

woolly

# The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ

"When I'm a Great Big Man!"

**W**E are often astonished and perhaps dismayed at the thoughts expressed by little children, and tend to comfort ourselves on such occasions with the reflection, "He'll grow out of it."

In the movement towards maturity, the boy and girl will, of course, shed many a childish fancy.

The process of discarding things is part of the business of growing up. It is more important to realise that the child is growing into something. There will be thoughts and experiences that abide, determining the character of grown persons.

If these ideas and experiences are rightly guided, the child will advance into adulthood possessing a wholesome character. This calls for religious training in home and church. Right attitudes to life, healthy relationships with others, a consciousness of God, the committal to Christ and his way of life, membership and service in the church will result from this training.

A growing child needs the nurture of a Christian home, the



experience of sharing worship and fellowship in a family larger than his own, the church.

A growing child needs to be taught the word of God at the level of his own age and experience, and made skilful in the application of the truth of Christ to contemporary situations.

A growing child needs opportunities for training in living, in serving among those of his own age group, and relating himself harmoniously with the total life of the whole Christian community.

In this the church must play a large and effective role. "Youth work" is not an addendum to a brotherhood programme, a less important job tacked on to a more important one. Christian education demands larger financial resources, more adequately equipped leadership, big plans and big visions on the part of the local church.

Our youth departments seek to give guidance and strength to local units. They look to the churches for the financial support that will increase their effectiveness.

ANNUAL YOUTH OFFERING. - - MAY 14



# Church Facing Up to Problem of War

## UNITED STATES

### A Symbolic Significance

A CROSS made from camphor wood in Hiroshima was dedicated at the Mt. Hollywood Congregational church in Los Angeles, while members of the congregation equally consecrated their efforts to the promotion of world peace. Among those taking part were Mexicans, Negroes, Japanese and Chinese.

Because the pastor and his church had befriended local citizens of Japanese origin during the war, when there was wholesale condemnation, a neighboring Japanese church made a gift to Mt. Hollywood in recognition of its help. From this initial contribution a fund was created for church alterations, in which the erection of the new cross received the central emphasis.

The cross was made from a tree charred by the atom bomb blast in 1945. It stood in the yard of a Christian church in the destroyed city, and was presented by the congregation there. Its bearer across the Pacific was a girl who had lost her father as a result of the atomic explosion. The minister of the Hiroshima church, Kiyoshi Tanimoto, was present at the Los Angeles ceremony.

At the dedication service a special prayer for forgiveness and world peace was made, asking renunciation of atomic warfare.

Already, it is reported, news of the dedication service and its implications has been widely spread in Japan.

## GREAT BRITAIN

### Control of the Hydrogen Bomb

"IT is the duty of all who value our civilisation to urge, while there is time, the outlawry and control of this devilish weapon," said the Archbishop of York in a reference to the hydrogen bomb, during a sermon at Liverpool Cathedral, on Sunday, February 5.

"When the hydrogen bomb is made," he said, "there will be in men's hands weapons far more destructive than those which blasted into ruin two Japanese cities. Now that the race to make these super bombs has been started, it will only end either by their use in war or by international agreement to prohibit or control their manufacture. This is the only alternative—destruction or agreement."

## UNITED STATES

### Church and War

"IT is time for the church to make up its mind about war with the hydrogen bomb"—this conviction has been expressed by Dr. Albert E. Day, Chairman of the National Committee which is organising a conference on church and war, to be held in Detroit, May 8-11, 1950, with the attendance of 500 delegated church men and women.

Announcing this conference, 111 church leaders of 16 major American Protestant denominations declared that "millions outside the church and inside are looking for a clear contemporary statement of what Christian peace action is."

The conference has been organised on the initiative of 13 peace and pacifist groups within the following denominations: Baptist, Brethren, Congregational, Christian, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Evangelical and Reformed, Friends, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, New Church, Presbyterian, Unitarian, and will also include representatives from peace groups within other denominations both in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Although the voting membership of the con-

ference will be restricted to the delegates of these denominational groups, the announcement made clear that "an unrestricted number of observers and visitors" will be welcome.

Dr. Albert E. Day pointed out that in 1945 the explosion of the atomic bomb "caught the church unawares," and that Christian opinion "had no chance to lift its voice against such an assault upon human decency" before the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. "The world is waiting for a Christian voice that is unequivocal and unafraid," he added.

The announcement cited the cleavages of official church opinion evident at the World Church Conferences held at Oxford in 1937, and at Amsterdam in 1948, and expressed hope "that conference study papers, now being prepared by theological and peace leaders, will newly explore and define the recognised Christian position of refusal to participate in modern war."

## TIBET

### Bible in Tibetan

TIBET now possesses the whole of the Bible in its native tongue.

The story of the Tibetan Bible goes back nearly eighty years. It began, when Gergan, the young political counsellor of the Dalai Lama, fled to Kashmir on being suspected of an attempt on the life of his master, the head of the Buddhist world in Central Asia. In Kashmir he gave lessons in Tibetan to two Moravian missionaries, and with them began the task of translating the scriptures.

His son, Yoseb, who became a Christian, completed the translation of the Old Testament, and also helped with the first revised text of the New. The British and Foreign Bible Society in 1941 described the completed work as "a truly inspired translation," but at that time its actual printing had to be left in abeyance because of the war. The manuscript was stowed away in a safe vault of Ripon Cathedral. After the war it proved impossible to print it by reason of the paper shortage in England, until finally this was managed in India on American paper. Gergan himself, who died in 1946 in Leh, was able to read through the first proofs, and after further obstacles had been got over, the first thousand copies were at last brought out. They have already found their way into the lamaseries of Tibet, where "it is believed that this dynamic book is being read."

## ITALY

### Council of Evangelical Churches

THE position of the Protestant churches in Italy remains somewhat delicate. Incidents recently occurred at Castel Gandolfo, where American missionaries of the "Protestant Church of Christ" were set upon. Further, as a result of the fact that certain Italian Protestants are members of the Communist party, Protestantism in general is readily identified with Communism. Thus, in an interview which he gave lately to a representative of the Associated Press, the Minister of the Interior, Signor Scelba, declared that Protestant activities were part and parcel of the Communist movement. These attacks caused the Federal Council of Evangelical Churches in Italy to pass for publication a statement and communique which we summarise as follows:

Statement: "The Commission of the Federal Council of Evangelical Churches in Italy for

the study of the revision of legislation relating to forms of worship other than the Roman Catholic,

"Affirm that, while certain responsible circles are displaying eagerness to take any and every opportunity of befouling the reputation of Protestantism, the authorities concerned appear in no way desirous of putting into effect the principles for the protection of religious liberty and the rights of the subject which are laid down in Articles VIII., XVII. and XIX. of the constitution, in spite of the repeated representations of the Federal Council,

"Requests the Federal Council itself:

"(1) To induce the government to open those negotiations provided for in Article VIII., para. 3, of the constitution; and

"(2) That religious liberty should be defended and legally protected in all its forms, at national level, in accordance with international agreement (Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man by the United Nations, and Article XV. of the Peace Treaty)."

Communique: "The Federal Council of the Evangelical Churches of Italy, having taken account of certain recent publications appearing in the Press, and of statements of an unofficial nature disseminated by Press agencies, on the occasion of its meeting of January 21, 1950, in Rome,

"Reaffirms, in the name of the churches which it represents, that Protestantism in Italy, faithful to its tradition and calling, has as its sole aim the fulfilment of the mission entrusted to it, the proclaiming of the kingdom of God in accordance with the one word of the gospel, and that for this reason it neither favors nor upholds any particular political ideology;

"Declares that Protestantism calls without discrimination upon all peoples and all individuals, to whatever political party they belong, and that, moreover, as its doctrine cannot be identified or confused with the programme of any political party, its churches welcome whosoever believes in Christ Jesus as his sole Lord and Redeemer; and

"Protests against anyone, even a member of the government, who for obvious political and confessional motives, seeks to throw suspicion and discredit upon the religious mission of Protestantism, by employing the absolutely baseless accusation of political contamination, and thereby reintroducing precisely the same methods as those of such grievous memory experienced during twenty years of Fascist rule, although for different purposes."

This communique, unanimously approved at the meeting on January 21, 1950, of the Federal Council of Evangelical Churches in Italy, was not published until January 31, as the Federal Council wished to await the formation of the new Italian government.

## GREECE

### Paul's Celebrations

PROFESSOR H. S. ALIVISATOS, general secretary of the committee appointed to organise the 1900th anniversary celebrations of Paul's arrival in Greece, announces that these commemorations will be held during the last three weeks of June, 1951 (instead of 1950 as formerly planned), culminating on the feast of Paul on June 29. It is planned that the celebrations shall have an ecumenical character.

Invitations will be sent to representatives of churches and theological colleges all over the world to take part in the celebrations which will take the form of a pilgrimage to the various stations of Paul in Greece. Addresses and lectures on his activities in each place will be given. Leading scholars from different countries will be invited to contribute to a symposium on Paul's theology.



# "A Nice Cup of Tea"

AUSTRALIANS love their cup of tea. It is their national drink. Much of life revolves around that cup of tea. Visitors from other shores have remarked upon this social institution and have made fun of it. Now Dr. George MacLeod, of the Iona Colony, has fastened upon tea-drinking as the sin of Australian church life.

Dr. MacLeod was in Australia some months ago. In an article in his journal, "Coracles," he wrote, "Australia's problem, like the world's, is spiritual. . . . Why do most Australians see the church as, well—the characteristic centre for, precisely, a nice cup of tea?"

We may reply to the learned doctor and enlighten him that "a nice cup of tea" is the symbol of genuine Australian friendship. A stranger to a real Australian home is offered hospitality by the invitation to have a cup of tea. This is our way of breaking down barriers between individuals and building up friendships. Whatever else the church must do, she must accept the duty of uniting men and women, boys and girls, young people into a friendly fellowship. People are lonely; they long for companionship. Young people particularly need a common meeting place in suitable surroundings where they may make friends. We are often reminded that men visit hotels to meet companions and to talk. The attraction of the "pub" is the friendship it offers. This may be so, but the hotel friendship is full of peril. The church needs to provide a strong counter to hotels, dance halls and gambling dens. The fellowship provided in church clubs, Endeavor Societies, Sunday schools, may be likened to "a nice cup of tea," but it is essential. The church that provides for the social life of young people, building up friendships in a healthy, clean atmosphere, is making a useful contribution. The "nice cup of tea" of church life may save young men from drifting into hotels and on to racetracks. Youth workers are giving worthwhile service when they are making it possible for young people to enjoy fellowship one with another.

WE all know that an invitation to have "a nice cup of tea" is a request to have a friendly talk. Many unhappy individuals have been encouraged by discussions of problems over a cup of tea. If the church does provide a social hour, it does so with the purpose of helping young and old to face up to life's problems and to share in the duties and responsibilities of life. The programme to help youth is to urge upon young people that they count for something in this life; they have a purpose to fulfil. Although they may not occupy some high position, nevertheless, as individuals, they are of great importance, particularly in God's sight. The church must encourage young people to set a value upon themselves.

Rudyard Kipling wrote an account of a liner that ran into rough weather on her trial cruise. The wind whistled through the rigging. The vast funnels dipped. The huge pistons turned. But it was down in the darkness that the plates took the strain which kept out the sea and called to the rivets: "Hold on! Hold on! We depend on you." That is what the church is saying to young people in all her social activities: "Hold on! Hold on! We are depending on you." Unless young people hold on, the church of the future is doomed. If we are likely to be critical of the church's social programme for youth, and declare it is merely "tea-drinking," then remember how young people can be encouraged to hold fast to the great ideals of the church by wise words spoken over that "cup of tea." It is clear that the social programme of the church is only a means to an end. The danger comes when it is made the end of church activity: that was Dr. MacLeod's fear.

## EDITORIAL

DR. MACLEOD raises, however, a serious problem. He seems to suggest that the church is failing when it becomes the place for "a nice cup of tea." If youth activities do not get beyond the entertainment stage, then there is a serious lack in the programme. The church must provide youth with the encouragement to worship God. Young people must learn that man does not live by bread alone, and it is not profitable to gain the whole world and to lose one's soul. There may be occasions when the church might talk about economic problems, but economics and politics are secondary. Lord Reith has summed up the need of this hour, by saying, "The devaluation of the pound may be a serious thing in the life of a nation, but it is a far more serious thing when citizens of a country are devalued in terms of moral responsibility." The church programme must put moral and spiritual value into the soul of youth.

Youth is in danger because forces are at work to rob them of the Bible, the real chart of life, and their Pilot, the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever programme is provided for youth to-day, only that supported by genuine scriptural instruction will be adequate for the needs of the hour. This is the aim of the youth departments of churches of Christ. While worldly organisations are bidding for the loyalty of our young people, the church cannot give up efforts to lead on to Christ. Whatever good means are used to hold youth, the end of all activity must be to urge surrender of life to Christ. Unless this be so, churches will become mere centres for "a nice cup of tea."



## Church Unions and Congregations

THE legal position of congregationally governed churches and union moves in America has been tested at the New York supreme court.

By a majority vote of authoritative bodies of the Congregational Christians and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, it was planned to unite the two groups next June. The new body was to be called the United Church of Christ. Since Congregational Christians consist of churches that are ruled by congregations, the question was raised whether any representative group or committee could decide major issues and over-rule the local congregations. The Cadman Memorial Church filed a suit to block the union of the Congregational Christian with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. On January 26, Justice Meier Steinbrink decided in favor of the Cadman Memorial Church.

From the "New York Times" the following summary sets out the reasons for the decision:

(1) Holding that the General Council "has not now and never had power or authority" to make any commitments binding upon the Congregational churches, Justice Steinbrink explained that his decision did not prevent individual members from affiliating with the Reformed church but, he noted, "they speak for themselves and not for the Congregational Christian churches."

(2) That the General Council, as a representative body, had no power or authority to merge or unite itself with the Reformed church or the General Synod of the denomination, or with any other body or organisation.

(3) That no acts taken by the council "can or will control in any manner the plaintiffs, or the several independent Congregational churches, with respect to their temporal or spiritual rights or positions."

(4) That the polity of the Congregational churches "is that system of



# A Government's Tribute

A REPORT presented by the joint (Anglo-French) governments of the New Hebrides gives unsought praise for the work of missions in the group. These people, numbering 45,000 (1948) are largely dependent and sometimes wholly dependent on missions for education, medical and social services. Moral and Christian service is also recognised. The report states:

Rough divisions of the natives may be made between "saltwater" (or coastal) tribes and "bush" (or interior dwelling) tribes; also into patrilineal and matrilineal, which follow, for family and property purposes, the "line" of the father or mother respectively.

Some few of the "bush" tribes are still not fully under administrative control, and live in a periodical state of semi-warfare with each other. Such are the seven sub-tribes of the Big Nambas tribe of northern Malekula. However, these tribes now recruit regularly for plantation work in order to obtain coveted trade goods, and are showing increasing signs of desiring civilisation. They have recently shown appreciation of medical assistance offered them, and of the good offices of religious teachers and government officials in solving their peculiar problems. The "non-controlled" tribes are universally pagan, but all pagan natives are not necessarily "non-controlled."

In general the native unit is the village, headed by the chief or headman and his counsellors, who deal with most simple village affairs satisfactorily without outside aid. In some areas, however, there are no chiefs, but elected councils, which replace the chief and counsellors. Chiefs are mostly hereditary, but, in some few areas, are elected. In some of the bush districts, apart from administrative and "fighting" chiefs, there are "pig" chiefs, who gain social (but no other) status by killing so many pigs.

The natives generally have been taking the fullest advantage of the increasing educational facilities offered. Socially speaking, they are advancing progressively, and showing more and more evidence of responsibility and ability in the realm of science, arts and native self-government. For instance, during the year 1948, the Presbyterian church of the New Hebrides was constituted, and will, henceforward, be the sole responsibility of the New Hebrides natives (with advice from missionaries when desired only). An increasing number of natives are becoming assistant medical practitioners, medical dressers and nurses, teachers (lay and religious), clerks, traders and artisans.

The chief instrument for the social advance and moral and spiritual civilisation of the native has undoubtedly been, and still is, the missionary, whose modern armory includes medicine, hygiene and lay, as well as religious teaching, and whose network is very widespread.

There is no doubt that depopulation has occurred in the New Hebrides, in common with other groups in the South Pacific, but it now appears that, on balance, this trend has been arrested and probably conquered. Strong upward trends of the population are noticeable in many areas, particularly where modern mission teaching and medical services have long been effective."



## A MISSIONARY'S THANKS

AS my service under the Federal Foreign Mission Board has terminated, I would like to offer a word of appreciation to the members of the board, the Victorian committee, and fellow workers on the field, for their help and sympathy during the past 21 years, especially during my time of illness.

My thanks are tendered to Doctors Oldfield, Kilmier and Kemp for medical attention.

To the sisters of Victorian Mission Bands, whom it has been my privilege to represent as

their living link, I would like to say I have appreciated their prayerful help at all times, and their personal interest.

We are feeling disappointed at this time, but must remember that our times of disappointment are often his times of appointment. He holds the key to the future, and we can trust him. His work must go forward.—L. M. Foreman.



Bush Native, New Hebrides.

Such islanders are still to be found on Pentecost—though some are turning to Christ. Compare this man with our Christian groups of to-day.

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-rd., Trinity Gardens, S.A. M.O.'s should be made payable at Adelaide.

## THE MOTHER WATCH

SHE never closed her eyes in sleep till we were all in bed;  
On party nights till we came home she always sat and read—  
We little thought about it then when we were young and gay,  
How much the mother worried when we children were away—  
We only knew she never slept when we were out at night,  
And that she waited just to know that we'd come home alright.

She had to know that we were safe before she went to rest;  
She seemed to feel the world might harm the ones she loved the best,  
And once she said: "When you are grown to women and to men,  
Perhaps I'll sleep the whole night through; I may be different then."  
And so it seemed that night and day we knew a mother's care—  
That always when we got back home we'd find her waiting there.—Selected.

## Selfishness

Thomas Hagger.

IT is very widely admitted that selfishness is one of the basic sins of the human race; but many fail to recognise that at the base of that sin there lies the greater sin of disregard of God and of the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is true that while there are many great and glorious exceptions, there are many others who

"Live for self, and self alone,  
For self and none beside,  
Just as though Jesus never lived  
And, as though he had never died."

This should not cause wonder when seen in men and women of the world, for, generally speaking, they have no great Ideal in front of them, inspiring to noble thinking and higher living. Seldom or never do they stay to ask concerning any matter, "What is God's will?" or "What is the mind of Christ?"

And so we find that, from Federal parliamentarians down, the selfish spirit is showing itself. This was manifested in several increases in their salaries which they voted themselves without consulting their employers—the people, and finally in arranging for themselves good pensions when their employers no longer desired their services or they voluntarily retire. This while the old-age pensioners had to get along with £2/2/6 per week, or even less, for it may be cut down by the means test, which could be called in some cases "the mean test."

There is much of this selfishness shown in the business world where men clamor for higher prices and higher wages, not that they are not getting a good living, but they desire more to spend on themselves or to waste in other ways in utter disregard of the fact that the poor widow, struggling to bring up a family of young children, is hit by these continual rises in prices. And in this clamor, unfortunately, sometimes half truths and whole lies are indulged in. Yes, shown by the world, but surely not by Christians! Sad to say, sometimes it is. This is seen in the poverty of their giving to the Lord's cause in spite of their own much higher incomes and in their unwillingness to share what they have with others. It has been sometimes seen in the preacher who seems to have developed the idea that he has gone into the work to make money, instead of to make lives. It is certainly shown by some churches in the poor allowance they make to their preachers for their livelihood, especially where the churches have growing credit balances. But thank God all are not like that, there are great and glorious exceptions and many of them.

Disciples of Christ! Let us take our minds off the sordid material things of this world and let us keep our eyes on the great unselfish Christ, and seek to follow him and carry out his teaching which he gave when he was here, found in such passages as "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7: 12). "Freely ye have received freely give" (Matthew 10: 8). "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20: 35). Doing this we will be characterised by that absolute unselfishness that will make us so like the Christ that men will take notice of us and through us notice of him. Christians, be unselfish!

## "A NICE CUP OF TEA"

(Concluded from page 183.)

church organisation which recognises the independence and autonomy of the local church in all matters temporal or spiritual, and the association of churches, through voluntary, independent organisations devised for fellowship and co-operation is without ecclesiastical authority.

This ruling by the judge is likely to affect other moves toward union. It limits the power of conference and executive committees, and shows the union of churches governed by congregations will come about by the uniting of Christians, rather than the decisions of committees.



# COMMONWEALTH ROUND-UP

## HERE AND THERE

**C** SCHWAB, of Adelaide, sent the following telegram: "Successful opening Rest Home, April 15, attendance and gifts excellent."

Because of Anzac Day it was necessary to close for press on April 21. This will account for some news not appearing in this issue.

Acknowledgment is made to Associated Newspapers Ltd. for permission to use picture for block on page 186-187. V. C. Stafford supplied copy for front and two centre pages.

The British and Foreign Bible Society Workers' Inspirational Gathering will be held in Scots Church Hall, 101 Russell-st., Melbourne, on Wednesday afternoon, May 3, at 2.30 p.m. C. W. Mannering, missionary and translator, will address the meeting, and all friends of the Bible Society are cordially invited to be present.

Commencing with the year 1951 the annual observance of Bible Sunday will take place on the first Sunday in September and not on the second Sunday in September as at present. The State Committee of the Bible Society has made this decision in view of the fact that Temperance Sunday and Bible Sunday now fall on the same date.

E. A. Stevens and R. Edmunds have served the Tasmanian Home Missionary Committee for approximately a quarter of a century, the former as a president and vice-president, and the latter as a president and a secretary for many years. They did not offer themselves for re-election. It is such continuity of service that maintains advancement in the work of Christ's kingdom.

Two thousand attended annual youth demonstration in Melbourne Town Hall on April 12, the closing session of the Victorian State Conference. Six finalists in school choir competition were awarded following places by adjudicators, Mr. and Mrs. Val Wolf, of Cheltenham church: 1st, Boronia; equal 2nd, Springvale, Brighton; equal 3rd, Ivanhoe, Surrey Hills; honorable mention, West Preston. Cheques were presented to prize-winners: 1st, £20; 2nd, £5 each; 3rd and hon. mention, £2 each. L. A. Trezise, B.A., Victorian Youth Director, presided. An organ recital was given by Mr. Harold Rooksby. The following talented young men of our churches gave a real musical treat: Leslie Miers and Max Olding pianoforte duets, and Ron Smyth violin solos. The conference president, A. B. Withers, presented awards won in 1949 Bible school examination, and the Y.P. Department chairman, P. J. Foster, presented cup and pennants won by Explorer Clubs. Explorers presented cheque for £250, the amount raised in "Partner" appeal.

The Kersbrook Institute Hall was filled to capacity on Good Friday, the occasion being the annual inspirational meetings sponsored by the Gawler, Williamstown and Kersbrook churches (S.A.). J. Bywaters, of Gawler church, presided at the morning session, which commenced shortly after 11 a.m. After a short devotional period, G. Rootes spoke on "The Cross from Three Angles." He was followed by Mr. Harold Bradshaw, whose subject was "The Man of Sin." At afternoon session B. W. Manning was in chair. The speaker was Miss M. W. Turner, of British Syrian Mission, her subject being, "The Arab and the Jew," which was a very enlightening message. Musical items were contributed during day by Mrs. Graham Gordon, Miss M. Simmons, the Williamstown Male Voice and Kersbrook Choirs, all of which were much appreciated. The ladies of Kersbrook church are to be commended for excellent meals provided, and praise is due also to those responsible for beautiful floral decorations. Altogether the day was one of happy Christian fellowship and much spiritual blessing.

## Visitation Evangelism and Tent Mission, BORDERTOWN, S.A.

**A**S a result of two intensive evangelistic campaigns, seventy members have been added to churches in the circuit in nine months.

A visitation effort was made in October of last year, and proved to be excellent preparation for mission which commenced on Mar. 5. Messrs. Hinrichsen and Christensen gave of their best. Church members responded magnificently, and God blessed the united witness. Fifty-two confessed faith in Christ, most of whom have been welcomed into fellowship.

The concluding day of the mission, April 9, will long be remembered. Two hundred and twenty broke bread at a united communion service. The marquee was crowded at night, when ten adults accepted Christ.

Meetings are now held in the Institute Hall because chapel is too small for congregation. One hundred and forty broke bread at Bordertown on morning of April 16, when B. Coventry was speaker. An offering to cover mission expenses exceeded £500. Many new contacts have been made, and the church is anxious to be used of God to win these people for Christ.



## Tasmanian Conference

**T**HE 54th Annual Conference of Churches of Christ in Tasmania was opened, in the Invermay chapel, on Thursday evening, April 16, when the president, B. J. Golder, gave conference address. A representative delegation from most of the 16 churches in the State were in Launceston for conference; all the meetings, except the first, being held in Margaret-st. chapel. Guest speaker was T. A. Fitzgerald, Fairfield, Vic., who addressed meetings of conference sponsored by Temperance and Social Service Dept., Youth Dept., Foreign Mission Committee, and both services at Margaret-st. on Easter day. Morning meeting was a well-attended combined communion service. Home Missions Rally on Sunday afternoon was addressed by H. W. Street, minister of Nubeena-Highcroft churches. Appeal for funds resulted in a total offering of £115, including a cheque for £68 from Sisters' Conference, presented by their president, Mrs. J. S. Allen. Splendid meals were supplied on Friday by Margaret-st. ladies, ably led by Mrs. H. E. Sulzberger.

Statistics.—Total membership 943, of whom 125 are isolated from regular fellowship with a church. Net increase for the year was 12.

Home Missions.—The evangelist, H. W. Street, was commended for his splendid service on Tasman's Peninsula, particularly in matter of religious instruction in State schools, long distances being travelled in this important work.

Bethany Boys' Hostel.—The appointment of Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Denholm as superintendent and matron was announced. The need for a recreation hut at the hostel was stressed, and conference spontaneously subscribed £60, which, with £100 in hand for the purpose, will enable a start to be made on a structure, costing approximately £300. Erection will be by volunteer labor under supervision of T. Orr, of Launceston.

Overseas and Aborigines Missions Committee.—Amounts subscribed to both missions reached record high levels. Appeal for funds at foreign missions rally realised £77, of which £21 was given by Sisters' Conference. Services of S. H. Wilson on Aborigines Mission Department and College of the Bible Committee were appreciated.

World Council of Churches.—A resolution to discontinue affiliation with the council was carried by 16 votes to 10, with some abstentions.

Federal Conference.—The Federal president, J. Park, addressed delegates on arrangements for Federal Conference at Hobart in October, when, it was stated, up to 600 delegates and visitors were expected.

Resolutions deploring the exhibition of so many films of low moral content and the prevalence of raffles in State schools were passed.

Committees.—Three members of the Home Missions Committee, who did not seek re-election, have rendered outstanding service: E. A. Stevens, 25 years, including terms as chairman and conference president; R. Edmunds, over 20 years, for the greater part as secretary; and T. Orr, over 10 years, including several years as chairman and as conference president.

Officers and Committees elected were—

Conference president, K. Mundy, of Dover church; conference secretary, G. E. Ashlin; conference treasurer, C. J. Mason; Executive Committee, J. Park, B. J. Golder, W. H. Knight, S. Cooper; Home Missions Committee, Mrs. H. Crowden, B. Golder, A. Griffiths, D. Lee, C. Orr, J. Park, K. Plummer, O. Potter, H. Sulzberger; Foreign Missions Committee, Mesdames Kingston and McQueeney, Miss Swinton, B. Bradshaw, C. Mason, J. Heard, D. Hemming, D. Woolley, J. C. Woolley; Temperance and Social Service Committee, Mesdames McQueeney, Kingston, Madel-Cole, Ashlin, and Pearsall, C. Mason, D. Pearsall and B. Golder; Youth Department, Mrs. S. Cooper, Miss D. McQueeney, M. Boxhall, M. Davis, M. Atwell, J. Heard, J. Holloway, S. Cooper and L. Boxhall; Bethany Hostel (three retired), Mrs. Holland, S. Cooper and E. Bowes; Aborigines Mission Committee, K. Plummer, A. Orr, G. W. Spinks, M. R. Wilson and G. J. Foot; College of the Bible Committee, R. Edmunds, R. Comer, K. Plummer, J. and G. Foot; Representatives to the State Council of Churches, K. Mundy, E. Ashlin, B. Golder and J. Park; Christian Union Committee, J. Park, T. Orr, E. A. Stevens and B. Golder; Church Building Extension Committee, J. Park, W. H. Knight, F. T. Burt, H. E. Sulzberger and G. J. Foot; Delegates to Federal Conference, O. Potter, J. P. Foot, H. Crowden, K. Mundy, H. W. Street, J. E. Byard and W. H. Knight.—G. J. Foot.



## Wanted Intercessors

**T**HE annual meeting and conference of the National Missionary Council of Australia will be held at the Church of England conference centre, "Gilbulla," Menangle, N.S.W., from Apr. 25 to 27. To this conference will come representatives of Missionary Boards and members of the National Missionary Council and its State branches. The purpose of the conference is to gain an understanding of the present situation of the church, particularly in South and East Asia, and how the Christian forces of Australia can help strengthen the Christian witness in these areas, which are in the throes of revolutionary change, and also to reconsider the Council's programme of work, in order that it may more effectively serve the interests of Australian Denominational Missionary Societies. It asks for the intercession of all Christians.



# YOUTH DEPARTMENTS UNDERTAKE MANY VITAL PROJECTS

## AUSTRALIA-WIDE DRIVE, 1950-51

THE youth departments of Australia are turning the spotlight on to the Bible school during 1950-51. There are more than 30,000 children and about 4000 teachers in our schools.

WE AFFIRM that we are in business to teach young people the word of God; that it does matter how we teach; that every Sunday's lesson counts.

The holding of a Bible school picnic and the conducting of an anniversary are important fixtures in the life of the school which demand careful planning, but they must not, in time or cost, encroach upon the real business of the Bible school. We are in business to teach the word of God. We must hold that purpose steadily before us.

January 1, 1951, will see the introduction of new lesson materials for junior and intermediate grades. Teachers and scholars will be called upon to open their Bibles and go to work in a new way.

"Teaching is going to be real fun," said a wise teacher after reviewing the new material.

Within a few weeks every teacher in Australia will have a prospectus on the new lesson system.

A careful reading of the prospectus will prepare the minds of the teachers for the new system. The Federal Board of Christian Education (Director, V. C. Stafford) has done a tremendous amount of work in preparing for these new lessons.

The overall strategy seen in a nine-year curriculum will commend itself to all who read it. The prospectus deals with subjects like grading and promotion. For many years our schools have had a haphazard system of grading. Promotion days have taken place at any old time during the year, usually after the anniversaries. This practice ought to cease. Imagine a State school promoting its scholars at odd times during the year. Anniversaries could come at any time, but the promotion of scholars should be in harmony with the teaching material. The prospectus suggests that promotions take place at the beginning of each year, so that a child moves into his new grade at the beginning of the new year's lessons. The new year begins in January.

## CLASS TEST SYSTEM

Consideration is being given to replacing the present Annual Federal Scripture Examination with a class test method. Scholars would be questioned on all lessons throughout the year at quarterly intervals, test sheets to be prepared by the Board of Christian Education and used in schools by teachers. The test is done as normal part of class procedure, questions are aimed to test knowledge on main thought of lesson, work can be done in a few minutes. The teacher is able to evaluate his teaching, know where his scholars are, correct wrong ideas on the spot. No one enters, the test is for every junior and intermediate scholar. Certificates may be awarded to mark achievements.

## THE POSTMAN'S KNOCK

Each State youth department has many children under its care who are unable to attend Bible school. They are in far away places. To these the postman regularly brings correspondence lessons for children who are very young and those who are older. South Australia supplies other States with kindergarten material, N.S.W. with lessons for juniors and intermediates. Much work is needed in preparation of materials, mailing, writing letters, checking work. This is a necessary work, and youth departments want to cater for every isolated child.

## AUSSIE JUNIOR

He is full of go, keen to do things—a man in the making. Our Explorer Clubs throughout the Commonwealth help in man-building. In Victoria there are 56 clubs with 1200 members. They raised £250 recently towards sound movie equipment for the department. In other States, new clubs are beginning. South Australia works through the Boys' Brigade, and has several healthy companies. Behind this movement there is money and time spent in organisation, leader training, programme building. Combined fixtures throughout the year create a brotherhood spirit. Many young men have been put through leadership training courses conducted by Y.M.C.A. and National Fitness Council.

## FOR EFFICIENT TEACHING

In all States training courses are arranged where young people can fit themselves to be efficient as superintendents, secretaries, kindergarten and primary helpers, junior and intermediate teachers, Bible

class leaders. In Victoria our department co-operates with the Council for Religious Education in making such provision. In South Australia the department initiated a new Baptist-Churches of Christ Kindergarten and Primary Association. New South Wales provides central and local training courses.

## TEACHERS' DIPLOMA COURSE

The Federal Board of Christian Education is providing a three-year training course for teachers in our schools throughout the Commonwealth. Here are particulars of this course:

It replaces the Teachers' Examination, formerly held in conjunction with the Federal Scripture Examination for scholars.

It commences this year, and notes for the first year (26 foolscap pages) can be purchased now from youth departments.

It is a correspondence course, and teachers may commence any time.

It includes work assignments in each section of the notes, to be done by students and forwarded to the youth department in their State for correction and marking.

It is a three-year course. Years need not be consecutive.

The Federal Board of Christian Education will award a diploma to those successfully completing course.

## WORKING FEDERALLY

The Federal Board of Christian Education was created by youth departments in all States to deal with Federal matters.

The board receives token payments from these youth departments. While financial help is given by other States, Victoria is carrying the greater load.

Until this Board gets firmly established, it needs the support of generous friends. Churches should realise that the work of evangelism through Christian education is vitally necessary to all our future work as a brotherhood.



Syllabus of the first year is as follows:

1. OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE.  
(Its structure, books of the Bible (O.T.) books of the Bible (N.T.) unity and purpose of the Bible.)
2. PREPARING THE LESSON.  
(Sources, preparation method, teacher's preparation of life.)
3. PRESENTATION OF THE LESSON. (Types of lessons, methods.)
4. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WEEK-DAY ACTIVITIES.  
(Regular groups, non-regular activities, programme for regular groups, programmes for senior groups.)
5. VISUAL AIDS IN S.S.
6. SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANISATION.

"We are all blind until we see  
That in the human plan  
Nothing is worth the building  
If it does not build the Man.  
"Why build these cities glorious  
If man unbuilds goes?  
For the builder works in vain  
unless  
The builder also grows."

## NEW LESSON MATERIALS

Following special conference with Austral Graded Lesson Board in March, 1949, the Board of Christian Education was charged with responsibility of preparing new lesson material, commencing January, 1951, features of which are:

1. Use of curriculum of International Council of Religious Education in Junior, Intermediate and Bible Class grades, with extension later to Elementary.
2. Cycle of lessons—3 years each Junior, Intermediate and Bible Class.
3. Separate handbooks for junior and intermediate teachers, and new format for scholars' books.
4. New teaching procedures.

## YOUTH PUBLICATIONS

In addition to assistance in production of lesson material, following publications have been prepared:

"LEADER'S KIT"—approximately 850 copies of Volume 1 were sold, and orders for No. 2 will exceed this.

"HOW SHALL I STUDY THE BIBLE?"—1000 copies printed were all sold.

"FROM HOSEA TO JESUS" was prepared by L. A. Trezise, B.A., for use in 1950 Easter camps.

## GIRLS ARE IN THE NEWS

This is an age in which girls have come into their own place. This is evident in the strength and efficiency of the girls' movements in our churches.

South Australia has virile groups of girls in the Girls' Life Brigade. Other States have Good Companions' Clubs. In Victoria alone there are 66 clubs. To see a church building filled with these girls, who are being trained in their clubs, is to see the future Women's Conference.

The brotherhood may be assured that these girls' clubs are designed as training centres, where girls are prepared for Christ-like living and service. The church which nourishes this activity amongst girls will not be lacking in leadership in the years to come.

Youth departments are using a large percentage of their annual income to promote the leadership and programming of clubs for both boys and girls.

## C.E. MEANS CLIMBING EVER

Hundreds of individuals, as well as churches, have reason to be thankful to the Endeavor movement for its Christian service.

It will not be long before the roads of Western India will see a new missionary vehicle provided by the Australian Churches of Christ Endeavorers. This is but a fraction of the kindly service given week after week by the many societies in action.

In the coming year C.E. will undertake a project to support the work of the Federal Board of Christian Education.

## GOING TO CAMP

At Christmas, Easter, in school vacations, holiday week-ends, youth departments conduct training and fellowship camps for junior and senior boys and girls. About 800 went to various camps between December 26 and January 30. In Victoria and Western Australia, these are held at camp centres owned by the departments. Teaching sessions, worship, recreation are features of camp programmes. To run a camp requires studied attention to staff, administration, food, accommodation, transport, literature, tutors, daily routine. A charge is made to each camper for camp expenses. Thousands of our young people go to camp each year, and camping is a powerful medium for evangelism and Christian training.

## P.C.F.O.

The Pi Christian Fraternal Orders are at work amongst young adults. Although the orders are interdenominational, the great majority of the clubs formed are in our churches. Clubs provide a balanced programme with splendid opportunities for leadership training.

The strong personality at the head of this movement in Australia is Dr. W. A. Kemp, of Victoria.

# THAT CHRIST MAY HAVE DOMINION FROM SHORE TO SHORE



# News of the Churches

## Western Australia

**Inglewood.**—At annual business meeting of church, all reports showed sustained interest and definite progress has been made along certain lines. Six elders were elected. No deacons will be appointed other than for special duties. The elections were conducted by a method that eliminated nominations. L. C. Peacock was appointed secretary and H. Slipper treasurer. There have been six new members received recently, four by letter and two by statement. All attendances are most encouraging. Church is busy preparing for the tent mission to commence on April 30 with D. G. Hammer missionary and H. E. Greenwood song-leader.

**Northam.**—There have been seven confessions during last three weeks. A revival spirit prevails. One new convert is son of a church of Christ minister, who until the time Russians sent him to Siberia, was preaching gospel in White Russia. He can speak English fluently, and is now doing a great work in bringing gospel to others who cannot understand English. Church is indeed blessed under ministry of Mr. Lord, who indeed has a wealth of knowledge of the word of God. There will be a great youth rally in Northam in June, and indications are that we can expect a wonderful time. Northam is launching a plan to reach every home with the message of salvation.

## Queensland

**Ma Ma Creek.**—Splendid morning meetings continue; attendance at gospel service is increasing. Dudley Mortleman, Gwen Buhse and Athol Rosenberg were immersed on April 16, when there were a further four decisions. During Mr. Davidson's absence at conference, E. Rosenberg exhorted the church. Manse is nearing completion.

**Bundaberg.**—Services on April 2 and 9 were well attended, and many visitors were present. Service on April 2 was broadcast by courtesy of 4BU. Sister Dallinger rendered a solo during morning service. Owing to minister being away at State conference on April 9, the morning service was conducted by W. Proudley and evening service by Mr. Jones, of N.S.W. L. Wills and Betty Pohle were united in marriage on April 10. Mr. Dallinger officiated. Plans are once again under way for Bible school annual picnic in May.

**Brisbane.**—Attendances have been well maintained during recent weeks, and R. W. Graham's effective ministry is much appreciated. At Women's Fellowship meeting, March 16, guest speaker was Mrs. Shakespeare, of the British and Foreign Bible Society. J.C.E. celebrated third anniversary on March 26 with a tea, and followed this with a mock broadcast session. The efforts of Endeavorers in this meeting were well received by over 50 guests. J.C.E. made a presentation of a polished wood music stand to Mr. Hack, senr., church choir-master. More than 70 women attended a musical luncheon at Women's Fellowship on March 30. A profit of £10 was donated to church building fund. A most enjoyable programme was arranged and presented by Mrs. Ruby Hinrichsen. Appointments on board of deacons for the next 12 months were: chairman, H. E. Wyeth; secretary, G. McKelvie; treasurer, E. W. Potter. Board has decided to set apart a window in chapel as a memorial to the late Roy Burnham. Official board has authorised preparation of plans for expanded school hall, kitchen and kindergarten, as a further step in overall building plan improvements.

Church tennis club, recently formed, has acquired two courts in Gregory-terr., near city. Choir rendered valuable assistance at all conference meetings, during Easter period. Members have enjoyed fellowship with many country and interstate visitors. Latter included Mr. and Mrs. Yates, Brighton, Vic.; Misses Margaret Ray, Mont Albert; Gwen Hospital, Melbourne; E. Morgan, Tannymorel, and Mrs. R. Johnson, Ascot Vale, Vic.

**Maryborough.**—Church is happy to have received ten confessions of faith in Christ. At annual meeting on Feb. 15, Mr. Roberts was re-engaged indefinitely. All officers were elected unopposed to their former positions. During absence of preacher and his wife on holidays, services were conducted by Messrs. J. Ingham, A. Popp, E. Wiltshire and H. Oakley. J. Wiltshire, of Zillmere, and E. Wiltshire, of the local congregation, preached at morning and evening services respectively on Easter Sunday. Much interest is being shown in gospel services as is evidenced by increasing congregations at evening services. Building of new chapel at Baddow is well under way.

## South Australia

**Fullarton.**—A splendid atmosphere prevails at morning meetings. Church appreciates splendid Bible expositions of B. W. Manning. Gospel meetings are equally inspiring. Peter Moore led song service on April 16. B. W. Manning preached. Choir gave a message in song. Church was well represented at opening of Christian Rest Home, at St. Georges, on April 15, which is in church district.

**Cottonville.**—On Good Friday a large congregation joined in a combined inter-church service in Methodist chapel. Mrs. Sinclair is very ill, and Mr. Sinclair also recently entered hospital for an operation. Eddie Brand, who recently transferred to Col. Light Gardens, is in hospital. Mr. and Mrs. H. Bond, of Melbourne, were present on April 16. Southern District Men's Fellowship met on April 13 in the chapel, when Mr. Tindale, of the Museum, spoke.

**Kilburn.**—10 a.m. Bible school attendance was 141 on April 16, including four new scholars. There were 24 adults and 40 young worshippers present at 11.15 a.m. services, which was addressed by F. Collins, who also conducted 7 p.m. gospel service, when 25 appreciated splendid message and Bible quiz for young folk. Mrs. Pritchard continues as leader of Young Worshippers' League, and is doing a successful work. Older girls have formed a basket ball team and joined Churches of Christ Association. Mrs. O'Donnell has agreed to give them oversight.

## New South Wales

**Wentworth Falls.**—Church had a delightful service, and time of fellowship with visitors from sister churches on Easter Sunday. Fifteen young people from Rockdale were present, also visitors from Hurstville, Georgetown and Bankstown. Church enjoyed well-chosen thoughts presented by Mr. Shorey. These occasions are inspiring to local members, who cordially invite visitors to mountains to share their fellowship. Victoria was also represented.

## THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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sent, and earlier, Western Australia by Sister Jean Clark.

**Albury.**—Meetings continue to be well attended, although many were away over holiday period. Mr. Morris attended the Sydney conference, and local brethren conducted services during his absence. An effort is being made to purchase a house for preacher. Tennis players enjoyed trip, and game with Wangaratta club. Mrs. F. Combridge is in hospital and is doing well after operation.

**Chatswood.**—R. V. Amos spoke at both services on Easter Sunday, and in evening a senior Bible school girl was baptised. Extensive renovations are taking place to church property. On April 16 there were 141 in Bible school (highest for many years), with a record of 75 on free Bible school bus. Mr. Amos was speaker at both services which were splendidly attended. Miss R. Christensen received right hand of fellowship, and visitors included Misses Walden and Newberry (Unley, S.A.), McIndoe (Dorrigo, N.S.W.), and Messrs. G. Hare (Drumcondra, Vic.) and W. T. Atkin (Vic. Social Service Dept.).

**Bexley North.**—Interest in meetings is growing with introduction of monthly leaflets advertising services. Gospel attendances reached 80 mark on April 2. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coventry told of work in India and showed films. Gifts towards cost of amplifier were handed to Mr. Coventry. B. Cavill, of Beverley Hills, spoke on morning of April 9, and R. Saunders in evening. Miss Cowper, of Cheltenham, Vic., representing University Evangelical Union, gave a personal testimony, and sang portion from "The Messiah." Many visitors present over Easter period, including Mrs. Peterson, Qld.; Mr. and Mrs. Cowper, Yarrowonga, Vic.; and R. Watson, Georgetown, N.S.W. Isolated members, Mrs. J. Baker, of Warrimoo, and Miss D. Willis, Lismore, renewed fellowship. Bible school attendance reached record of 148 scholars on April 16.

**Lane Cove.**—At a social evening on April 14, church welcomed student preacher, Mr. Martin, said "thank you" to Mr. Patterson, who has served the church for more than six years, and made a gift to Miss M. Leggett, who is shortly to be married. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson received a gift of notes. Mr. Palgrave died on Easter Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were welcomed by transfer from Wollongong church, and Mr. Thompson will take over superintendency of the I.C.E. Miss P. Hillhouse, who has been superintendent of kindergarten department, has recently married and now lives in S.A. Mrs. E. W. Roffey has been appointed to the position vacated. On Easter Sunday morning choir rendered musical numbers, which were highly appreciated, and contributed much to a worshipful and Spirit filled service. A. Leggett ably conducted. Mr. Perkins, of Chatswood, gave address on April 16. Mr. Round is newly-appointed superintendent of growing Sunday school. Church was glad to have fellowship with Geo. Saxby, sen., at a recent Sunday morning service. P. J. Pond is not yet well enough to attend church services.

## Victoria

**Geelong.**—R. J. Anderson spoke at morning service on April 9 and B. J. Combridge at evening service. On Wednesday Mission Band held monthly meeting, when oranges were received for Bethany Babies' Home. On April 16 Sunday school held annual picnic at Portarlington. On morning of April 16, an officers' dedication service was held. Mr. Anderson addressed services and Mr. Small sang a solo in evening.

**Williamstown.**—62nd church anniversary was celebrated with a week of meetings from Feb. 26 to March 5. Six well-known speakers assisted Mr. Grainger with theme, "A Crusading Church." On March 17 a Christian Men's Society was commenced with 16 members. S. Parsons was elected president and T. Byard secretary. On March 17, Explorers' Club won pennant at inter-club swimming competitions. April 1, at cricket club's golden jubilee banquet, past and present players enjoyed reminis-



conces of fifty years of cricket. The social evening that followed was enjoyed.

**Fairfield.**—At annual business meeting it was revealed that church and all auxiliaries were in sound financial position. New deacons elected were Mr. Cromie and Ken Fitzgerald. Several families have been lost by removal in last few months. Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Fitzgerald attended Easter conference of Tasmanian churches.

**North Essendon.**—On Easter Friday members of local Presbyterian congregation combined in a communion service, 45 being present. A. Wilson again preached on April 9. On April 16, S. T. Burman preached at both services with most acceptable messages. Junior C.E. Society, with average attendance of almost 40, is functioning well under capable leadership of Valerie Potts, ably assisted by Pauline Mathieson.

**Doncaster.**—Women's Mission Band commenced year's activities on March 16. K.S.P. under G. H. Tully, and Band of Hope under A. E. Tully, are also functioning. Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Burt were given a welcome social in church hall on 21st. The film, "The Road We Walk" was screened on evening of April 2 in connection with appeal by Churches' International Relief Committee, the special collection amounting to £48/7/3. Members of East Doncaster church were present. Bible school is busily engaged in preparations for anniversary. Triangle Cricket Club concluded a successful season as runners-up to premiers.

**Ballarat (Peel-st.).**—Services are well attended, and messages of visiting speakers are much appreciated. Great interest was shown in gospel service of March 19, when L. Trezise, of Youth Dept., conducted a youth parade with special emphasis on Explorer Club; over 40 boys received their badges. Sunday school is benefitting by increased attendances through Explorer activity. Open age cricket team conducted an enjoyable bus trip to Melbourne on March 25. Mr. Souise is making progress after a long illness. Two baptismal services have been conducted recently. Ladies' Guild held a successful fair on March 31 in aid of kindergarten equipment.

**Prahran.**—On March 22, church gave Mrs. G. Mott, Mrs. F. Sansom and Barbara, and Mrs. N. Harvey, who are going to England, a farewell social. Church presented each lady with a deck chair, and Barbara with a brush and comb set. Supper was a fitting finale to a most enjoyable evening. April 2 was Homecoming Day. K. Jones addressed morning meeting. Melbourne Spiritual Choir provided the afternoon service and ably assisted the singing during evening service. Church experienced a wonderful day of re-union and fellowship. Women's Mission Band presented a cheque of £60 to church officers for purchasing suitable floor covering for kinder hall. F. E. and Mrs. Buckingham are having a well-deserved holiday at Mt. Buffalo. Bible school is continuing to increase in numbers, and on April 9 reached 103; best attendance for at least two years.

**Swan Hill.**—Harvest festival at Swan Hill was the best for many years. Morning service was broadcast, Mr. Candy speaking. Special offering and proceeds amounted to £27, and was handed to Ultima church to help line the chapel. C. Candy and R. Streader took six young men to State conference at Easter. The hiring of bus to bring in children from outer areas to Bible school is too expensive and private cars are now assisting. Church is preparing for a visitation campaign with Mr. Cunningham, of Cheltenham, in May. Mr. and Mrs. C. Carroll are leaving shortly for Mudgee, N.S.W. D. A. Cockroft addressed a large meeting on April 16, and brought a splendid report of the State Conference. Mr. and Mrs. A. Fleet and Mr. Reynolds, from Warracknabeal, have come to reside at Woorinen. These will encourage the work very greatly. Mr. and Mrs. P. Baxter are to leave Woorinen shortly to live at Springvale. They have served this district faithfully for many years. The work at Ultima is encouraging. Between 40 to 50, includ-

ing visitors, attended harvest festival on April 16, when special offering to line and do up chapel resulted in over £40.

**Malvern-Caulfield.**—C. Cole has relinquished his full-time ministry after four years. He continues preaching services until end of April. Best wishes of church are with Mr. and Mrs. Cole and family. On Easter Sunday a lad from Bible school made the good confession, Mr. Quirk conducting service in absence of Mr. Cole. Last Sunday a young man was baptised, who had previously made his decision. Welcome visitors have included Miss Knapp and Miss Ramsay, from N.Z., and Mrs. Ashlin, from Tasmania. Mr. Wallace, from Perth, has been attending lately. Mr. and Mrs. Watt, from E. Kew, now living in Malvern, are meeting with church. An "after church" meeting was held to bid bon voyage to Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Kettner, prior to their leaving for England on April 11. Appreciative remarks were made of their service. Mr. and Mrs. I. Illingworth also expect to visit England shortly for at least twelve months. Since last report church has been saddened by further deaths. Mrs. Schnorr and Mrs. Huckle, faithful members for many years, have been called home, also Mrs. Spry, whose daughters and sisters have been very active in church. W. G. Graham officiated at funerals. Sympathy of church has been extended to sorrowing relatives. Church has been pleased to welcome back, after long illness, Douglas and Pearl Leggett, also Mrs. Halliday. Church is looking forward to ministry of H. Kingsbury, who has accepted a call to the pastorate of Malvern. He is at present en route to Australia, and it is anticipated will commence his ministry in June. A manse has been acquired in a convenient location.

#### TO LET

Furnished holiday cottage in hills (Kalamunda). Accommodate five. Close to bus, store and post office.—W. Fordham, Montrose Post Office. Tel. 55.

#### DEATH

**TEASE (Rasmussen).**—On April 10, at Fitzgerald, Georgia, U.S.A., Muriel, loved daughter of Carl and the late Eunice Rasmussen, step-daughter of Letty, sister of Herbert, Eunice (Mrs. J. Northeast), William, Edna (Mrs. G. Roberts), Vera and Jack.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**NEWMAN.**—In loving memory of my dear husband, George, who passed away April 25, 1943.

I may not know why death should come  
To take the dear ones from my home;  
But, tho' mine eyes with tears be dim,  
The Lord knows why I'll trust in him.  
—Inserted by Ada Newman, Henderson-st., Sth. Melbourne.

#### COMING EVENTS

**MAY 5.**—The Women's Conference Executive Council will meet at Swanston-st., Friday, May 5. Mrs. J. Turner is the speaker and Mrs. C. G. Taylor, soloist. Will all Council members make an effort to be present?

**MAY 7.**—Box Hill church anniversary and special welcome evening to Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Fitzgerald, Wednesday, May 10. All welcome.

#### CHELtenham CHURCH OF CHRIST, 93rd ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

APRIL 30.

11 a.m., A. B. Withers, Conference President. Special services afternoon and evening. Hospitality provided in school hall. Contact E. G. Brough, secretary, Dandenong-rd., Springvale. UM9295.

#### THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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#### CHURCH OF CHRIST, COBURG.

30th ANNIVERSARY,

MAY 7.

11 a.m., speaker, A. B. Withers.

7 p.m., speaker, A. R. Lloyd.

Former members and other visitors requiring hospitality for the day please write J. W. Jenkins, 48 Royal-pde., Pascoe Vale South, W.7, or phone JU2881 during business hours.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST, RALEIGH ST., FOOTSCRAY.

72nd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY,

SUNDAY, MAY 7.

11 a.m., R. Enniss.

3 p.m., P.S.A., Miss E. Richardson, O.B.E. Former Matron (retired last February) of Austin Hospital.

7 p.m., A. E. Hurren.

Fellowship tea, 5 p.m.

Please advise secretary for catering arrangements. Former members and friends welcome.

—Harold E. Easton, secretary.

#### ESSENDON CHURCH OF CHRIST, Buckley Street,

BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

MAY 7—

3 p.m., Mr. E. McIlhagger.

7 p.m., Mr. T. Fitzgerald.

MAY 14—

3 p.m., Mr. Ross Lloyd.

7 p.m., Mr. Ron Muller.

Come and enjoy a musical festival under the baton of Mr. Colin T. Ferguson.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST, BAMBRA-RD., CAULFIELD.

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

Three Great "Back to Bambera-rd." Occasions. Thursday, May 25, 2 p.m.—Back to "Sisters' Social Circle."

Sunday, May 28.—Back to "Worship."

10 a.m., Great United C.E. Gathering. Speaker, J. Mann.

11 a.m., Worship. Speaker, F. A. Youens.

3 p.m., Musical and Praise Festival, led by Brighton Salvation Army Band and Choristers. Speaker, J. E. Brooke.

7 p.m., Gospel Service. Speaker, F. A. Youens. Hospitality provided. Ring W. A. Brown (UL1472) to inform re requirements.

Thursday, June 1, 6.15 p.m.—Back to "Fellowship." Anniversary Fellowship Dinner.

All former members and associates invited to all gatherings. Book the dates. Plan to attend.

#### WANTED

Young Christian couple require half house or self-contained flat, reasonable distance to city.—Homeseeker, Cent. 3062.

#### COMMENDING

#### To Parents

#### "TOLD TO PATRICK."

The close of day moments that parents spend with children are destined to shape their careers. "Told to Patrick" is a book for such occasions. It is the work of a parent, Rosalie Proctor, who has the gift to tell Bible stories and streamline them with reality. The book will not only supply parents with apt stories, but introduce them to the story telling technique. The type, style and pictures will tempt juniors to read stories for themselves.

The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., 524-530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, is able to supply single copies at 7/-, plus 6d. postage.



# 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.).

## CANBERRA CHURCH APPEAL.

MISS BOXHALL'S query in her letter of your issue of March 21 is one which we trust will be re-echoed throughout Australia.

At the last Federal Conference, October, 1948, the Canberra Committee's recommendations were adopted unanimously as follows:—

1. That a school hall and manse be erected first (estimated cost, £7000).
2. That the Federal Executive be responsible for £1000 for two years to place and keep a regular preacher in the field; this without any local revenue for that period.
3. Ultimate objective: a church building (in addition to the above) worthy of the Australian brotherhood and the Capital Territory.
4. The Federal Executive to launch a £10,000 appeal fund.
5. Aims and objects of the Canberra work to be kept continuously before the brotherhood.

Since last Federal Conference the Canberra Committee has placed a scheme for raising the money before the Federal Executive, and we hope each State Conference will now endorse the scheme and begin to raise its quota to provide the necessary funds. The Canberra Committee holds funds to the value of £2600 towards the £10,000.

The Department of the Interior has reserved blocks 6, 7, 8 and 9, section 9, at Ainslie, for our site for church purposes; it has a frontage of 320 feet on the main Sydney-Yass road, and will accommodate a chapel, school hall and manse. A comprehensive plan of good design, embodying all three buildings, was exhibited at Perth conference and received general approbation. The committee is now asking the Federal Executive to submit this plan for the department's approval so that a title to the land can be obtained and erection of school hall and manse proceeded with.

The Canberra Committee, appointed by Federal Conference and located in Sydney, will shortly arrange for regular visits to Canberra to organise a church there.

The Western Australian brethren have already appointed their State committee which is asking approval of their State conference this year of a scheme for raising its quota over a period of five years. A similar move will be made at the N.S.W. conference.

We trust that this information, coupled with Miss Boxhall's timely letter, will serve to challenge the Australian brotherhood to a worthy response.—J. L. Stimson, chairman, Canberra Committee; W. J. Crossman, hon. secretary.

## WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

L. BURGIN is quite correct when he says belief in Christ is only half the truth. The devils believe in him, are they Christians? Jesus said he was the truth and the way. In his great commission he said, Go preach this gospel. He that believes it and is immersed shall be saved. The Council of Churches can never alter this great truth. Those who know the truth are made free. It is amazing that so few preachers and members of churches of Christ have written their protest against this W.C.C. that definitely does not stand for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. The late Milo Smith stated that a great many of the church leaders are educated beyond their intelligence, so they have itching ears, turning the truth to fables, as saith the good book. What we hear preached to-day is enough to turn the bones of Alexan-

der Campbell over in the grave; very rarely one hears the true gospel story preached from the pulpit.—L. J. Price, Brighton.

AFTER having spoken to many brethren concerning the statements that have recently appeared in these columns under the above title, one fact stands out clearly. From these discussions I have concluded that there is a woeful misunderstanding on the part of many concerning the W.C.C. Many are wholly or partly misinformed because they have read literature about the W.C.C. instead of literature of the W.C.C. The W.C.C. is not a "super church" which asks the churches represented to "pool" their doctrines and practices and to compromise for the sake of unity. Rather is it a means by which the representatives of the denominations concerned can come together in friendly relations to iron out their differences. If we as a people were asked to be represented in the pulpits of the large city congregations to present our plea would we not jump at the opportunity? Of course. Then why squabble about being represented on the W.C.C. which is one outlet for our "bottled-up" plea. If it is true, the W.C.C. is only one outlet for our plea for it only contacts the leaders of the denominations, but leaders do have an influence upon the thoughts of their congregations. In the whole matter, let us have the spirit of Christ, and as the W.C.C. through its discussions searches for a basis for unity, let us at least be kind enough to save the churches represented from much futile groping, by presenting what we believe to be the only method by which effective unity will be achieved—the restoration of the faith, principles and practices of N.T. Christianity.—E. K. Skillicorn, Highett.

THE World Council of Churches, it appears that some Baptist churches are withdrawing, and some of our own people seem to wish us to do the same. If Baptists and churches of Christ withdraw, who is to keep our witness to the immersion of penitent believers before the council? As full members of the council we have the right to bring this part of our plea into all discussions, without compromise. There is evidence that many thinkers and leaders are moving towards the New Testament teaching on baptism. Our presence and active participation in the council would appear necessary to stimulate this trend. Opponents of the World Council all point to the defection from the New Testament of participating churches and persons. Perhaps the World Council of Churches of all places is where we should be with our plea for New Testament Christianity.—G. R. Stirling, Magill, S.A.

MAY I heartily commend the letter of R. Burns and your leading article of April 11. The help they have given to me is another example of how much Christians miss by not listening to or reading what people in other churches are thinking under the inspiration of God's Spirit. Surely if we allow differences of opinion, or creed even, to keep us from hearing the word of God through other Christians, we shall never grow into the full maturity so essential for our own welfare and for our effective witness for Christ in this challenging age.

After thrilling with joy that so many Christians world-wide were hearing the same Spirit of God, and allowing Christ to fulfil through them his prayer "that they all may be one . . . that the world may know"—after feeling the spiritual power and glow of being "all one in Christ Jesus," though widely differing in opinion, theories, and forms and methods, it has indeed been tragic that such a movement has been made the occasion of a new outbreak of division and denunciation.

Some seem to confuse the living Word, of whom it is written, "In the beginning was the Word . . . and the Word was God," and who said, "I am the Truth," with the written scriptures. Again some speak of their own interpretation of scripture as if that were the Bible itself. Protestants faced this question at Marburg, where Luther and Zwingli could not agree whether the written words, "this is my Body," were to be taken literally or figuratively. The historian D'Aubigne wisely comments that on the vital matter of the "Real Presence" they agreed, though differing on the form of it, and says it is good for Christians to hold differing opinions, but it is pernicious when they so hold them as to anathematise other Christians who differ. Are not those who demand that others should accept their interpretations of scripture doing the very thing for which they condemn Roman Catholicism?

God's plan is amazingly diverse in unity. The violet and the mighty oak, the lightning and dewdrop, each have their place. So with widely differing theories and opinions and forms, we that own Jesus as God and Saviour should surely be one in sharing his life and his love, and let the world know it.—William Seamer, McKinnon, Vic.

## Obituary

William Herbert Benson

THE church at Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic., has sustained a great loss in the sudden home-call of William Herbert Benson at the age of almost 83. As was his custom for many years, he came to Melbourne on Thursday, April 6, to represent Ballarat at Victorian conference; during the train journey he had attacks of pain from his heart. After resting at station, he reached his daughter's house at Mont Albert; he went to bed immediately and in a few minutes he quietly fell asleep in Jesus! On Tuesday, 11th inst., a representative company gathered in Dawson-st. building to honor his memory and to convey sympathy to his three daughters. The service was conducted by F. Hunting. His wife had died in June of last year. Our brother had been associated with the church for over fifty years, excepting a few years in early life when his membership was at Enmore church, Sydney. In several aspects he was a gifted man, and had the character and quiet dignity of a Christian gentleman. These gifts and graces he used unstintingly in the service of his Saviour right up to the last day of his long life. For at least fifty years he taught in the school and kept on as a relief teacher to this year; his service as deacon was notable for about 25 years as treasurer and his pioneer work in developing our big contributory scheme was outstanding. He was most faithful as a speaker, and never spared himself in this capacity at Dawson-st. and in serving our district churches. There are men and women who were helped to know Christ through his influence, and they will remember him with gratitude. Though in recent months he showed signs of decreasing energy, yet his mental powers seemed undiminished and few could credit that he was over 80. Concerning this man we can say—"he walked with God—and he was not—for God took him."—J.W.

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## VICTORIAN NEWS—Continued

**Thornbury.**—Special Sunday evening services held during March were helped by splendid attendances and keen community interest. On April 2 church was encouraged when three decided for Christ. All work is in good heart under splendid leadership of P. R. Thickins. "B" grade cricket team finished runners-up for season, and "B" grade tennis team won Summer premiership.

**Blackburn.**—Work of church is in healthy condition. Auxiliaries are gaining new members, and Sunday school had a record attendance of 171, which includes 66 in kindergarten. Previous record attendance was 136. Good Companions held a successful "dolls' show" in aid of funds for extension of kindergarten hall. Lynette Dudley and Harold Yeomans were received into fellowship by faith and baptism.

**Ascot Vale.**—At half-yearly meeting, the Sunday school reported a steady increase over the last period; this is most encouraging to officers and teachers. A Boys' Club has commenced, under leadership of A. Marshall. On morning of April 16 a self-denial service was held, when Mr. Burt stressed self-denial. Miss Kirby sang a solo. Mrs. Thorpe, owing to illness, is not able to attend services. A three-months' plan for progressive work has been launched.

**Frankston-Moorooduc.**—V. C. Stafford was preacher at Frankston and Moorooduc, when F. T. Morgan conducted a mission at Yarrowonga. Churches at Frankston and Moorooduc enjoyed fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Schache, of Orange, N.S.W., during their stay of several months. Many visitors were present on Easter Sunday. On April 13, Women's Mission Band held 13th birthday meeting; 80 ladies were present. Mrs. Colin Thomas gave an interesting talk on our work in India. Mrs. B. Coventry, also of India, gave a greeting. Mrs. John Beveridge sang two delightful solos. A happy afternoon was enjoyed. Mr. and Mrs. R. Kirby have removed to Blackburn.

**South Yarra.**—Sunday school held picnic on March 13 at Ricketts Point. Attendance at meetings on Easter Sunday was fair. A number of young people attended camp at Monbulk. At evening meeting, April 9, Mr. Candy, a past minister, was speaker. Mr. Streader, of Swan Hill, read scripture. Tennis Club completed a successful year. Cricket Club reached semi-finals. R. Thompson is new secretary of club. C.E. Society visited Christian Guest Home on March 21, and held meeting there, providing supper for old people. Church visitors included Mrs. Mitchell, of Fremantle. Mrs. D. A. Lewis is ill. Owing to Mr. Allen's illness on 16th, speakers were, morning, J. Brown and in evening V. Gole. Church regrets death on April 6 of Mrs. Thielor. Sympathy is extended to sorrowing relatives.

**Bentleigh.**—Sunday school anniversary, held March 19 and 26, afternoon and evening, provided a treat for many. Children's singing, under C. Gadge, with assistance of instrumentalists, was a delight. A visit by D. Nicholls to Sunday school on morning of March 19, encouraged children; at worship service his message was also appreciated. Messrs. Earle, Shaw, Bolduan and Wiltshire gave children splendid talks. A record number of prizes was gained by scholars. At social on April 1, when many were present, Mr. Wiltshire, assisted by Mr. Beddome, distributed gifts and prizes. The youth service on April 2, when Good Companions were led by Miss Yewdall, was excellent; a duet by Misses E. and J. Wallington was rendered beautifully. Christine Corliss read lesson. G. Bavinton made his confession, and was baptised by Mr. Wiltshire at service. On two recent Sundays 242 attended school, this being a record. Weekly offerings over past six weeks have reached £18. Recent socials at homes of Mr. and Mrs. Beddome, and Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge, were enjoyed. Young people's class, held each Tuesday night in homes of church members, averages 15. Mr. Armstrong, of college, was speaker at gospel service on April 9.

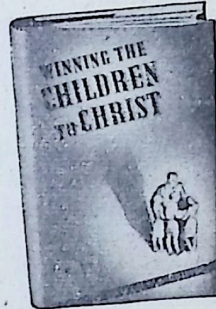
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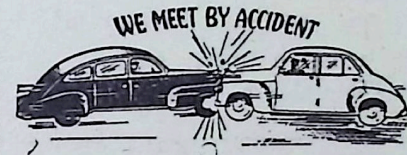
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