes to make room for others.

The Church and Peace.

An effort has been made to bring together ministers of religion in an attempt to find a common basis on which the Protestant churches could give voice to the will of God with regard to peace and international relationships. The World Council of Churches has recently made a statement which it was thought might be adopted as a minimum committal to which consent might be given. The Church of England refused to be associated with the effort and some leading ministers of other churches have excused themselves. In the meantime the message of peace which rightly belongs to the church, is left almost entirely to Communists and others who either rightly or wrongly are suspect. We confess to a feeling of disappointment and frustration. The position is not altogether without hope. Some good men of the respective churches are determined to continue their efforts. It seems certain that a big section of the church is more ready to give the world what it wants rather than what it needs, and many ministers are less willing to obey the dictates of scripture than those of the State.

Mental Institutions.

R. K. Gerrard to whom you refer in "A.C." Nov. 21, is to be complimented on his forthright articles on our mental institutions and the disgraceful and disgusting conditions which continue in spite of repeated reports which have

been made for more than 30 years. Successive governments have made the excuse that for one reason and another—the latest is shortage of labor and materials—the needed reforms have not been possible. As one who had the privilege of "lifting the covers" of our institutions and seeing for himself, I am firmly of the opinion that until we are prepared to spend as liberally in the treatment of mental sickness as we are in physical sickness, the unfortunate mental patient will continue to suffer the present barbarous conditions. The chief medical authority of our Victorian Mental Hygiene Department has stated that in cases where treatment is given within three months of the appearance of the trouble, about 80 per cent. have a good chance of recovery. In cases that are allowed to continue without treatment for twelve months the position is reversed, 80 per cent. have little chance of recovery. This suggests the necessity for increasing the facilities for obtaining treatment and for individual treatment which is sadly lacking at present. The average cost of the treatment of the mental patient in our public institutions is little in excess of £2 weekly, while the average cost per bed per week in our public hospitals for bodily ills is between £10 to £14. The staff position which is acute due largely to competitive wages and conditions, which place mental institutions at a disadvantage, constitutes a problem which is likely to grow with consequences too dreadful to contemplate.

A Merry Christmas.

Members of the church are invited to express their good wishes through the Social Service Department. The season offers a special opportunity to Christians to give effect to their good wishes and to share their happiness with others.

Example Better Than Precept

Charles Young.

"These things ye have seen in me do."

IF we are living by deeds in the Christian way of life, we shall not need to talk about it, but if we are not living it, we had better not.

The town clock was ticking the most precious moments away, tram cars and buses were moving along at regular periods. The busy multitude was rushing to and fro. I had a few minutes to spare and was busily preparing myself for a trying duty, viz., the conducting of a funeral service, when more than three hundred men would pay their tribute to a fellow Mason. As I waited an elderly man came and sat beside me. As he did he remarked, "Another good man has gone the way of all flesh; his was a life of good deeds, not words." We chatted for a minute or two, and then he said, "I am an old man now, and I have never tasted strong drink or smoked, and have to the best of my ability sought to live the Christian life in deeds not words. For long years I was a teacher in one of our leading boys' schools, and had much to do in preparing lads for sporting events. Believing that strong drink was not helpful, I decided to be what I wanted the boys to be."

Would to God we had more men that would take such a stand. But it is easier to give

certain medicine than to take it. To preach the great truths, which Christ taught is much easier than living them in daily life. One ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory. Men will argue about almost everything, but no one can argue against the life that is Christ-like. The world is in need of men and women who will love as Christ loved, live as he lived, and show the same spirit as he showed.

Jesus went about doing good, not talking about it. When chaplain in the forces I always advised professing Christian lads that, if they were living in deeds the Christ-like life, they would not need to tell men they were Christians; the men would soon discern what manner of persons they were. Some time ago a Communist was giving a "pep" talk to a group of men, when a sincere Christian man sought to defend the Christian way of life, but he was no match for the Communist who figuratively "wiped" the floor with him. At the close of the lecture, some of the men went to the speaker and said, "We'd like you to know that if there is any man living the Christian life, it is the man you dismissed—we're not happy about the way you did it." It was to his credit that he sought the man out and apologised.

In one of his letters the Apostle Paul told a group of Christians that they had lived so magnificently that he had no need to speak anything.

"Yes, example is better than precept." "These things ye have seen in me do." Let us try it!

Friendly Indian Villages

Notes submitted by A. Anderson.

MISS HAZEL SKUCE, who left for India early in 1949, has now reached the interesting stage when she can contact the Indian people. She can now put into practice what she has learned through many weary hours of language study, and finds some joy in being able to speak a little and be understood, as well as to hear and to understand. Here she tells of some interesting experiences:

"I am gradually getting to know the people out in the villages, and I am looking forward to spending more time among them. Last Tuesday week Shawantibai Salvi and I spent the day at a place called Malegav. This is about five miles from Baramati, but going by bullock cart it takes time. There are no Christians in this village, but we received a very warm welcome from the people, plus many cups of tea. I am gradually getting a likening for Indian tea! It was around 5 o'clock and we had decided that we would visit the Mahar section before going back to the cart. We were about half way up to the Mahar wada, when we met a Mohammedan woman coming in from the field. We stopped and opened up a conversation with her. She enquired who we were, and when she was told she invited us home to her house. We accepted the invitation. There were six adults in the house and a number of children. With the children that followed us in, we had a crowd of about thirty to speak to. It was far too late after we left this woman's house to go on any further, but I felt that it was the Lord's leading, and that he wanted that contact made with that family of Mohammedans.

"Last Tuesday Shawantibai and I spent the day in the Bheranpur village. I couldn't help

but notice, with what interest the people listened to us. There is no need for us to gather the people. When they see us coming they start and call their own friends to come and to listen. We say home that, over a cup of tea, all barriers are broken down. I think that the same thing happens here; you can get a long way over a cup of tea.

"In all the homes that I visited, I could not but help and notice the continual reference that was made to the grain. Now that the ration has been cut again, the people just don't know how they will find enough food. In the morning, while we were in Bheranpur, we decided that we should do one end of the town and in the afternoon the other. The morning's work went as planned, but instead of us



Miss Hazel Skuce,
Now happy in evangelistic work among Indian women.

going to the people in the afternoon they came to us. First of all I played a number of gospel recordings to them, and then Shawantibai came in with a very clear gospel talk. If we had stayed here a few hours longer, we would have had the people listening. We cannot as yet see any outward results, but the seed has been sown, and we know that it will be watered by the Holy Spirit. The Lord will bring forth the increase in his own season."



GOODWILL AT DIKSAL.

"During the last two weeks I have been experimenting in operating a small dispensary here. It is open for two hours each morning, and seems to be worth the effort. Ever since our arrival here there has been steady enquiry as to when a dispensary would be opened. The beneficial ministry of Mr. Escott in this sphere has been remembered. Recently our preacher and Bible-women have been met with the demand, "Don't preach to us; tell us first when the dispensary will be opened." Again we have no transport here for reaching the villages, the bullocks having died last year. Thus our preaching team have to go by foot to the nearer hutments. But the dispensary brings the folk to us. Medical facilities are very poor here, the nearest reliable treatment being at Dhond. The dispensary gives me a great opportunity for witnessing to Christ. There is a wealth of goodwill towards our mission work here, such a contrast from what we hear of earlier days.— E. W. Heard, Diksal, India.

Church Activities, Q'ld.

R. Graham, B.A., writes an interesting cover of events, in his letter.

A HELPFUL feature of co-operative work amongst churches is the November half-yearly conference in a chosen country centre. This year's was at Rosewood, 35 miles from Brisbane. Large and enthusiastic meetings marked the various business and inspirational sessions which ran through from Friday to Sunday, Nov. 10 to 12.

Townsville, where C. J. Beale is minister, has been stimulated by a visitation evangelism campaign under leadership of D. Tonkin (Rockhampton) and J. Grant (Mackay). There were two decisions.

Our Brisbane churches get one A.B.C. broadcast each year. The morning service on Dec. 17 will come over 4QR from Albion church; C. H. J. Wright is to be the preacher.

As in other States, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher had large gatherings here. The City Hall was packed for his World Council meeting. We hazard the guess that Alexander Campbell's pen would not have been dipped in gall so often when referring to "the denominations" had he heard an Archbishop of Canterbury speak in such constructive and generous terms.

A new attempt to bridge the gap between employer and employee and between worker and church is being made by Mr. T. Rees Thomas, of the City Congregational church. He has

been appointed industrial chaplain to the Brisbane Tramways Union.

Two issues of church and community interest are coming up again in Queensland. One is State aid to denominational schools, and the other is religious education in State schools. A large proportion of secondary education is in the hands of the "church schools." Church schools are strong in Brisbane (where there is only one State High and one Industrial High School), and in provincial cities like Warwick, Toowoomba, Charters Towers and Rockhampton. Anglicans and Roman Catholics especially are strong in this field of education. The Anglican claim to State aid is for the boarding facilities, a needful service to many country children, which are not provided by State education. Religious education in State schools is given from without the school, and is not according to any agreed syllabus. Segregation of pupils according to denominational color is a strongly defended right. The Queensland Council of Churches is now studying the Victorian and West Australian schemes for religious education in State schools.

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Children's Crime and Mother

THE number of children brought before the Victorian Children's Courts was higher in 1949 than 1948 by 120, being 2893. Over the previous years there had been a steady decline. A suggested reason for this new drift is given in the 1949 report of the Children's Court. It states: "A situation akin to that existing during the period commonly known as the depression years is arising. In the depression the father of the family often could not obtain employment. Work of some kind for women was more available, and the mother had to provide for the family. At present the father of a family is almost always in employment, but notwithstanding the fact that he gets higher wages, living costs have risen to such an extent that in many homes the mother takes outside employment to help maintain the family."

"Obviously a mother, tired from a day's work outside her home, cannot run her home as efficiently as the mother who is able to devote the whole of her time to her household duties, nor can she cope as effectively with the problems of her children. Social workers view the situation with some alarm, as it is thought the absence of the mother from the home—either daily or at less frequent but regular intervals—must inevitably result in an increase in juvenile delinquency.

Of 497 children in charge of probation officers in 1949, 403 proved satisfactory; only 69 were unsatisfactory. "A noticeable feature emerging from the reports of probation officers is the number of cases where the home from which the offender comes is disorganised by the fact that the mother works in some occupation outside the home."

Commonwealth Round-Up

HERE AND THERE

Church at Stirling East and Aldgate Valley, S.A., has been heartened by recent revival campaign, and is indebted to N. Kingston, of Murray Bridge, for inspirational messages. Bright singing was a feature throughout, G. M. Cox being song-leader. Interest and numbers grew from first meeting on Nov. 16; there was a great meeting, 120 being present. Final meeting on Sunday evening was an inspiration, over 100 being present. During campaign one young man decided for Christ, and a mother and her five children have been gained to help in work at Aldgate Valley. Mr. Stewart did extensive visitation in district prior to campaign, and also visited many homes daily with Mr. Kingston during week of special meetings.

Inspiring services were held at Parkdale, Vic., on Nov. 26 on occasion of home-coming. Les. Brooker presided, and A. W. Stephenson gave an interesting address at morning service. A happy crowd enjoyed reunion at tea, when older members exchanged reminiscences. A challenge to young people eventuated from discussions. Ladies showed expert capabilities in serving of tea. One friend sent a decorated birthday cake. Despite transport difficulties many came long distances and chapel was packed at all services. One lady used two trams and a taxi to bring her young family of four (including 10 weeks old twins) from Essendon to attend morning service. Evening service, conducted by G. W. Barnett, was enhanced by delightful singing of Bohemian Male Quartette.

New Cause, Tootgarook

BETWEEN Rosebud and Sorrento, Vic., there is a growing population now about 2000, with very little organised church life to care for young or old. Mr. and Mrs. Magilton, who live at West Rosebud and who have been in membership with the church at Red Hill, became interested in commencing a Sunday school and in arranging church services. Red Hill brethren gave their support. There is in the area a new hall belonging to the Tootgarook Progress Association, in Carmichael-st. This has been made available to the new church at a very nominal rent. Already 27 children have attended morning Sunday school, and some 25 people have enjoyed the worship services of the church. Members able to assist this cause, particularly during the holiday season, are asked to contact Mr. Magelton, 95 Wayua-ave., West Rosebud, Vic.

Youth Mission at Whyalla, S.A.

NINETEEN young people, aged 12-16 years, mostly from non-church families, enrolled for a four-day crusade from Nov. 23 to 26. Gordon Stirling conducted it with help of Keith Caldicott, a member of the youth department, who had devoted his holidays to this kind of service. At culminating service on Sunday evening, four young people made their decision. A youth team has been built which will accomplish much more in future. Programme included games, meals, competitions, studies, films, worship, swimming, hiking and even a crabbing expedition on beach. Much serious work was done, and young people were greatly encouraged. The whole church received a big spiritual impetus from the crusade.

Catering was done by ladies, and church property was put at disposal of team. Members found much joy and profit in helping generously with effort.—K.N.R.

North Suburban Conference

UNDER leadership of W. Aitken the annual meeting was held at Reservoir, Vic., Nov. 14. 75 attended and 10 churches responded to roll-call. A. B. Withers led meeting in prayer and J. E. Searle read scriptures. Two solos, rendered by Mrs. Hing, were appreciated. Officers elected for coming year were: President, R. Burns; vice-president, Mr. Hing; treasurer and organist, L. Morflew; secretary, A. E. Wood. An informative discussion followed screening of a religious sound film, during which many voiced opinions regarding use of suitable sound films in gospel services. Mr. Withers moved and C. Page seconded a vote of thanks to president for his valuable service during past year.

Missionary Farewell Tea

VICTORIAN Overseas Missions' Committee arranged a farewell tea to honor Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Thomas and family, returning to their work at Baramati, India, and Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Skillicorn, missionaries-elect of the British missions in India. The function was held on Nov. 24, at 6 p.m., in Lygon-st. hall. Seventy guests, including relatives, interstate visitors and conference representatives, enjoyed a splendid tea prepared by Mrs. Lowery and helpers. Chairman of committee, J. Turner, presided. Messages of appreciation and farewell were delivered by E. L. Williams, president of Federal Conference; Mrs. J. Turner, president Federal Women's Conference; and A. B. Withers, president Victorian Conference. Mrs. Skillicorn and Mrs. Thomas thanked speakers for their good wishes. G. P. Pittman closed an inspirational gathering by a prayer of dedication.

By courtesy of the College of Bible Board of Management, missionaries were publicly farewelled by J. Turner. At graduation service at 8 p.m., Mrs. G. Washford, president Victorian Women's Conference, presented sheafs of beautiful flowers to missionary sisters. Suitable responses were made by C. V. Thomas and E. K. Skillicorn. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and family sailed on "Strathaird" on Nov. 29. Mr. and Mrs. Skillicorn and family will leave by "Himalaya" on Jan. 20, 1951.

Churches of Christ Bible College, N.S.W.

THE ninth year of Woolwich College was brought to a close by a service held in the City Temple on Nov. 24, 1950. The devotional session was led by students, N. Martin, R. W. Beadle and W. R. Rugendyke. Greetings were conveyed by N. Matthews, conference president.

The chairman, J. L. Stimson, referred to the loss of A. W. Ladbroke, M.A., senior lecturer, who had returned to South Africa early in October to undertake educational and evangelistic work on the mission field run by the New Zealand churches; he announced that Allen G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed., of Subiaco, W.A., had been appointed senior lecturer, and was expected to arrive in Sydney at the end of January. Mr. Elliott would also succeed A. W. Ladbroke as preacher for Kingsford church.

In calling on the principal, H. J. Patterson, M.A., to present his report for 1950, the chairman intimated that this would unfortunately be Mr. Patterson's last report, as the board had failed to induce him to withdraw his

resignation. The conference president presented Mr. and Mrs. Patterson with a cheque from the board and brotherhood. The chairman presented an illuminated memento on behalf of the board. Prayer was offered for God's blessing on Mr. and Mrs. Patterson in their new sphere of work at Hartwell, Vic.

The chairman announced that a message had just been received from A. W. Stephenson, M.A., editor of "The Australian Christian," agreeing to accept the position of principal of Woolwich College, and conveying greetings to the Board of Management, Mr. Patterson, lecturers and students, and trusting "that under God's leadership the good work of the college will continue to bring blessing to the kingdom of God."

The address was given by Mr. Hilford, minister of Paddington church, after which the meeting closed with prayer and doxology.—J.L.S.

World Convention, Melb., 1952

RENNISS informs us that the Executive Committee of the World Convention, having taken a vote of members across the world, has now decided definitely that the Fourth World Convention is to be held at Melbourne in August, 1952. Shipping facilities on the Pacific are not helpful, but it is believed that, in spite of restrictions, a very representative convention can be expected. The Australian committee will proceed at once to make arrangements. Exact dates will be given in the near future, and brethren throughout the Commonwealth are asked to plan now for Melbourne, August, 1952.

Thanksgiving Day at Ultima, Vic.

A HAPPY service was held in Ultima chapel on Nov. 12, when over 80 district members gathered to celebrate completion of lining of chapel. Great interest had been shown throughout by members of Swan Hill and Woorinen churches. This was continued, when G. A. Mott, of Woorinen, presided over meeting, being assisted by A. Staley, of Swan Hill, and A. Crow, of Ultima. T. Westwood, of Dandenong, delivered an encouraging sermon. C. Candy, local preacher, sang a solo. New interior was tastefully decorated with flowers. Local members have been encouraged by interest and financial help given by Swan Hill and Woorinen churches. This service was a climax of some weeks of concentrated effort by local members under supervision of J. Taylor, of Swan Hill. Electric lighting has been installed; a new table cloth donated, and the Women's Mission Band has provided a runner for aisle. An attractive hymn board was made by a local member.

Owing to an increase in number of advertisements, we were not able to find space for all the copy reaching us. Results of College of Bible examinations will appear in next issue, and also several items of news.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

News



of the Churches

New South Wales

Rockdale.—On Nov. 17 a successful quiz and talent evening was held by Bible school, when a number of parents and friends attended on 19th. Mr. Saunders, of Bexley North, delivered a challenging address. At night a young man and a lad from Bible school were immersed. On Nov. 26 Mr. Surtees, of Chatswood, exhorted appreciatively. Mr. Morrison was received into fellowship. At night Mr. Andrews spoke.

Tasmania

Dunalley.—On Nov. 26 anniversary tea was held in public hall. This function celebrated tenth anniversary of foundation of Sunday school, and also tenth anniversary of services of minister. A large birthday cake with ten candles was presented by Sister Annie Townsend. From an initial membership of two, church has grown to a membership of thirty-two, and work continues.

Devonport.—On Nov. 10 Messrs. Edmunds and C. Orr, of Launceston, visited church. Mr. Orr showed lantern pictures in interests of home missions. Mr. Edmunds gave a splendid morning message on 12th, C. Burt being evening preacher. Bible school teachers and parents gave scholars a tea at 5 p.m. on 14th. A welcome was expended to W. A. Wigney, of Victoria, who arrived at Devonport to labor a month with church. On Nov. 19 Bible school anniversary was held. Mr. Pitt was morning speaker, and gave a helpful message. Mr. Wigney being at Ulverstone. Scholars sang well under E. Stevens. Mr. Arnott, of Sulphur Creek, helped with violin. Mr. Wigney gave a splendid talk to children. 135 scholars, parents and friends were present. Mr. Wigney presented prizes and certificates. Robin Burt received a book for gaining second prize in scripture examination. At night Mr. Wigney gave helpful message to parents. On Nov. 26, in afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Kenzie took Mr. Wigney to Ulverstone to speak there. At night Mr. Wigney gave a splendid message after which four girls accepted Christ, one being a kinder teacher. At close Mr. Wigney baptised Mrs. McKay.

Western Australia

Fremantle.—On Oct. 22 Valda O'Neill and Miss A. Lyons obeyed their Lord in baptism. Young people assisted in gospel service. On Oct. 29, church commenced 58th anniversary celebrations. Three services were conducted during week prior to Nov. 5, anniversary day. Visiting speakers were E. J. Sewell, F. L. Ewers and A. G. Elliott. They gave inspiring addresses. On Nov. 5, there were good attendances at both services. Mr. Greenwood spoke in morning. A special thanksgiving offering was received for manse fund. This fund now stands at £310. A Bible school scholar, Laurel McLeod, made her decision on Nov. 5. A successful youth concert was held on 10th to raise funds for support of State youth director.

Kalgoorlie.—Mr. Fewster conducted service on Nov. 5, after which church gathered in hall to farewell him and his wife. There has been general appreciation of their ministry. While awaiting Mr. Greenwood, A. Mathews and E. C. Smith have occupied platform morning and

evening respectively. H. Short is new superintendent of Bible school. All have appreciated hard work and enthusiasm shown by R. Beard who resigned position. Radio Sunday School, once a popular feature from 6KG, has resumed again under capable leadership of Mr. Short. Choir promises to be good, and isolated children will be blessed as they listen. New carpet has been laid in chapel, mainly through efforts of Women's Mission Band. D. Ewers is seriously ill after an operation at Perth Royal Hospital.

Perth (Lake-st.).—Long-Robinson mission is now history. It was outstanding as a grand effort, and helped church in a wonderful way. Visible results were 8 confessions and two restorations. At closing meeting a senior boy of Sunday school and a man visiting from Moora (100 miles from Perth) made good confession. Mr. Long's address to church on morning of Nov. 12 will long be remembered. At a public farewell presentations were made to Mr. Long (a parcel of C. S. Lewis' books), and to Mrs. Long (a silver sugar bowl and a bouquet). Whilst in West Mr. Long paid a flying visit to Carnarvon Native Mission. Ladies' Guild held a successful sale of work on Nov. 18, when £54/17/3 was raised. Of this £5 goes to new carpet fund, £33/7/3 to Lake-st. ladies' quota of the women's auxiliary budget, and the remaining £16 to church funds. Pathfinders' Club held a social evening on Nov. 25, at home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Beck. Dave Ewers is still seriously ill in Royal Perth Hospital.

South Australia

Fullarton.—On Nov. 25 E. Humphrey Hall was preacher at morning service. There was a good attendance; his address was enjoyed. At gospel meeting J. Pearson Harrison, of Regions Beyond Mission, gave a splendid message. Annual offering for home missions reached £9/17/-.

Croydon.—On Nov. 19 and 26, W. N. Bartlett addressed services. On Nov. 22 Ladies' Guild held a successful devonshire tea, when 75 were present. Items rendered by Mesdames Dyson, Tomkins, Battersby and Skewes were appreciated. Proceeds of afternoon tea and gift stall, which were in aid of Christian Rest Home, amounted to £16.

Kilburn.—Ross Gaskin, of Nailsworth, conducted 11.15 a.m. service on Nov. 26, when A. J. Ingham preached inspiring sermon. 38 adults and 25 Young Worshipers attended. At 10 a.m. 124 were present at Bible school. C.Y.F. and J.C.E. held usual meetings. Ladies of church presented Mrs. Ingham with posy of flowers, congratulating her and Mr. Ingham on occasion of their pearl wedding. Miss Wright, of Prospect, has helped kindergarten by making Christmas presents for annual party. Mrs. Watson is still confined to home, but is improving. Church was pleased to welcome Mrs. F. Saunders back to services.

Semaphore.—Attendances for November have been fair. Mr. Matthews (preacher) was operated on in Memorial Hospital; he is making satisfactory progress. Following brethren have helped in services: H. R. Taylor, J. Hall, C. Schwab, R. Potter, D. Lawrie, I. Hull, A.

Samuels and A. Anderson. At monthly meeting of Mission Band, Mrs. Tirrell spoke on her visit to Federal Conference. Several young people took part in annual C.E. hike. Interest is maintained in Y.P. and J.C.E. societies. Mrs. Oram was welcomed back after her visit to Kaniva, and Christine Foote is improving after an operation.

Nailsworth.—During absence of A. J. Fisher conducting a teaching mission at Naracoorte, Dr. T. Turner exhorted church on Nov. 19; A. Anderson preached at night, showing kodachrome pictures of New Hebrides after service. Two sheets of signatures for petition for infirmaries for the aged were signed by members. Several new scholars have been welcomed into Bible school. On Nov. 25 there was a baptismal service, after which two adults made the good confession. Sympathy was expressed to Mrs. T. Lawrie at death of her son, Keith, in Adelaide Hospital on Nov. 17.

Edwardstown West.—Church has been glad to receive into fellowship from Glenelg Mr. and Mrs. V. James and son, Alan; this brings active membership to 100. Young Worshipers' League enjoyed an outing to Clarendon and Mt. Bold. Ladies' Sunshine Circle arranged an afternoon for parents of Sunday school scholars and friends to hear Norman Crawford speak on child psychology. Admission charged commenced a fund for chapel carpets. Endeavorers arranged an evening at which P.M.G. Department showed films. Police Choir gave a concert for church members and friends to raise funds for kindergarten Christmas tree. An amount of £8 was donated. Attendances at all services remain good. Tennis Club has commenced season with 32 members and is progressing well. They entertained Cowandilla team at tea and social after recent match.

Forestville.—On Nov. 12 and 19, W. A. Russell delivered inspiring messages to large congregations. Reports at church annual business meeting, Nov. 15, showed healthy growth. Eleven were added by faith and baptism and others by letters of transfer. Church anniversary was celebrated on Nov. 26. A. Hutson and Will Beiler preached helpfully. Choir, assisted by Lorna Fletcher, sang delightful sacred messages. Anniversary meetings concluded with special evening on Nov. 29, when religious sound films and sacred items were presented. On evening of Nov. 28, Girls' Club held enjoyable mother-and-daughter social. New members have been welcomed to C.E. Societies, Bible school and youth clubs recently. Young people are enthusiastically preparing Christmas play. William McGregor, beloved by all, died recently at age of 87 years.

Victoria

Stawell.—On Oct. 29 Mr. Sherrieff, of Horsham, preached at both services. Mr. Mudford's messages continue to be helpful. On Nov. 26, at close of his address, Graeme Mason, a lad from school, made good confession. C.E. meetings are functioning well. Glen Withem gives help to young people. Ladies' Guild held final meeting for year on Nov. 23.

Maryborough.—Mr. Stitt gave concluding addresses on Nov. 19. After evening service members were given opportunity to say farewell at a social gathering. Many members have been ill recently. Women's Mission Band held meeting in home of Mrs. S. Nicholls on Nov. 23. Mr. Drake was speaker at both services on Nov. 26.

Red Hill.—Services are being conducted at West Rosebud (Tootgarooke Hall). On Nov. 19 Mr. Gadge preached, when 23 broke bread. On 26th home mission offering reached £10/6/3. G. Smith delivered farewell sermons, after two years' faithful ministry. Presentations were made from church and Y.P.S.C.E.

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ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Buckley, 279 Ballarat-rd., Footscray, have very much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their eldest daughter, Lesley Alwyn, to Roy William, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Oliver, 16 Inkerman-st., Maidstone.

WANTED

A young woman, Melbourne, desiring spend Christmas holidays Sydney, desires confer with those motoring, re transport.—Reply M.S., c/o Austral.

40 to 50 copies 800 edition Sankey Sacred Songs.—Mr. D. L. Shue (sec. Chinese Mission, Queensberry-st.), 21 Munro-st., East Kew, Vic.

WANTED

Missioner required to take charge of Men's Hostel. Accommodation available, married or single. Apply with testimonials to Secretary, Melbourne City Mission, 280 Exhibition-st., Melbourne, C.I.

Clerk, young Christian woman or returned missionary, interesting work, general office duties. Apply Secretary, Melbourne City Mission, 280 Exhibition-st., Melbourne, C.I.

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K. W. Barton (preacher Taree church, N.S.W.).
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Young church of Christ couple being married at Christmas wish to rent furnished flat or house, while building their own home. Reply I.H., 47 The Boulevard, Hawthorn, Vic. 'Phone, WA1698.

Young lady (church member) desires board in private home in New Year, city or suburbs, Melbourne.—Miss P. Bruce, c/o Austral.

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"BRISTOL"—Heavy-weight striped cotton trousers, dark grey. "Sanforized." Hard-wearing quality.

Sizes, 4-8. Special, 32/6.

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Sizes, 3-8, 33/6; 54-84, 34/6.

"VENETIAN KING"—Popular cotton gabardine trousers, side and hip pockets, side straps, loops. In fawn and olive shades.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

December 5, 1950

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COMING EVENT

DECEMBER 13 (second Wednesday).—The Victorian General Dorcas will meet in Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. Any sister interested in this work is invited to attend.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, BALMAIN ST., RICHMOND.

Memorial Service will be held on DECEMBER 17 for our late brother secretary, G. Thomas. All friends invited to be present.

FAIRFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST. SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE, SUNDAY EVENING, DEC. 17.

Message in story and song, "Ecce Homo" and special recordings.

A warm welcome awaits you at Fairfield. Minister, T. A. Fitzgerald.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS FESTIVAL. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 at 2.45 p.m.

The "MELBOURNE SPIRITUAL CHOIR" will render a beautiful range of CHRISTMAS CAROLS in a soul-stirring candlelight setting in the BAPTIST ASSEMBLY HALL, 486 Albert-st. (off Spring-st. and near Eastern Hill Fire Station).

You cannot afford to miss this unique GRAND FESTIVAL OF MUSIC if you are looking for a spiritual uplift.

No charge for admittance.

A collection will be taken to aid the choir's work in the ensuing year.

Everybody welcome. Come and bring your friends.

IN MEMORIAM

BROWN, Frank.—In fond and loving memory of our dear Dad, who passed peacefully away, Dec. 7, 1947.

In every day, in some sweet way,
Your loving memory comes our way.

—Inserted by his loving daughter and son-in-law, Glad. and Jack.

COMBRIDGE, J. R.—In loving memory of our dear one, who was called home on Dec. 3, 1934. Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest. —Inserted by his loving wife and daughters, May and Doris.

PERKINS.—Cherished memories of my dear husband, William Henry, passed away Dec. 11, 1942; loved father of Ralph, Horace and Percival.

"Every day, in some sweet way,
Loving memories come my way;
A silent thought, a secret tear,
Always wishing you were here."

—Inserted by his loving wife, May.

£10 REWARD!

A senior Public Servant, capable speaker, church worker, transferred to Melbourne, will pay this sum to any person or organisation offering information which results in his securing a house in Melbourne.

He requires a 3 b.r. house, which need not be modern, will buy, rent or pay a substantial rental for a temporary home. Areas preferred, but not essential, are Elwood to Frankston or Balwyn to Belgrave. References supplied. Every reply fully investigated. Reply to "Stanton," c/o of Austral, by Dec. 5.

TO LET

Furnished holiday house, Marysville, Vic. H.W.S., sew., cent. position, accom. six, handy trout fishing, available to Dec. 21, from Jan. 22. —J. Chandler Canterbury-rd., Blackburn. WX1254.

Several brethren spoke on behalf of church auxiliaries, expressing appreciation to Mr. Smith.

Geelong.—On Nov. 26 Y.P.C.E. held 67th anniversary. Frank Hunting, from Ballarat, was speaker for day. At evening service, Endeavorers took part in service. At close one lady rededicated her life and one man made good confession. Saturday evening Endeavor anniversary squash was held, when Mr. Brumfield, of America, was speaker. On 21st ladies of church gave a surprise afternoon to Mrs. Anderson at her home on occasion of her birthday.

Kyneton.—Mr. Curtis, of L.O.A., spoke at Bible school and gospel service on Oct. 29. Church officers conducted evening service on Nov. 5, when G. Goudie was speaker. Several delegations from Kyneton attended mission and Midland Youth Rally at Harcourt. During November A. West, K. Skillicorn, of the college, and J. K. Martin, of Bendigo, gave appreciated addresses. On 12th, Mr. Walmsley spoke on behalf of Bible society. Mr. West baptised on Nov. 26 a young married lady.

Sunshine.—Over £50 was received on Nov. 12, church anniversary. Thanks were expressed to speakers, Messrs. Withers, Nicholls and Alcorn. This £50, together with £95 given by the Ladies' Guild, completed payments on church building. Sale of work, Nov. 18, was successful, £80 being received. Eric Payne was received into membership by transfer from Footscray, and is taking a Sunday school class. Boys' Club has been started, attendances averaging 18 weekly.

Red Cliffs.—While Mr. and Mrs. Lang were on holidays, speakers have been Messrs. G. and K. Cameron and F. Combridge, of Mildura. On Nov. 12 P.S.A. was held at Red Cliffs, and a youth team conducted night service. C. L. Lang gave good addresses on Nov. 19. P. Whitmore, of Merhein, gave morning address and Mr. Lang at night on Nov. 26. A garden party was held in Mrs. Heazlewood's garden on Nov. 23, when £19 was raised for Murrumbena Nursing Home and local talent funds. Services continue to be well attended. Two young ladies made good confession on Nov. 19.

Springvale.—On Nov. 12 three received right hand of fellowship at morning service, two following baptism. At evening service two were baptised. Mr. Bond continues to give inspiring messages at all services. Bible school is enjoying splendid attendances, 112 being present Nov. 19. On Nov. 26, at worship service, three were received in, two after baptism. Mr. Geyer gave a splendid message for beginning of stewardship campaign. Home mission offering on first day reached £37. The roof is on new chapel. Church finances are still rising.

Wedderburn.—Mr. Gale has visited church and given lantern lecture on inland Australia. Meetings were good. Manse is being repaired and will be ready by January. Church continues to have religious films on first Sunday in each month. During long absence of preacher, local brethren, R. Hayes, H. Evans, W. Twiddy, L. Lanyon and B. Jackel, continue to serve church well. On Nov. 5 Mr. Snow, of St. Arnaud, conducted anniversary services, when one young lady made the good confession. On Nov. 19 T. Meyers, of Bendigo, took services. Church looks forward to coming of A. C. Mudford as preacher.

Warrnambool.—Stewardship campaign ended on Nov. 26, when nearly whole of membership pledged a new allegiance to Lord Jesus. At evening service the young people conducted service. Miss M. Taylor and G. Dalton gave messages on grace and truth. Mr. Weir has now concluded seven years' ministry with the church, which is in good heart. Mrs. C. R. Le Couteur is secretary of Women's Mission Band. Miss Fidler was seriously ill in hospital, but has now returned to her home. Mrs. Hose is in hospital. Recent visitors included Miss V. LeCouteur and Mr. Anderson, of North-

cote. The ladies are preparing a Christmas gift box for Christian Guest Home.

Drumcondra.—Chapel was filled on Nov. 12 for school anniversary. Prayer meetings are combined with Latrobe-terr. and Belmont for a series of talks on Ephesians by Mr. McDonald. Endeavorers had an outing on Nov. 17 at Queen's Park. Mrs. Kuse has celebrated her 94th birthday. Members welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Pearce from Colac. Miss Heather Cooper is leaving soon. Church rejoices that she came to know Christ while in district. A party of nine went on Nov. 26 to assist in services at Colac, speakers being, morning, Mr. Mountjoy, evening G. Batty. Drumcondra is taking responsibility for extension work in northern area of Geelong. Four blocks of land have been reserved in Norlane for future development.

North Essendon.—C. Page has been compelled to conclude his part-time ministry with church, but C. Cole has now accepted an invitation to serve until February, when it is expected A. E. White will commence ministry. Challenging messages on Christian stewardship were given by Mr. Cole during November. Attendances at services have been maintained. Gwen Mason and Ron Reardon were married on Nov. 18, L. A. Trezise officiating. Bible school attendances are being maintained. Preparations are in hand for coming of Messrs. White and Warn to conduct a mission in conjunction with a children's mission in December. At annual meeting of Bible school on Nov. 20, R. Conning was re-elected superintendent.

North Fitzroy.—Church has completed three weeks of special services in interest of crusade for a Christian world, and meetings were well attended by members and friends. Topics discussed were stewardship and other Bible studies. The final meeting was an every-member-present and consecration service. The proposed literature was posted each week, and contact was made with all members. The offering for home missions, including that received in duplex envelopes, was £47, being an increase of £13 on last year's contribution. £9/15/- was received for the Canberra church appeal. On Nov. 12 members of Chinese church assisted at evening service, J. Turner preaching.

Ararat.—During November D. R. Stirling has assisted C. Burt in a visitation campaign, which has given encouraging results. A marked increase in attendance has been direct result. Many people have been contacted who, it is hoped, will become interested in cause. The climax to this was Sunday, 19th, when church anniversary was held. There were excellent attendances at all services. At P.S.A. artists from local Music Circle provided a good programme. Sunday school picnic was held in Ballarat, when scholars and members, totalling 60, had an enjoyable day. Mrs. R. Selwood confessed Christ on Nov. 19, and was baptised at prayer meeting on 23rd, being welcomed into fellowship on 26th.

Brighton.—Church was helped by V. Gole and L. A. Trezise, who conducted services during absence of preacher in October, owing to illness. Appreciation was expressed at their willingness to help at short notice. A crusade campaign is under way. Special addresses have been given by preacher. 32 members reported on afternoon of Nov. 12 to canvass local area for Sunday school scholars. 13 new scholars, 15 who are likely to come and 12 children for cradle roll were recorded. The first school meeting after canvass (Sunday, 19th) saw 137 attend—the best for many months. Visitation was done in pairs, and area divided up into sections, each pair reporting back to committee. Sunday school anniversary on Nov. 29 was well attended, when Mr.

Taylor and Ron Muller addressed afternoon and evening meetings. Concert on Nov. 3 was a great success and provided enjoyable entertainment.

Wangaratta.—During November church enjoyed a visit from Baden Jackel (Wedderburn), who held a film service on Sunday night; his address at morning service was appreciated. Ladies' Guild held a sale of work on 16th, proceeds being to help in painting of chapel. Church has conducted a stewardship campaign. Mr. Baker gave addresses on stewardship. On Nov. 19 church anniversary services were held; Mr. Youens gave two inspiring addresses. Musical numbers were rendered by Mrs. Aubrey Jackel (solo), Sisters Scott-Brown and Florence Green (duet). Annual banquet and thanksgiving were held on Wednesday with about 160 present, among whom being mayor and mayoress of Wangaratta and representatives from Yarrowonga and Albury. Thanksgiving offering amounted to £276. Convener for catering was Mrs. Lloyd Jackel, assisted by Mrs. I. Jackel and ladies of church. Cake was made by Mrs. G. O. Jackel, and Mrs. A. Campbell as a foundation member cut cake. Solos were rendered by June Kershaw and N. Clifton (Aubury); A. Baker presided over gathering.

Obituary

Robert Sanders Caldicott

AT the grand old age of 91, on Nov. 4, Robert Sanders Caldicott was called to be with his Lord. Baptised in the Flinders-st. Baptist church 60 years ago, our brother, ten years later, was welcomed into membership at Grote-st., where for 18 years he took an active part in witnessing for the Master. During this period he served most acceptably as a deacon and elder, and helped most frequently to conduct the services at Gillies-st. mission. Once a week he visited the Royal Adelaide Hospital in company with others, to sing the gospel message which brought much blessing to sick. In 1918 he transferred his membership to Mile End, where he continued until the call came. While not taking any active part in the work here, apart from conducting the Lord's Supper amongst the sick, our brother was a faithful member in his attendance, and a generous giver to the end. To members of family we express sincere sympathy, realising that they sorrow not as those without hope, but knowing that he has gone just a little while before. Services at home of Mrs. Dorling (daughter) and at West Terrace Cemetery were conducted in presence of a large number of relatives and friends by R. Will Marshall.—R.W.M.

William McGregor

CHURCH at Forestville, S.A., sustained the loss of a brother, dearly beloved, when William McGregor was called home on Nov. 8 on his 87th birthday. His boyhood days were spent at Robert-st. church, Hindmarsh, where he remained until his marriage. He then moved to Unley. Because of his love for Christ and the church, he at once, with his wife, took up membership. There he was choir master for several years. In 1903 he was transferred by his firm to Perth, W.A., and immediately began to work in church at Lake-st., Perth, where he remained for 20 years. Returning to South Australia he was in membership at Henley Beach and Forestville, where he always bore a faithful witness for Christ, being absent from the Lord's Table only when sickness prevented his attendance. His wife predeceased him five years ago. H. P. Manning, assisted by Mr. Train, conducted the service in the home, and the writer, assisted by Mr. Hutson, at graveside in the West Terrace Cemetery. To the bereaved, Cleve, of Oakleigh, Vic., and Jean (Mrs. Mallyan) at Forestville, S.A., we extend our Christian love and sympathy. "Until the day dawns and the shadows flee away."—W.A.R.

Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS.

(Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory crossfiring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.)

CHRISTIANS AND WAR.

PR. THICKENS, in his letter concerning Christians and war, refers to "the misuse of scripture" by two previous correspondents, and then himself proceeds to misuse scripture. He says, "The watchword of pacifists seems to be Love your enemies' or 'Resist not evil.'" He might have added, "If anyone smites you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well," and a good deal more in the same strain.

One wonders where "these pacifists" discovered such pernicious teaching! Of course the Christ, whose "teaching is based upon the law of divine righteousness," who himself overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and whose early followers, catching their Master's spirit, murdered some and struck others blind, could not have said such things—or did he!

Our brother uses the old stock-in-trade passage concerning the cleansing of the temple to support his argument—incidentally the only passage in the whole of the N.T. that even vaguely appears to lend itself to his line of reasoning. The other two passages he quotes impressed with their ingenuity, but helped his argument not at all, because they are not applicable to modern war. At least Elymas only lost his sight—for how long we are not told. Certainly in the other instance Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead, but that was a direct judgment of God, executed by God for a special purpose, and was in no way an act of Peter.

Moreover, they died decently. Their flesh was not seared off by fire bombs, they were not run through with a bayonet, their lungs were not eaten out by poison gas, nor were they subjected to atomic radio active death rays. In fact, one searches in vain for even the remotest comparison between any of these incidents and war as we know it.—F. B. Burt, Doncaster, Vic.

IT is an historic fact that the Christians for 200 years refused to bear arms. It gives concrete evidence that pacifism could not be divorced from Christianity. What a grand spectacle and ideal for a war-torn world it would have been if the church had continued to uphold the true spirit of Christianity? It would have been very inconsistent if Christ had rebuked Peter for taking up the sword when (as some would have it) he used such force in driving money-changers from the temple. It is quite evident that supernatural force was used, as we hear of no bloodshed. On another occasion he said he had at his disposal twelve legions of angels. We are told that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. It is a fact in these days that Christians, in fighting for God, king and country, fight in different nations against each other. Can we accept these grave inconsistencies and go on in blind blundering? Quoting Elymas and Ananias brings in strange reasoning. At least we know in these cases what side God was on. The greatest asset in any nation is the true, virile church. It is the task for its leaders to cast out its satanic worldliness and compromise, and give sole attention to the spiritual warfare.—H. Jackel, Emerald, Vic.

We have had many letters, both for and against, on above subject. We find it difficult to make space for all. Those who have already written on a subject must make way for others, and cannot be provided with additional space. Please keep letters within the number of words stated above.—Ed.

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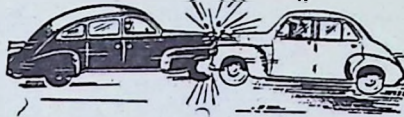
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Printed and Published by

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524-530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, C.I.
'Phone, FJ2524.

Editor: A. W. Stephenson, M.A.

Manager: W. R. Hibbert.

Subscription.—Through Church Agent,
3d. Week.

Posted Direct (Aust. and N.Z.), 15/-
year. Foreign, £1.

Cheques, Money Orders, etc., payable to
The Austral Printing and Publishing
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Youths' Magazine

Hands and Hearts

FROM the time he was quite small Taro remembered going with his mother to the big temple in the middle of the Japanese village where he lived. Before that, his mother carried him there, for when he was a baby he went everywhere with her, strapped tightly to her back. As he grew older, he noticed that the first thing his mother did at the temple was to wash her hands and mouth at the large stone basin just inside the temple gate.

"Why do you do that, mother?" he asked one day. "Well, Taro, we are going to pray to the gods, and all our bad deeds must first be washed away, and all the naughty words and lies cleaned from our mouths."

Whether Taro remembered that long or not we do not know, but we know that when he began to go to school the other boys and girls began to talk about him, and they were not saying nice things. He had a nasty habit of talking things that did not belong to him. Somebody's pencil would disappear. Taro had taken it! Something would be missing at home. Taro had taken it! Soon everybody in the village knew that Taro was—a thief! Yet, at school he did well with his lessons and was very clever.

His mother did not know what to do. She scolded him, and talked to him, but still those naughty hands kept doing their bad, bad work. She went to the big temple and asked the idols there to help, but nothing happened. One cold snowy morning she went across the fields barefoot before the sun was up, to pray at a shrine in a lonely grove of trees. Perhaps the spirits there would help her especially as she had suffered in getting to the shrine. But still nothing happened, and Taro, though a clever boy, was a thief!

One day a neighbor said to his mother, "Why don't you try the Christian God. A foreigner comes to a house in West-street every month and prayers are made to their God. It would do no harm to go, and I've heard that their God does answer prayer." So Taro's mother de-

cid-ed she would try, and on the right day she took Taro and his sister down to the Christian meeting room. They went inside and were warmly welcomed, but there was no foreigner there! However, hymns were sung and prayers were said, and the Japanese Bible-woman gave a talk about Jesus. It seemed strange that there was no idol to worship and no incense being burned, yet the prayers seemed very real.

After the meeting Taro's mother told the Bible-woman about her boy's bad habit. She told how she had prayed to the gods in many temples, and had even gone long distances in cold weather to pray at special shrines; but Taro was just the same. She had made him pray, too, after washing his hands and mouth at the big stone basin filled with water, that stood at the temple gate. Yet he was still stealing things. The Bible-woman spoke very kindly to him, and said the real trouble was not his naughty hands but his sinful heart. It was because his heart was bad that he did naughty things. The Lord Jesus could give him a new heart, and if Taro gave his hands and all his life to Jesus he would use them for good deeds. Then they prayed together, "Take my hands and let them be consecrated, Lord, to thee." Then they went home.

On the way they talked together about the meeting. They tried to recall one hymn that they liked very much. "I know what it was," said Taro's sister, "it was 'Jesus has lifted the load.'" Yes, and Jesus had really changed Taro's heart, and from that day he stopped stealing things and was truly a new boy.

Had the Lord Jesus given you a new heart? The Bible asks, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?" and gives the answer, "He that hath clean hands and a pure heart." So you see both are needed. If you truly belong to him, pray for the millions of Japanese boys and girls who have never heard the name of Jesus—Selected.

A Parcel of Ground

The parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.—John 4: 5.

A FEW weeks ago I was staying with a friend near Edinburgh. Every time he is up North from London, where he is a medical man, he told me there is one visit he always likes to make. It is to the tiny island of Inchcolm, not far below the Forth Bridge, and a sacred spot in Scottish story. On one occasion, when my doctor friend visited it, he took with him two Danish girls who were over here on holiday. One sails from near Leith on the "Forth Lady," a small steamer,



one gets ashore on Inchcolm. It is, as I said, a very small island, but trim and well kept, with the old abbey and several small sandy bays. After he and his friends had had a picnic lunch at one of these bays, one of the Danish ladies did a strange thing. She took out a paper bag and started filling it up with sand. Naturally he asked her why she did so. She said that she was taking it to some friends in Denmark, who specially wanted it. Their name, she said, was Oglivay, or, as we would say, Ogilvie. Their people generations before had gone over from here, a fact of which they were very proud, feeling that in a measure they still belonged to Scotland.

Another incident now, not unlike that story about the little paper bag of sand from Inchcolm, took place in the life of a famous man. Most of you will have heard of Chopin, that favorite composer, and some of you possibly have played something of his lovely music, like the "Minute Waltz," as it is often styled. Chopin's father was French, his mother a Polish aristocrat, and he, Frederic Francois, was born and brought up in Poland. Chopin had a very happy childhood and was a prodigy, a marvel, as a pianist. Poor Poland, however, was eventually invaded by the Russians, and Chopin left it, never to return. At a function when he was leaving, he was presented with something unusual, a silver goblet of Polish earth. A friend, handing it to him, said, "May you never forget your native land wherever you go; may you never cease to love it with a warm and faithful heart." And though he was never able to go back,

wherever and whenever he played, he had that silver and goblet set up on the piano before him.

Now these two stories bring us back to our text, "The parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph," that sacred piece of earth in which Joseph's body, brought home from faraway Egypt, was finally buried. Nearly all men and nations have got holy places, or some such ground which is dear and sacred to them. You may know some lines of Kipling which perfectly describe what we may feel:

God gave all men earth to love,
But since our hearts are small,
Ordained for each one spot should prove
Beloved over all.

Yes, it's natural, isn't it, for us to love "one spot" in particular, "the parcel of ground" "where we grew up. Only likewise, surely, to love the land in which it is. Shakespeare, remember, said that so well for Englishmen:

This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.

While Sir Walter Scott said it equally well for all who are Scots:

Breathes there a man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land.

Let us all, then, love our native land. Let us be determined, too, to make it such that it will always be a land worth loving and cherishing, a fair land, a free land, and, not least of all, a Christian land.—C. M. Hepburn.

